

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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Mission Leadership Meets This Fall



La Vida Mission's Board Members and a full Constituency met on a rainy Sunday, October 16, 2022 in the Seventh-day Adventist Church on campus to hear reports and updates of the Mission work and to discuss future plans and direction for the continued success of the school, outreach and the entirety of mission work.

A State of the Mission address by our current President-Director, Mr. Lee Vorhies, preceded the reports of the different departments' heads in the Elementary and High School, Food Service, Health Ministry, Church and Outreach and Maintenance. An update of the current La Vida Mission water system project and opportunities was also given, highlighting the replacement of the water tank

and possible help from Dig Deep, a non-profit organization that brings clean, running water to hundreds of American families, especially the Native communities. Mission updates ended with the treasurer's report which showed that the Mission is in a good shape financially, to the delight of everyone. We thank God and you, our dear donors and supporters, for making it happen.

Another highlight of the Constituency meeting is the re-election of some board members whose three-year term was expiring (Lee, Vorhies, Dorie Panganiban, Annette Williams and Dr. Robert Gardner with Pastor Mark Phillips replacing Pastor Wayne Gayton). Three more board of director members were elected to replace vacancies left by resignations and death. The new board members elected are Rose Gomez, Lee McIntosh, and Karl Schwinn. Two board members who served La Vida Mission and had passed away during their active tenure were acknowledged and given the Certificate of Recognition, Mrs. Julia Roanhorse and Mr. Abraham Van Herwardeen.

After lunch, the Board of Directors met to discuss some amendments to the Staff Manual and the School Handbook and other specific concerns that affect the Mission operation. Also discussed thoroughly and carefully was the current situation of the High School department and what can be done to align and strengthen its program. A small committee was formed to work on this (Lee McIntosh, Lee Vorhies, Charlie Whitehorse, and Vicky Pioche).

We praise God for His continued leadership of La Vida Mission. We are not without challenges but we look at every challenge as an opportunity to trust the Lord. We continue to solicit your prayers along with your continued support.

– Dorie Panganiban, LVM VP and Assistant Director.



La Vida Mission staff members singing during the Board/Constituency meeting.

Students celebrated Indigenous People's Day, creating dream catchers with their own individual touches.



Pastor Appreciation Day at La Vida Mission Church

We were happy to have the opportunity to show our appreciation for Pastor Mark Phillips, the current pastor of Farmington district and Pastor Polly Panganiban, a retired pastor and adviser of La Vida Church Board.

Pastor Polly has served at La Vida Mission since 2007. For the first 5 years he and his wife, Ms. Dorie, served as dorm parents. During this time he was also the church and outreach leader and Ms. Dorie was the office assistant. Then in 2012, Pastor Polly was made full time evangelism and outreach coordinator and acted as resident local pastor for La Vida while Ms. Dorie served as office manager and directed the Community Outreach department of the church and the mission. Pastor Polly and Ms. Dorie recently passed the Outreach responsibilities on to their son, Mr. VJ and his wife, Ms. Beth. Pastor Polly has been a great blessing to the Mission and to all that know him.



Head Elder Rafael Paloma, Outreach Director VJ Panganiban, Pastor Panganiban and Pastor Mark Phillips and his wife Julie.



From the President/Director's Desk:

November is now upon us and how quickly it seems to have found us now as we think of Thanksgiving and this time to reflect on the many gifts of 2022. The days of this year have passed by quickly and we have been so truly blessed, so let our minds turn to this time for thanksgiving. At the top of our Thanksgiving list is the return of our students to full time school. All our dormitories are open and due to nothing short of a minor miracle, we have good dorm parents to care for our students.

La Vida's water well, water fill station and water storage tank have been in need of a major upgrade and/or replacement. During our research and planning phase of this operation, we were approached by an organization that delivers water to the homes without wells on the reservation. They stated that if we could supply them with water to be delivered to locals in the area, they would in turn help us cover some of the cost of this major upgrade to our water system. God is good. We are continuing to discuss this matter and hope to have a solid answer soon.

As you may suspect, winters in the high desert get more than a little cold and the prices for propane and electricity are as high as they ever been. North of us in the South West corner of Colorado, there is a family that donates fire wood to us and all we have to do is go get it and haul it to La Vida and so with the firewood donations from the Parks family in Aztec. Most every house on La Vida is blessed to have a wood stove and we are more than thankful for this gift of fire wood.

Our La Vida outreach program have been more than successful as our satellite church in Crownpoint is growing and we have been blessed in several ways including recent baptisms. The Outreach team is currently doing follow-up work from the recent evangelism meeting, preparing people for baptism.

We cannot close without mentioning the several schools and churches that blessed us with student and young people visits this year. The maintenance, painting and overall upkeep they provide is vital to the operation of La Vida.

Please keep us in your prayers and may God continue to bless you and your families during this special time of the year is our La Vida Prayer.

- Lee Vorhies

Water Project Update

Hello Again Dear Friends,

The latest total for the water project is \$114,639.94. We are so thankful to you, our donors and to our Lord for the prayers and donations we have received for this project. When the project is complete, we will be able to continue provide quality water not only for Mission needs but for neighbors who are without running water as well. The Mission does not charge those who come for water and we give away some 3 million gallons of water each year.

Mr. Lee, Mr. John, Mr. Bob, Mr. Karl Schwinn and I met with our consulting engineer, Dan Flack, PE on October 17, 2022 when our contract with him was officially signed. Mr. Flack will guide us through the process of our Modification to a Small Public Water System. The first steps to be taken are completing two important testing procedures: a hydraulic analysis to ensure that the tank will provide adequate pressure to the distribution system and a geotechnical report showing the soil conditions are adequate for the foundation. Since a temporary road must be cut in to the tanks prior to these procedures and the perimeter fence surrounding the old tanks must be taken down, the Mission is scrambling to get the work completed as Mr. Flack has stated the testing procedures can be done within the next two weeks. We do not have a tractor at this point so one has to be rented in order to do the work.

The engineer's estimate for this project is \$181,500, however there are items the staff can do without bringing in outside contractors such as building the temporary road, demolishing the old tank (savings of \$12,000), removing and reconstructing the perimeter fence (savings of \$2,500) and site cleanup (savings of \$1,500).

Mr. Flack will redesign the Community Water Hydrant to meet State regulations in order that contamination does not occur. This is in response to the deficiency we received during our Sanitary Survey and must be completed prior to approval from the NM Environment Department.

Please continue to pray for us as we move forward with this project. We are in communication with another non-profit organization that may be able to help us defray the cost of this project. Please pray for the Lord's guidance as we meet with them again in early November.

Again, I and the entire staff at La Vida thank you for each and every donation.

God bless you all,
Lee McIntosh
LVM Sanitary Survey Response Coordinator



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Education is More Than Schoolwork



Ms. Dorie visits the girls' dorm, teaches them how to bake delicious "siopao" or baked buns filled with vegetarian meat and leads out in worship.

Our dorms are fun, home-like places where the children can play, rest, share chores, learn various life-skills (like the baking shown here) and learn about Jesus. We have worship and prayer regularly and invite you to pray for our students as they grow in both academic and spiritual wisdom.



Wood Delivery!



We have been blessed by a big load of wood and a new wood splitter! The



Maintenance Team, would like to thank everyone for their support via thoughts, prayers & financial giving. It puts a smile on our faces and warmth in our hearts (and homes).



Some of our students delivered wood to Ms. Dorie and Pastor Polly. We so appreciate their willingness to serve!

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.
- Neal Kelley and Friends for the gift of a new wood splitter. (see picture above)
- Dr. Parks & the Wall Wood Mill (Norman Butler) for wood for our wood stoves to keep our dorms and homes warm. (see picture above)

In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong
 Dr. Andy Boskind
 Apryl & Kean Brown
 Judy Culpepper
 Wayne Hyatt
 Robert & Mary Lee
 Albert Lind
 Charles Lindsay
 Barry & Art Lizer
 Larry McCoy
 Brenda McDonald
 Frank Putnam
 Kenneth Smith
 Albert Willis Jr. & Albert Willis III

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
 by Sam & Jackie Smith
 by Phyllis Yergenson
 by Jim Culpepper
 by Lynette Hyatt
 by Lynette Hyatt
 by Margaret Lind
 by David & Elizabeth Johnson
 by Oradelle Lizer
 by Nancy McCoy
 by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
 by Clare Putnam
 by Lola May P. Smith
 by Elizabeth Willis

In Honor of

Irene Kalina

by Andrew Kalina

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



Pathfinder Campfire

by Damian Werito - Junior student of LVM



Part of our afterschool program is Pathfinder class. Every Tuesday afternoon, we meet at 3 pm until 4 pm. One of the requirements to join the class is you have to be at least ten years old. In our class, we learn a lot of helpful life skills that let us earn patches and honors. During our Pathfinder class, I have had so many fun and memorable moments.

It was a warm and breezy Tuesday afternoon, April 20. Mr. R, our Pathfinder director, gave us instructions about the activity we were going to do that day -- building a campfire. It sounded interesting to me because I have never built a campfire before. At first, he told us to wear our hats as we walked down to the treehouses. This is the place where we were going to build the campfire. My hat didn't fit so I didn't wear one. We prayed and marched down the concrete outside the cafeteria. As we walked down the track, it was very rugged and unlevelled. It was also filled with tall grass, weeds and bushes. By the time we were done marching, the bottom of my boot was full of bullheads and stickers. Finally we paced down the steps and arrived at the treehouses. The area was very green and grassy. I could imagine

that it was a small, deserted forest with a small open space where the treehouses were standing. The treehouses were old and run down, it looked like they needed work to be done on them. It was spring so the branches on the trees were sprouting small buds.

We rested for a while at two benches near one of the treehouses. After resting, Mr. R gave us further instructions on how we were going to construct our campfire. First he paired me with Gian and John. My classmates started to dig a small circular hole that we would place stones in. Gian, John, and I searched a nearby cliff for the rocks. We gathered about twelve oval and round slabs. We placed them in the small concave hole and waited for more directions. Next, we were told to search for branches and small twigs, or anything that was flammable. We found a dry bush past one of the treehouses and tore it out of the ground. We also garnered some branches that we snapped off some nearby trees. After we finished gathering materials, we layered the branches and twigs between the rocks. Lastly, Mr. R gave us one match that we would have to use to ignite the campfire. To our surprise, we did it successfully! We let it burn for about a minute until Mr. R put the fire out with dirt. When we were done, we placed the rocks back where we got them and headed back to school.



One of the many things I learned when building campfire is that, it is very important to have cooperation and to have friends. I also learned how to safely build a campfire without burning anything down. During our Pathfinder classes I have had lots of fun and wish we could do this kind of activity again.



We also have an Adventurer's class for the younger students. The leaders work hard to find projects that are both interesting and educational and, as with all our efforts involving our children, point them to Jesus and help them to know Him better.

ADOPT A PROJECT

Over the years, many people have come to La Vida Mission to work on various projects, some small, others large. Some of the smaller projects include painting a fence or helping to clean out our greenhouses. Large projects, such as installing new windows, have been on-going as time permits. Larger Mission Groups have come to complete large projects such as painting our barn. We are ever so grateful to each and everyone who has come, even for just a day or for two or more weeks. Our maintenance staff has a long list of items to be repaired. If you are interested in helping on any of these projects, please contact John Husby at 719-822-3078 or john@lavidamission.org.

Again, we are so blessed to have so many come to help us. God bless each and everyone.