

# Navajo News



A Publication of La Vida Missions, Inc.  
*Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo*

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April 2024

## This School Year's Week of Prayer Climaxed in Baptism

Since the COVID pandemic struck the whole world in 2020, La Vida Mission included, we have not had a week of prayer in school for our students. We thought of having one last year but it did not materialize. But God is always good. When our hope seems gone, He provides.

Praise God for sending the Paradise Valley-La Mesa Churches Mission group from the San Diego, California area March 22-28, under the leadership of Pastor Steven Sigamani and Pastor Gabriel Riojas who agreed to conduct a Week of Prayer for us on top of helping us with doing different projects in the Mission like, installing ceramic tiles and linoleum in our guest house and church kitchen, splitting and piling wood and working in our greenhouse to have it ready for planting.

The Theme of the Week of Prayer was "Jesus is My Friend" with the theme song "My God Loves Me". Each daily morning session was an exciting learning and growing experience for our students as different young people led the daily Bible studies, preceded by a game that introduced the lesson for the day. At the end of the week of prayer, Talise Mescal, one of our 8th grade students submitted her life to Jesus in baptism. Talise is a second generation student at La Vida Mission. Her uncles, Cody and Seth, first came to the Mission and were also baptized while attending school here. Talise came to La Vida Mission in 2016 as a first grader and left the Mission after her 3rd grade year in 2019. Fall of 2023, she came back to La Vida as an eighth grader. During the returning student interview with her and her grandma, they both expressed Talise's desire to be baptized and to be prepared for it and have it done while she's here. And so Talise regularly attends Bible class with her teacher and dorm parents. She also attended Pastor Tobin Savage's Revelation Seminar in Crownpoint

Church last October to December 2023 with her dorm parents and was a diligent listener every night. She's been looking forward to her baptism, and so when she was sure that she'd be baptized on the closing night of the Week of Prayer, she jumped up and down for joy. Last Sabbath in Crownpoint Church, she was a happy song leader and a server at dinner. Please pray for Talise's continued growth in Jesus and for all our other students who have been developing a wonderful love relationship with Jesus.

– Dorie Panganiban



We appreciate all the work accomplished and the times of worship that we have with the mission groups that visit us! Thank you, Paradise Valley-La Mesa Churches!





## From the Director's Desk:

Hello, and warm greetings to everyone reading this message! Time is flying, and it has been a wonderful month of learning and getting to know everyone here at La Vida Mission, Crownpoint Church, and some of our neighbors in the community. La Vida is a very busy and active ministry, and March was no exception. We were thrilled to host two lovely mission groups – Maplewood Academy from Hutchinson, Minnesota – and two church youth groups who teamed up from San Diego, California, comprised of the Paradise Valley and La Mesa SDA churches. Each group blessed us tremendously with their time, skills, talents and means, helping us with projects, leading out in joy-filled praise and worship, sharing their Testimonies, and spending time in simple, heartfelt friendship. Maplewood presented a special and most generous gift of monetary support for which we are so grateful and praising the Lord. Pastor Steven of the Paradise Valley had the joy of baptizing one of our La Vida School students, and one of the La Mesa youth made a decision for baptism after the baptismal service. We are so grateful to each of the groups who worked so hard and gave of themselves so joyfully in everything they did. The fellowship between our students and the mission youth was such a joy to behold. We look forward to seeing them all again in the future.

During the last week of March, I had the privilege to join VJ and his lovely wife, Beth, at the SDA Native Ministries group, which was held at Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Arizona. I learned so much there. It was a huge blessing to meet and talk with seasoned workers in the Native ministries, and it was very inspiring to hear wonderful Testimonies of the Lord's working, and to learn more about the ongoing plans and continued growth of our Navajo Christian radio programming (KTNN). Please join us in prayers that many souls will be lifted out of despair and hopelessness into the arms of Jesus Christ through the radio programming and other efforts underway to reach those in need.

It has also been a huge blessing to get to know our students here at La Vida and the wonderful teachers and dorm parents who give of themselves to nurture and educate these precious ones. Three of our high school students have successfully completed their final tests to graduate and go out into the world, and three more are working hard toward this goal – we are rooting for them and praying for each one! And our maintenance team is ever on call to come to the rescue when things need fixed, handle trash removal, and to oversee the mission groups when they come to help us with projects (and much more!).

As we still grapple with the loss of our Head Teacher, Vicky Pioche, who passed away in February, it was decided to plan a special Celebration of Life Service to honor Ms. Vicky and her family, and to commemorate her life and her birthday - March 26. The entire La Vida family pulled together to plan a beautiful service and reception, and the service was held on Sunday, March 24. The girls' dorms spent long hours crocheting beautiful and colorful flowers to decorate the Sanctuary and the cafeteria where the reception was held. La Vida Board members who were able to make it drove long distances to attend. Ms. Dorie opened the service with welcome remarks. Board President, Dr. Robert Gardner, delivered a beautiful message, and his lovely wife, Kimone, and her sister, Kimberly, sang a beautiful rendition of one of Ms. Vicky's favorite hymns, "It Is Well With My Soul". The La Vida School Choir also sang a favorite hymn of Ms. Vicky's so beautifully – "At The Cross". Family, friends, co-workers and students shared their thoughts and many fond memories of Ms. Vicky. Board Chair, Annette Williams, and Board members, Neal Kelley and Lee Vorhies were also present to honor Ms. Vicky and her family. Mr. Neal offered up opening prayers, Brad Beierle read the scripture, Ms. Annette delivered closing remarks, and Mr. Lee the benediction. We hope the Pioche family was blessed in some way, and we continue to mourn with them on the loss of Ms. Vicky. I hear her name very often and wish I could have known her. Her shoes are unfillable and her presence is deeply missed here at La Vida. Please lift up the Pioche family in your prayers as they continue to navigate this tremendous loss.

Lastly, in March our water tank project reached a critical juncture. This very important project has been on hold for over two years awaiting sufficient funds to cover the exorbitant cost. Due to a crucial and fast approaching deadline coming in August concerning our certification to be a public water provider, arrangements were made with the contractor who agreed to begin the work with a partial payment, with the remainder due upon completion. The project will commence on Monday, April 8, 2024, and could take as little as a month to complete if all goes smoothly. To meet that commitment we are depending on the Lord to provide the necessary funds through the generosity of His people. The shortage still needed to cover all of the final payments that will be due on completion amounts to approximately \$35,000. Would you consider donating to help us meet this obligation? If so, your help would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made online (<https://www.lavidamission.org/donate>), via check in the mail (P.O. Box 3308, Farmington, NM 87499-3308), and we can also process donations over the phone at 505-786-5539.

In closing, we sincerely thank each and every one of you for your faithful prayers, interest and donations to this important work. La Vida Mission depends solely on the Lord and support of the body of Christ in response to His leading. May the Lord bless you abundantly through the working of His Holy Spirit.

Much Love to Each of You,

Kim Ellis

*"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." ~ Luke 6:38*

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Make checks payable to:

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### Update on Diné Adventist Radio Programing

Even though we now live in a world of high-end technology and internet, still so many people, especially on the Navajo Reservation, are listening to the radio and use this for information and even for entertainment. That's why the Diné Adventist Radio (DAR) is truly a God-sent ministry on the Reservation at such a time as this.

La Vida Mission is greatly blessed to be given a part of the ministry of the Diné Adventist Radio. We thank Pastor Dale Wolcott, Pastor Jonathan Chitwood and the DAR team for the opportunity.

We're thankful to God because through this Radio Ministry, we are able to spread the gospel and the love of Jesus far and wide. Truly, it's very encouraging and inspiring when we receive texts from Pastor Dale after our broadcast that they have received several calls for Bible study and prayers.

We're also thankful to Mrs. Nancy Wolcott for inviting our La Vida School choir to sing and record the planned song for the Children's Program whenever we have the 24/7 programming of the Diné Adventist Radio.

Let's continue to pray for and support this special Radio Ministry to our Diné (Navajo) brothers and sisters.

- VJ and Beth Panganiban



This March 25-27, VJ & Beth, with the new La Vida Mission director, Kim Ellis, attended the Native Ministries workers meeting at Camp Yavapine, Prescott, AZ, sponsored by the Arizona Conference with the theme, "The Joy of Harvest". How to effectively reach our Navajo brothers and sisters was the ringing theme of the meeting, and one very effective way, besides personal labor, is through the Radio Ministry.

We would like to thank the Diné Adventist Radio Program for the opportunity given to our students to sing and record some songs. We are looking forward for more music ministries that will train our students and will help the Lord's work here in the Navajo Nation.  
- Glet Franche

### Bulletin Board

#### Special Thanks to:

- Our Heavenly Father for providing our needs.
- Faithful donors who support LVM with prayers, financial and other donations (including Box Tops for Education).
- Student sponsors for their many contributions, prayers, letters and Christmas gifts.
- Echo Food bank, Farmington, NM for produce and other food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry for donations of food and hygiene supplies..
- Maplewood Academy Mission Group for beautifying the hidden creek, the treehouse, for working the big boys' dorm, & for cleaning the greenhouse.
- Paradise Valley Mission Group for leading school week of prayer, beautifying the greenhouse, guest house & church fellowship room.
- Elizabeth Willis for crafts & assorted school supplies

### In Memory of

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| George & Margaret Armstrong | by Lanny & Barbara Davis      |
| Pastor Steve Gillham        | by Carol Gillham              |
| Arloe Goley                 | by John Goley                 |
| Sammy Gurule                | by Edwin & Phyllis Gurule     |
| Wayne Hyatt                 | by Lynette Hyatt              |
| Esther & Nora Kunau         | by Jackie Small               |
| Robert & Mary Lee           | by Lynette Hyatt              |
| Albert Lind                 | by Margaret Lind              |
| Art & Barry Lizer           | by Oradelle Lizer             |
| Jose A. Lopez               | by Diane Lopez                |
| Larry McCoy                 | by Nancy McCoy-Wearner        |
| Brenda McDonald             | by Pat & Rhonda McDonald      |
| O.J. & Millie Mills         | by David & Elizabeth Johnston |
| Fieta Oliver                | by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood       |
| Nobert Sammer               | by David & Maxine Smith       |
| Emily Smith                 | by Ramona McCurdy             |
| Kenneth Smith               | by Lola May Smith             |
| Lydia Wood                  | by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood       |

Thank you to all of the donors who make a difference at La Vida!



# Welcome Maplewood Academy!

La Vida welcomed our first mission group of the year – Maplewood Academy from Hutchinson, Minnesota – the very first week of March. We were so blessed to have this exuberant group with us for just over a week. Minnesota Conference President, Pastor Jeff Scoggins, drove in to join the group, as well. Full of energy, enthusiasm and goodwill, the entire Maplewood group spread joy in everything they did. Whether it was working, eating, worship or simple fellowship, the atmosphere was full of joy. Maplewood attacked a huge clean-up project at the greenhouse, fixed our tiller, helped with our vehicles, assessed and installed plumbing for the hydrotherapy equipment in our health clinic, fixed a sudden leak in the director’s kitchen, replaced flooring in the big boys dorm, and shored up holes to help prevent vermin access. In addition, Mr. Bill (Maplewood recruiter and athletic director), who happens to have a history in the pest control industry, provided a generous donation of specialized mouse traps to add to our current traps, and helped our maintenance team set them up. As important as all of these projects were, Maplewood’s biggest claim to fame on their own account and that of the La Vida team was what they did with Treehouse Park. Everyone is still raving about the job that Maplewood did there! The area, nestled in a cozy ravine, has a treehouse and picnic area, but had become very overgrown and inhospitable. I am told that this space - even at its best - had never looked so good. Thank you Maplewood! Your hard work at Treehouse Park will go down in La Vida history for sure! The Maplewood youth also blessed us



with a wonderful program for Wednesday evening worship, singing cheerful worship songs full of body language that had everyone out of their seats, and then a fun session of re-enactments of Bible accounts... gladness permeated the atmosphere. Miss Ann kindly hosted a movie night at her dorm for the Maplewood and La Vida groups to enjoy together. Connections were made between the La Vida and Maplewood students during their stay, and a basketball game broke out in the gym on the last night before our La Vida students left campus to head home for Spring Break. It was heartwarming to see them all exchanging contact info and taking pictures when our kids had to say farewell the following day. Sabbath School and church service were also led by

## Water Project Update

Hello Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I have a little good news to share with you today! Last month I wrote that D&R Tank had provided us with a quote for the foundation of the new tank in the amount of \$96,949. I said I did not have an estimate of how much it would cost to connect the piping from the pump to the tank and to the distribution lines. As it turns out, there will be no additional cost.

Even greater news is that we have made arrangements with D&R Tank to begin construction on the foundation for the new tank. The contractors came on Monday, April 1, 2024 to do soil testing and made arrangements with local utility companies to provide information about where underground utilities may be that surround the site. Contractors will begin construction on April 8, 2024 and will continue through the month of April. The new tank installation is yet to be determined, but most likely in early May.

As Ms Kim wrote in her article, the project is still short of funds; approximately \$35,000 unless the Board of Directors approve dipping into reserved funds at our Board of Director’s meeting 28 April 2024.

Here is the current accounting for the project:

Total donations:	\$177,638.06
Expenses paid to date:	<del>-\$111,425.82</del>
Balance:	\$62,212.24
Balance due to D&R Tank:	
Balance of foundation:	\$48,474.47
Balance due for tank:	\$44,173.00
Balance for community hydrant:	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
	\$96,647.47

I cannot express La Vida Mission’s gratefulness to those who have donated to and prayed for this project. I fully expect to get this project completed this spring thanks to each of you.

God Bless you ALL!  
Lee McIntosh



the Maplewood students who did a lovely, spirit-filled service with beautiful songs and very heart-stirring messages and Testimonies delivered by two of the students. La Vida’s resident tour guide, Bob Blair, led the group to Chaco Canyon for a hike on Sunday. The adults and kids alike enjoyed exploring the extensive remains of 1,000-year-old pueblo buildings and hiking up the rocks to see the view. And last but not least, during their stay with us, Maplewood presented a special and most generous gift of monetary support, and they were bursting at the seams for Miss Dorie to open the envelope to see it. And on top of this, they left a counter-top full of food donations in the gym kitchen! Thank you Maplewood!! Our gratitude is beyond measure and our hearts are knit to this wonderful group of humble, joy-filled co-workers for the Kingdom. We look forward to seeing them again.

- Kim Ellis

