

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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La Vida Mission Community Service Day is Back, Yay!

Since the COVID-19 era started last March 2020, we have closed La Vida Mission's gym and community center for in-person's community events. But God is to be praised, the pandemic has eased down lately which enabled us to host, on June 12, a Community Service Day for our local neighbors featuring "La Vida Mission Free Flea Market" where people can shop freely for clothes, shoes, household items, hygiene and personal-care items, and food bags and food boxes from Partnership with Native Americans. We also offered free medical check-ups and physicals on that day through Nurse Practitioner Mark Bramblett and his wife Shannon. Mark is a son of former La Vida missionaries Jim and Peggy Bramblett who, as a young kid here in the early 70's, had fond memories of his life at the Mission and decided to serve our native community as "a way of giving back"



to the place that has meant so much to him, to the delight of our community folks. The Free Flea Market was extended to Crownpoint in front of our little Seventh-day Adventist Church on Wednesday afternoon, June 15. No less than 160 people were served and blessed during this whole event. Praise the Lord!

– Dorie Panganiban

Health Outreach for the Navajo Youth

What a BIG PRAISE it is that, after three years (because of the pandemic), we were invited again to the local Chapter House to conduct health and nutrition programs for their Summer Youth Work Program. Members of the La Vida Mission Outreach team lead by VJ & Beth Panganiban, along with Serly and Charles Londah and Dorie Panganiban joined forces and helped to make this program a success. The team introduced the Healthy Lifestyle concept to the youth and taught them about healthy eating and healthy



living. Part of the program on healthy cooking is demo and then participation. Participants were divided into 2 groups and did hands on cooking following the recipes provided. The youth also engaged in High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) exercises that encouraged them to be physically fit and healthy.



Please keep our continuing health evangelism outreach to our Navajo families and youth in your prayers.

–VJ & Beth Panganiban

Prayers Needed as Native Impact Ride Continues

In the last month's issue of the Navajo News, we introduced you to the first Native Impact Evangelism Campaign that's happening on the Navajo land this year, 2022.

Ground preparation is now going on and continuing in Crownpoint, around La Vida Mission and on the other five evangelism sites such as Chinle, Page, Window Rock in Arizona and Gallup and Waterflow in New Mexico, to create awareness and prepare interests for the culmination of the campaign on September 9-17, 2022 and to win precious souls for the Kingdom.

In Crownpoint, we do Bible studies in the homes of some interests using the Native New Day Bible study series. We go door-to-door too and distribute the Walking with Jesus books that's written in English and Navajo. We especially thank Elder Frank Hardy, co-author of the book, for donating several hundred copies of it to us to spread like leaves of autumn in the area. We're also doing a weekly Healthy Lifestyle and Cooking Class and a Bible study and prayer meeting in our little church building in town that's being rented for our use by the Texico Conference.

In our evangelism plan are 2 Health Expos to be conducted on September 4 and 11 which is before and during the Native Impact. Also a nightly Evangelism meeting dubbed as "Bible Prophecy Revival, Message from the Metal Man". This evangelism initiative is co-sponsored by the NAD Native Ministries, the It Is Written Ministry, the local conferences of Arizona, Utah-Nevada, Texico and Rocky Mountain and the respective churches on the reservation that are involved in the campaign. Please join us in prayers and whatever support you can give to make this Native Impact Evangelism Ride a success.

– Dorie Panganiban, LVM Outreach team member



From the President/Director's Desk:

Looking back over the last couple of years, La Vida mission has been challenged at an unbelievable level. COVID has infected our staff, teachers and our students in a way probably never experienced before. However, we are currently enjoying the fact that we successfully completed a somewhat difficult and trying school year. During this past spring and summer, we have had the opportunity to take and enjoy some well-deserved vacations and some time off. Currently we are now beginning to focus on and plan for the upcoming school year. We know we still have serious challenges ahead of us as the pandemic is still a part of life in our Navajo community and at our mission.

As previously noted, during the first few months of this year, we were blessed by five visiting school groups that came and provided us with much needed cleanup, repair and maintenance. It should be noted that due to the pandemic we were previously blessed by only one visiting school in the last two plus years. As we turn our thoughts and planning to the future, we still face some serious challenges. Being located in a remote area some distance from town brings on another situation such the high cost of fuel for our school buses and those needed trips to town.

On a closing note, it is a pleasure to share a positive event as we recently welcomed Pastor Mark Phillips to La Vida Mission as our Pastor and a member of our La Vida Mission Board. Pastor Mark was recently assigned to become the Pastor of the Farmington, Aztec, Waterflow and La Vida churches. As we toured our campus and shared the uniqueness and challenges of our mission with the pastor, it became apparent that his life skills and background are a very good fit for La Vida Mission. Praise the Lord.

- Lee Vorhies

Please Help Us Send Our Youth to 2022 GYC

We are grateful to several of you for responding to this humble call for help, for us to be able to send our youths to GYC in December this year. Join us in preparing and training these youths for service to Jesus. Again, as the Holy Spirit impresses you, please support this project through your prayers and donations and be His instrument in building and equipping these students and young people as missionaries for Christ.

Mark your gift: LVM-GYC 2022. Thank you.

Is God Calling You?

Do you feel God's tug on your heart to be a full time worker for Him in His vineyard?

We have new openings every year and currently need dorm parents, a mechanic/maintenance person and a cafeteria assistant.

If you wonder if this is where God is leading you, please contact us at (email) office@lavidamission.org or call (505) 786-5539. Please remember to leave a call back number if you get voicemail.

And please pray that God will lead people here to serve Him in whatever positions open up as we move forward.

Will You Pray?

There are many ways to support La Vida Mission but one of the most important is prayer. We share with you what is happening here in the hopes that you will be moved to pray for us. Anything is possible with God and we ask that you regularly bring our name before the throne of our Father, asking that He guide and direct us and supply our needs according to His will.

Water Project Update

Hello Dear Friends,

The latest figures regarding our water project are \$93,350.00. THANK YOU to all our donors!

Work on the community water hydrant is still in process as we wait for a specific air gap fitting to be delivered. The overhead dispensing arm will also need to be modified. Mr. Lee and Mr. John are working on this project.

From behind the scenes, I received an email from Dennis Engineering stating they will not be able to take on our project. I contacted Dan Flack, Professional Engineer from DFT Engineering out of Kirtland and he will provide a proposal to coordinate the installation of a new tank and bedding ring. The coordination will include La Vida Mission, NM Drinking Water Bureau and D & R Tank. A meeting is planned with Mr. Flack for an "on-site" evaluation this month (July).

Mr. Lee and I are planning to go to Santa Fe to discuss the tank project in July. Our latest update to the state is August 2, 2022, at which time we will apply for an extension for the tank replacement.

Blessing to all!

Lee McIntosh
La Vida Mission Sanitary Survey Response Coordinator



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Director
Lee Vorhies
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

Website: www.lavidamission.org

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A note from our Treasurer....

I am so grateful to the Donors who write and ask how we are doing in these difficult times. I must share with you that our newsletter expense has increased substantially. Not only is inflation taking its toll, but our printer tells us that paper is getting hard to get. The printing cost has increased substantially as well as the mailing cost. We have discussed the possibility of going to one page, but then we would have to cut back on pictures, which we really don't want to do. Those pictures of the students are precious and I know you enjoy seeing their smiling faces and seeing them enjoy life at La Vida. If you feel the burden to give a little extra to support the newsletter, please mark your gift for that (but don't forget our other operating expenses.) God bless you and thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement.

And some great news -----

--- High speed internet and new phones are coming to La Vida!

We have contracted with Cellular One, who is putting up a booster on a mast attached to our gym. This will give us unlimited High Speed Internet and cell service. And we also just recently installed Starlink satellite internet, which will help us have internet in every home throughout the campus. The high speed internet is allowing us to upgrade to a better Wi-fi phone system.

And the best news --- These upgrades will not increase our cost for those improvements! In fact, our phone cost will decrease, and the cost of our better internet services will stay about the same. We are so excited -- This should all be in place before the new school year begins, which is very exciting to our teachers. Praise the Lord! We are looking forward to having a working phone system where we can actually get your calls.

More good news---- Our teachers have been invited to the RMC teacher in-service training in Denver and the conference is covering all costs except transportation, which will be \$500-600 if they can all go in one vehicle. If you would like to help us with the cost of gasoline for this important training, just mark your donation "teacher training" and please pray for their safe travel.



Some of the handmade quilts donated by Ms. Silvia Sky (see article at left).

Handmade and Delivered with Love

I got a call on the phone from an unknown lady. I asked how she came to know us and how she heard about La Vida Mission so she introduced herself to me-- that she hailed from Crownpoint but is now living in Salt Lake, Utah. She is a dear member of the LDS Church, but she told me that her brother in Crownpoint shared with her the many community outreach programs that La Vida Mission does for the people as far away as Crownpoint, so she decided to make La Vida Mission the recipient of her quilt blankets that she made herself. I was not able to meet her when she came because of an emergency appointment that day but when I got back to the Mission, I was in great awe of the many quilt blankets she delivered to the Mission that she lovingly made herself. Along with these quilt blankets were hygiene supplies and toiletries that she hopes would bless our community. Thank you, Ms. Silvia Sky, for your sweet labor of love that you delivered to the Mission. We will make sure that these will bless our local students and community.

– Dorie Panganiban

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 a weekly supply of produce and other necessary food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry for donations of food and vegetables.
- Steve Herrera for assorted school and office supplies and cafeteria needs.
- Robert & Sharrel Fulmer for tomatoes and other seedlings.
- Silvia Sky for quilt blankets, assorted hygiene supplies & toiletries.

In Memory of

Jim Andrew
Margaret & George Armstrong
Aunt Lita Castillo
Fuchkuck Family
Wayne Hyatt
Albert Lind
Barry & Art Lizer
Jose Lopez
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Alvin Ortner
Frank Putnam
Robert (Bob) Shores
Kenneth Smith
Dolly Sterndale

by Richard & Judy Durham
by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Sal & Emilio C. Fariaz
by Richard & Judy Durham
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Diane Lopez
by Nancy McCoy
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Mrs. Pat Watts
by Clare Putnam
by Karmen Shores
by Lola May P. Smith
by Nadine Murtaugh

In Honor of

Irene Kalina
Jackie Small
Victoria Grace Webb- Class 2022

by Andrew Kalina
by Jack & Mary Wood
by Sam & Jackie Smith

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



"Meet Our Staff - Claire James" - Part 3

As I mentioned in the last installment, once I had been led to Jesus, I understood why the pastor of the Adventist church wanted to get in touch with me. He loved Jesus.

His family began to show a great deal of hospitality toward me and give me a place in their family. They invited me to Sabbath school, to church and to various functions with their family.

The mother of the family, Mary Goodwin, began to give me Bible studies. I later found out that they were the first Bible studies she had ever given. I cannot tell you what a kind, humble, patient lady she was. She just did so many lovely things. She even hired me to take care of her child while she was substituting at the Adventist church school. Such trust, and such gentleness.

I was sure that I would never join her church because Mara, the lady in the mountains who gave me my first Bible, had told me that the Adventists were completely wrong about the Millennium. But that proved to be easily overcome for her by just showing me what the Bible said.

A more serious obstacle came up when my golden birthday came. I was 23 that year on September 23rd. I decided that I would go to the beach to fast and pray. Different people in the church were telling me what they thought I should do in the future. I got on the bus to take the short trip to Padre Island. This was long before it was developed, and there were very few people, no buildings at all except for relatively humble beach houses. All I took with me was a small tent, a blanket, and my Bible: no food or water.

On the bus, the only other passengers were two young men about my age with longish hair. You almost had to be back in that time, the 60's, to understand what that meant. In our minds, it meant people who were standing up for justice, the end of the war, and a new way of showing humanity a better path. I know now that to many other people, it looked like total chaos and evil. In Texas at that time, people would get beat up if they had long hair. At any rate, I felt a certain obligation to those young men to share what I had, so I gave them my blanket to use.

A policeman stopped by because I was the only one on the campground, and he was probably worried about me. But he left, probably shaking his head. I continued swimming by myself at night, which is very dangerous, I now know, and fasting and praying. Returning to my tent on the evening of the 22nd, I saw my blanket back in the tent.

Then, at midnight as I turned 23, a car drove up and its bright headlights woke me. I scrambled out of my tent, thinking I would be safer outside. There was the young man who borrowed my blanket. He said he saw my Bible when he returned it, and that he had an idea of some place that I might like. That was the answer I had been fasting for, AND it came just as I turned 23 on the 23rd! I packed up in the morning and took the bus back home.

I was just about delirious knowing where I was supposed to go. I started giving away my things, keeping only my sewing machine and a few clothes. I was so happy when I told Mrs. Goodwyn the news. I saw the first shadow I had ever seen pass across her face. I told her, "Don't worry. I will still keep Sabbath. She did not seem comforted by that. However, as I was saving up enough money for the bus ticket, I continued to go to Sabbath school and church and take Bible studies. (When I went to my first camp meeting a few months later, I met a woman who had been a member of the group that I was hoping to join. That group was called The Children of God. They recruited other cult members by being "flirty for God". When she found Sabbath in the Bible and started to keep it, she was physically beaten up by the group.)

In November of 1970, the Weslaco church had a speaker from the Texas conference who was giving a series on stewardship. I was very moved by his sermons, although he seemed to be very materialistic. But when he spoke, I think the spirit of God was really on him. I also continued fasting. As a result of these meetings, there rose in me a desire to give myself to this church. I didn't understand at all the way that should be done. But I thought to myself that I knew how to bake bread and babysit. I would offer myself to the church to be their helper. I think I thought in terms of the way they used to have people in the temple that took care of various jobs.

The next Sabbath, I was again fasting, when the speaker asked people to come forward for baptism. Then I knew that's what I was supposed to do. They immediately got me busy in the church: visiting people in the nursing home that was next to the church, I assisted in the primary Sabbath school, where I learned all the stories of the Bible that I hadn't yet read. And I listened to everyone's ideas about what my next step should be. Most people thought I should go up to Keene, Texas, where there was a college. I did visit but thought that it was not what I was looking for. Especially, the thought of being locked in a dorm, not being able to look at the stars, was distasteful.

One of the ladies whom I visited in the nursing home was named Alexis Marshall. She had been with the group that left Madison, the nursing school, to found Wildwood, one of the first self-supporting schools in the United States. She told me about a new place that was starting called Eden Valley. She thought that might be a place that I would really find a good education. I did, too.

I began to pack again and continue to save money to have enough for the bus trip all the way to Loveland, Colorado. I think I took one box. There I began my 3 year course to become a medical missionary.

I learned so many things that make my life contented and useful. I learned medical things such as hydrotherapy, a healthy lifestyle, and generally how to treat the sick and suffering. I learned how cook much more efficiently and healthfully. I learned how to teach cooking schools and taught one at Colorado State University's alternative university. I learned to go door to door. We made friends with the people, discovering their needs. We found so many ways to help them. We sometimes just visited with them and listened as they told us about their lives. We helped them with their gardens and helped build houses. We started a story hour for a family that adopted special needs children. One child had severe cerebral palsy. When I returned 30 years later, I was told that he had continued to come to church for many years, wheelchair and all.

I also had the privilege of teaching in the campus church school for three years and working as the Food Service Supervisor of the kitchen, which served the nursing home and rehabilitation residents.

Next installment: from Eden Valley to teaching in church schools