

# Navajo News

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

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505-786-5539

June 2023

## Promotion Day!!

On May 25, 2023, La Vida Mission School concluded the school year with its Recognition and 8th Grade Promotion Program held at La Vida Mission Church. During the first part of the program, Ms. Vicky Pioche, the elementary head teacher, gladly welcomed the attendees. The K-3 class, under the direction of their teacher, Ms. Claire James, recited Psalm 23 and the La Vida Mission School students sang "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)". Each student, from elementary to high school, received their certificates and medals as a sign of their active participation throughout the school year.



Ms. Vicky, Pastor Tobin Savage, Ms. Dorie Panganiban and Mr. Lee Vorhies greeted the students as they received their awards on stage.

Then we celebrated the graduation of our two 8th Grade students, Audrianna Begay and Ralph Lenard Paloma, as they were promoted from elementary to high school.



Pastor Tobin Savage, a former student of La Vida Mission School and currently the Crownpoint, Gallup, and Grants, NM pastor, served as the guest speaker. He shared a meaningful message about the life of Daniel, reminding our students to make good choices and to determine what they want to be when they grow up in order to have a purposeful life. After the program, people headed to the gym to enjoy the graduation reception prepared by our staff and students.

Overall, the program would not be a success without the help, support and cooperation of the teachers, staff, students and our donors. We give glory to God for sustaining us all throughout the school year and we pray that He will continually guide our students, staff and the school now and forever.



## Pathfinder Investiture

by Damian Werito, LVM Junior Student

On May 17th, La Vida Mission Pathfinder club held their annual Investiture program. The program presented everything that was taught to the Pathfinders by Mr. R, our Pathfinder Director. The presentation included introductions on how to tie knots, how to perform carries, and how to apply bandages. Everything that was presented should be useful in urgent or emergency situations.

The program ended with a Silent Drill presentation.





## A Message from our Treasurer:

We need help from our partners in mission today. As many of you know, all of our funding comes from your donations. We no longer receive any funds from the conference because they are no longer allowed to give to independent, supporting ministries. This withdrawal of support has caused financial difficulties for us as we have been increasing our outreach after the pandemic restrictions have been slowly lifted.

We know that many of you have supported us for years and we thank you for your generous support in our past, present and future. You have always come through when we had a need. We also know that inflation has created financial difficulties for many of you as well. We are not, and never would, ask you to deprive yourself or your local church of much needed funds in order to send money to us. We do ask you to pray that God will open hearts and doors so that our mission and our school can be funded and our ministry here can continue.

For the past several months our income has not kept up with our expenses. We have had some unusually high expenses such as bed bugs in the dorms, broken tractors, broken vehicles (we have no mechanic now), new internet technology, etc. We are now using up our reserve funds and need about \$30,000 to catch up. This does not include the expense of the water tank project (see article below).

Please help us catch up with Project Operations. How can you help best? Spread the word, tell your friends, offer to match funds, share our website - <http://lavidamission.org> and our newsletter. We know that God has the answer to our dilemma and we trust that He will rain His blessings down on us as we follow His guidance and leading.

Thank you for your help and support.  
God bless!

Carol Gillham, Treasurer

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La Vida Mission, a supporting ministry of The Seventh-day Adventist Church, serves the Eastern Navajo Nation. It operates a K-12 Boarding school for Navajo children, clinic, water/mail/clothing services and an evangelism outreach for the Navajo community. The mission is located off Highway 371, 55 miles north of I-40, just south of mile post #56, or 50 miles south of Farmington, New Mexico.

#### Director

#### Editor

Gayle Smith

#### Send address corrections & correspondence to

P. O. Box 3308

Farmington, NM 87499

#### UPS/Fedex Shipping Address

Lake Valley Area

700 CR 7730

Crownpoint, NM 87313

Telephone (505)786-5539

Fax (505)786-7650

E-mail: [office@lavidamission.org](mailto:office@lavidamission.org)

Website: [www.lavidamission.org](http://www.lavidamission.org)

#### Donation Information

Make checks payable to:

La Vida Missions, Inc.

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La Vida Missions, Inc. is a

nonprofit corporation of New Mexico.

## Short-Term Vocational Instructors Needed

La Vida Mission is seeking short-term vocational instructors for the school year 2023-2024. Our newly developed Post Elementary Students will be enrolled in La Vida Mission Core Plus Enhanced Educational Program. A portion of this program calls for talented short-term missionaries to teach vocational subjects such as Basic Auto Mechanics, Welding, Carpentry, Painting, Plumbing Basics, Health Care, Computer Science and Office skills to name just a few. The vocational classes will be taught along with core curriculum in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies by La Vida Mission staff.

Should you, or someone you know, be interested in this exciting volunteer missionary program, please contact Ms. Dorie Panganiban at La Vida Mission, 505-786-3001 and God Bless YOU!

## Water Project Update

Last month I was able to report that our old unused tank was moved to make way for our new tank. On May 10th, the crew came to take core soil samples from the area where our new tank will be installed. I will receive a report on the samples sometime this coming week. Once the report is satisfactory, our engineer will design and get the concrete foundation plan approved from the state of NM, Then the foundation can be poured. The next step will be to install the new tank.

I am happy and we are blessed to report the current financial status of the project to you. Our total income is \$131,367; total expenses to date are \$45,841.35 which leaves us a balance of \$85,525.65. We will still need at least an additional \$30,000 for all the costs to be covered for the project, which is less than our original estimate.

Thank you all for your kind and generous giving to this vital project. I am certain we will finish the work and all will be benefited as we continue to serve our friends and neighbors.

God bless each of you!

Lee McIntosh, Water Project Manager



## New Director Sought for La Vida Mission

As you have read in the article last month, our interim Director, Mr. Vorhies, has resigned and we are looking for a permanent director to lead God's mission here at La Vida. We have prayed about the matter extensively, knowing that God has the right person to fill this vacancy. This is a vital position, to lead our staff, students and community forward, overcoming the various challenges, both large and small, that we will face in the coming years. Your trust in God will grow as you experience the many answers to prayer that occur in response to those challenges.

What are we looking for in our new leader?

A strong spiritual leader, a man or woman of God and one who will consider the post as a "calling". Someone who always seeks to be in the center of God's will.

An ability to work with people from a different culture with openness and understanding.

A Seventh-Day Adventist Church Member in good standing, supportive of and recognizing the authority of the SDA Church.

Has some leadership experience in church, school and/or a non-profit organization, is a team player and willing to work with the President and the Board. Has respect for other staff members and open to learning from their experiences.

A good steward, practical with finances and careful with the money entrusted to us by our donors.

Able to make at least a 3 year commitment.

For more information, please contact us, we will be happy to further discuss this opportunity with you. Email: [office@lavidamission.org](mailto:office@lavidamission.org). Call 505-786-5539 or 505-786-3001, or mail to P. O. Box 3308, Farmington, NM 87499. An application has been uploaded to our website for your convenience. It is on the home page, scroll down to where it says - on the right - "For Immediate Hiring", right below that picture is a link to the application.

There will be other openings as well, if you feel God's leading, please contact us as we look forward to the next school year.

### *In Memory of*

Ken Albertsen	by Richard & Ardis Stenbakken
George & Margaret Armstrong	by Lanny & Barbara Davis
Lita Castillo	by Esther Castillo
Mildred Chaney	by Pauline White
Nami Gennetten	by James Burr
Meredith Genton	by Marc Genton
God's Loving Care	by Lorna Schoun
Arlo Goley	by Pastor John Goley
Norman Graham	by Phil & Audine Dieter
Wayne Hyatt	by Lynette Hyatt
Robert & Mary Lee	by Lynette Hyatt
Albert Lind	by Margaret Lind
Heather & Chuck Lindsay	by David & Elizabeth Johnston
Barry & Art Lizer	by Oradelle Lizer
Larry McCoy	by Nancy McCoy
Brenda McDonald	by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
Frank E. Oldland	by Peggy Oldland
Frank Putnam	by Clare Putnam
Gloria J. Redfield	by James W. Redfield
Miriam Sammer	by Marc Genton
Robert Sammer	by Marc Genton
Sam Small	by Jackie Small
Emily Smith	by Ramona McCurdy
Kenneth Smith	by Lola Smith
Helen Young	by Pauline White

### *In Honor of*

Irene Kalina	by Andrew Kalina
Michael O'Toole	by Gene O'Toole

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

A very special **thank you** to Elmer & Eva Sundean, David & Judy Schwinn, Len & Lewis LeClaire & Fred Jensen.

They finished a multi-year mission trip project of replacing the old single pane windows from the original construction. They upgraded them to new double pane windows to help with efficiency. It included making custom fit trim modifications for some applications that worked out great! And not just that, but they also took on a screen project. They made new screens where they were missing and rescreened others that were in bad shape. This is a group of people that don't possess an "off button" but they do have big hearts.

## 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 vegetables.

•**Ken Purkey** for blankets and dishes.

•**Galt SDA Church- Adult Sabbath School Class** for weekly collection of funds.

•**Elmer & Eva Sundean** for assorted clothes & quilt blankets.

•**Montrose SDA Church** for 3 boxes of Great Controversy books.

•**Sherman Mohler & the SW Paleontology group** for assorted food and appliances.

•**Elmer & Eva Sundean, David & Judy Schwinn, Len & Lewis LeClaire, & Fred Jensen** for replacing windows over a several year period, (see article above) .



## Mother's Day Event Health Outreach



On Friday, May 19th, we were offered another opportunity to do a Health Outreach to the Navajo community when we received an invitation from Whiterock Chapter on the Navajo Nation, to run a booth in Nutrition and Exercise. They requested us also to show to the event participants how to make nutritious smoothies which are a far better alternative to the soda that people in the area are more used to drinking and how to do simple exercises that will suit the needs of mothers and the elders.

My mom (Ms. Dorie) and I ran the nutrition booth and we prepared nachos with vegan cheese in addition to the smoothies which are equally an event favorite. It's so exciting to see the people really enjoying our nutritious food samples. One grandpa commented, "this is my first time to drink smoothies, but it's good". A mother who was

eating the vegan nachos that we made said, "you won't tell the difference with cheese, it's really good". A little boy chose the smoothies over the cake served at the event which I feel was cool. In the exercise booth, my husband, VJ, showed the people and had them follow him while doing some easy movements and light to moderate exercises that catered to their age and health condition. They were thankful to La Vida Mission for always partnering with them in presenting a program to their people that will encourage and help them live a healthy lifestyle.

— Beth Fugoso-Panganiban



## Campmeeting at Holbrook Indian School



Right after our program at Whiterock Chapter, (see article above) we also went to Holbrook Indian School for camp meeting (May 19-21, 2023) as representatives of La Vida Mission. VJ had the opportunity to share a testimony about the baptism we had last April 29. As it says in the Bible in Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work

together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." King James Version (KJV).

The members of the church were inspired by the testimony and we praise and thank God for His leading and guidance.

On Sunday morning, one of our members from La Vida Mission church, Irene Henry gave a morning devotional at the camp meeting. It was a blessing to us all.

— Beth Fugoso-Panganiban

## Maintenance Assistant Position Open

La Vida Mission is seeking to hire a qualified, Christ-centered Maintenance Assistant effective immediately. This position is full-time with a stipend, housing, utilities, food benefits and a request for a minimum of a three year commitment to the right person with the qualifications and experience. Duties include helping the maintenance director complete maintenance requests from campus personnel. Upkeep and repair of campus facilities, which include carpentry, plumbing, electrical, drywall, minor appliance repair, basic equipment maintenance, and other general maintenance items. Candidates must be a team player with a willingness to learn, be self-motivated, aware of his/her surroundings and able to exercise common sense. This position is open until filled. LVM is a dedicated ministry to its surrounding community with an outreach department, church & school which the entire staff is a part of by being a team player. As in many other SDA boarding schools, employees live in on-campus housing. The average student population at LVM is between 18 to 25 students.

**Experience:** Candidates must be at least 21 years old and have a good driving record. Preference will be given to candidates that have previous experience in general maintenance and vehicle repair/maintenance. Proficiency in construction, plumbing is a plus. A bonus opportunity to the right person will be free schooling and training to become a level 1, 2 or 3 water operator. An experience that can be of good use here and in future employment opportunities.

Thank you and God bless!

Please respond to this ad by:  
Email [John@lavidamission.org](mailto:John@lavidamission.org)  
Call main office: 505-786-5539  
Call Maintenance office 505-786-3002

