

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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Finally, Our Community Christmas Fiesta is Back after the Pandemic

La Vida Mission used to host an Annual Big Christmas Fiesta in the gym for our community friends and neighbors. But it was halted during the pandemic although we continued serving the community during those times through Mass Drive-through Food Distribution and Propane Give away.



But what makes the Christmas Fiesta special was the happy fellowship and rubbing elbows with our local folks which everyone missed in the last three years. Praise the Lord for allowing it to happen once again this December 11, 2022 to the excitement and delight of everyone, our La Vida staff included. Yes, we thank God for continually allowing us to serve our dear Navajo Community Family through donations and gifts from many of our mission sponsors and donors.

This year, we received a pretty good amount of donations of clothes, shoes, household items, food, and various furniture and appliances that are more than enough for the needs of the whole mission so we're able to share them to the community. These, coupled with our "Propane Giveaway" made the day's event a real blessing to everyone. Especially during this colder season, propane is really needed by our community and it's indeed a big help to them so they are really thankful to La Vida Mission for that. We also set up a food court which was a real hit. It has become the busiest place with non-stop cooking on the spot, serving, and satisfying everyone's taste buds. The fellowship at the dining table after going around our free flea market was even more satisfying and inspiring to all. While being busy with going through various donations and with eating and visiting with one another, everyone was also listening to the numbers being called by our Door Prizes corner, hoping to hear their number for another extra treat. That day we were able to serve 135 families with propane refill and 200+ adults and close to 100 children with various items made available in the gym.

All praises to God for the success of this Christmas Free Flea Market and Propane Giveaway and thank you to our missionaries for their unselfish services.

– VJ & Beth Panganiban, LVM Outreach Department



If you would like to see videos of our current events, please visit our La Vida Mission Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/241248052750060/>

Thank You for Making This Dream Come True!

Thank you to everyone who donated so that our students could travel to GYC in Phoenix this year! Despite some snowy roads on the way, our students and staff chaperones made it safely and I am sure all were blessed by the event. We hope to have more information about it for you in the next newsletter.





From the President/Director's Desk:

January 2023, how quickly we find ourselves in a New Year. I must share that I am both concerned and excited about the challenges we will face this year. We will focus, like always, on our primary mission, that being our school and the young people with whom we have the privilege of sharing our knowledge.

The challenges that come with school, church, and maintenance are our focus and responsibility. It is a comforting thought to know La Vida does and can exist because of the good Lord and all those that support and contribute in many ways to the life of La Vida. Part of the "life blood" of the mission is our visiting schools and churches that organize working groups, travel here, and willingly complete much of the routine maintenance and upkeep that would be impossible to achieve without their efforts.

The current major mission project is the upgrade of our water well, the water storage tank, and the water hydrant which provides many gallons of water to our local Navajo community. I must admit that this project is now facing some serious challenges. We have been in contact with an organization called Dig Deep whose mission is to provide potable water to people in certain areas of our country where water is not easy to obtain. Initially we thought that we could work together to provide water to families in the immediate vicinity of our mission. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, that can not happen in the near future; although we are optimistic it will happen sometime in the future. Starting immediately we will be ordering our new water tank and begin the preparation work to set the tank and modernize the new water hydrant.

We thank each of you who contributed to cover the cost of sending our older students to Phoenix for GYC . This learning experience was so important for our students. Thank God they all returned safely, in spite of the weather challenges and driving conditions. We will have more pictures and the story next month. Praise God for the generosity of each of you who continue to support our mission.

In closing I would like to add this personal thought. During my time on earth I have had the privilege to work and travel all around God's World, so please let me share, I believe our mission here on the Navajo Nation is uniquely different and blessed in so many ways. Please come and become part of the mission, share your talent and or visit. I pray that God blesses each of you throughout this New Year, Amen. - Lee Vorhies

Water Project Update

Hello My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I pray each of you were blessed this Christmas Season with the joy of the reason for our celebration and of being with families and friends.

Our latest totals for the water project as of the 28th of December, 2022 are \$118,719. As you know, it is our goal to be able to continue to provide safe and bountiful water not only to La Vida Mission but also to our neighbors free of charge.

Mr. Lee, Pastor Mark Phillips of the Farmington SDA Church, John Husby, our maintenance supervisor and I met with representatives from Dig Deep and the Navajo Water Project via Zoom on December 20, 2022. Today, I received an email from Emma Robbins, Executive Director of the Navajo Water Project, informing us that they do not feel our project is a good fit for them at this time. She did encourage me to apply for a grant from the Navajo Water Project when the window is opened in 2023.

Tests have been conducted to determine how long it takes the well to recover from being pumped and how long it takes the storage tank to refill. The test at the well shows that the well has recovered 15 feet of water in 5 minutes, which is very good. The well pumped 25,200 gallons in 23 hours in one test and 26,500 in 24 hours in another test. These test results are important as we continue with this project.

We have authorized our consulting engineer to contact D & R Tank out of Albuquerque, NM, to purchase our new water tank. The revised quote for the tank is \$88,346. This includes the 18,000 gallon tank itself with all required appurtenances to meet current code, anchor brackets, inlet and outlet underground piping, drain nozzles, delivery, unloading and setting up the tank and initial chlorination. What the quote does not include is the actual bedding ring that is required by the State Environment Department, taxes, road work for site access, soil testing, hydrostatic testing, bacteriological tests, licenses, permits and host of other items. We anticipate the tank to be completed by March or April. We expect to complete the project by summer.

Steps being taken by the Mission itself include providing site access for the new tank and demolishing the old tank (savings of \$20,000).

Dan Flack, our consulting engineer will complete the geotechnical investigation, develop a site plan for the new tank and design the tank foundation and detail within the next two months. He will also continue to guide us through this almost overwhelming project and I will work closely with him to complete the project.

Again, we so appreciate all each of you have contributed to this project. Water is life.

I wish you the very best for 2023 and all of our Lord's blessings for each of you!

God Bless you all, Lee McIntosh



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Joy to Lake Valley Senior Center



In November, Renita and Reva Juan asked if my class would be willing to present a Christmas program to the Lake Valley Senior Center. I said yes, because I almost always say yes. After all, we always have memory verses we are learning, and thanks to our daily worship, there are always songs to sing.

The invitation came from Harrison Juan whose murals can be seen on the walls of many of the buildings at La Vida Mission. He is a driver there, and greeted us with a holiday shirt and a red hat,

We were shown into a gathering room with a 10 foot Christmas tree. Dressed as Mary and Joseph, an angel, a shepherd and a king, we opened the program with Isaiah 9:6, International Children's Bible:

A child will be born to us.
 God will give a son to us.
 His name will be
 Wonderful Counselor,
 Powerful God,
 Father Who Lives Forever,
 Prince of Peace.

The students then sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain." First grader Ralph Paloma, son of staff members, put his piano lessons to good use by accompanying the other five students in four more short songs.

The children then passed out cards we had made. We also invited the grandmas and grandpas, aunties and uncles to tell us childhood memories. We heard that the toys they had were rocks and figures carved from wood. Larry Montoya, one of the guests, told us about going into Farmington as a child to get supplies. They went on a horse drawn wagon, camping along the way. That was 1965!

There was a surprise ending to the program. Renita Juan asked the children to sing "Jesus Loves Me." They sang it in English and Navajo. There was pride on the faces of the guests.

That wonderful visit has opened the door to new plans. When school starts in January, we are going to start writing about the stories we heard. We are also going to keep a journal of what it is like to be a child now and contrast that with the seniors' experiences. We plan to visit again in February or maybe sooner.

- Claire James



We are sad at the passing of a long-time donor and friend of La Vida Mission: Eloise Jackson. She wrote many letters to the children, who were close to her heart, as well as sending donations every month to help the school. We look forward to meeting her in the resurrection.

In Memory of

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Virgil Allen | by Marsha Allen |
| George & Margaret Armstrong | by Lanny & Barbara Davis |
| Bob Bird | by Margie Bird |
| Joanne Clifford | by John & Robin Korponay |
| Sharon Fandrich | by Delbert L. Fandrich |
| Marjorie Gotshall | by David & Elizabeth Johnson |
| Sammy Gurule | by Edwin & Phyllis Gurule |
| Frances Peter Hacker | by Karmen Shores |
| Wayne Hyatt | by Lynette Hyatt |
| Eloise Jackson | by Daniel Jackson |
| Robert & Mary Lee | by Lynette Hyatt |
| Albert Lind | by Margaret Lind |
| Barry & Art Lizer | by Oradelle Lizer |
| Jose A. Lopez | by Diane Lopez |
| Adelaide Madell | by Gene O'Toole |
| Larry McCoy | by Nancy McCoy |
| Brenda McDonald | by Pat & Rhonda McDonald |
| Frank Putnam | by Clare Putnam |
| Robert Sammer | by David & Maxine Smith |
| Emily Smith | by Douglas & Melody S. Wheeler |
| Emily Smith | by Ramona McCurdy |
| Kenneth Smith | by Lola May Smith |
| Lydia Wood | by Sam & Jackie Smith |

In Honor of

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Irene Kalina | by Andrew Kalina |
| Don and Linda McNeill | by Judith Coe |

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

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.
- Anonymous gift card donor c/o Cathy Kissner of RMC, Student Sponsors, Toys for Tots and many Mission Donors for gifts for out students.



2022 La Vida Mission White Elephant Party

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Returning back to the Mission during the cold season probably wasn't the smartest move, BUT since I have been back, hearing the laughter, seeing the smiles, hearing the beautiful songs, and just getting to fellowship with all the students and the staff (old and new) my heart has been filled with so much warmth I cannot help but Rejoice in the cold weather, and praise God for giving me the opportunity to return to such a wonderful place.

When I was here before it had been a sort of "tradition" to do some kind of staff/student end of the year Christmas Party before everyone departs for Holiday Break, and this year I asked to see if we could continue that and do a White Elephant Party for everyone here on campus.

So after discussing the idea with the Big Girls, we decided to ask the Big Boys if they would like to join us in hosting this year's White Elephant Party.

And I must say, THESE YOUNG ADULTS WORKED HARD to make sure we had everything we needed. We invited students and staff to the dorm a few nights before the party to help wrap extra gifts to make sure we would have enough, (which actually turned into a party in itself). We had food, laughter, wrapping paper everywhere and enough smiling faces to fill the entire dorm.

The older students even wanted to give our cafeteria worker, Ms. Ann, a little Christmas gift by volunteering to do the cooking and the serving for the White Elephant, so while we invited everyone to bring their favorite dish, the students also prepared Navajo Tacos and served all the people.

And I just wanted to say a special thank you to all our donors and to all the people who sent in items from the RMC donations request list. If it wasn't for the items that people so generously donated, I'm not sure if we would have been able to have enough supplies, items, and gifts for this special night.

It was with your generosity that we were able to spread even more of God's love and joy to our students here.

Whenever you donate your time, your prayers, your finances, your supplies, you are helping to fulfill one of God's purposes for this place. Which is to teach the students here how to find the peace and love of God, and how to remember to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, because this is God's will for all of us, in Christ Jesus". Amen

Sending Holiday Blessings to everyone.

Emily



Students' Christmas Program for Parents

On the Sabbath before Christmas break, the students performed a program for their parents and our community. There is a video on La Vida Mission Church's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/241248052750060/>) if you would like to watch it. We would like to thank Mr. VJ for all the work he does producing videos and pictures to keep us all connected!



Glendale Adventist Academy

Glendale Adventist Academy visited us over Thanksgiving break and were kind enough to send along some testimonies from the students who visited us. They were very busy while here, helping in many areas and we appreciated each and every one of them.

Excerpts from their testimonies:

" I have been spending less time on my phone and that made me feel more connected with my friends and with Jesus. I have seen more stars here than anywhere else I have been."

"I'm glad I was able to have this experience. The work wasn't work and the jobs became fun assignments. I am glad I was able to share these experiences with others and help people in the process."

"La Vida has been an amazing experience for me because I feel like I made a difference in the lives of others and I've also had the time to grow closer to some of the people I have been with."

"I have loved my time here and just this experience makes me feel like a changed person."

"Inspired by the staff who selflessly give themselves to this mission. How can I serve God at this level?"

