

Navajo News



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

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La Vida Missions, Inc. Spring Board Meeting



Our spring Board Meeting met on Sunday, April 24. The assembly began with staff and board members gathering in the church sanctuary for a time of worship and devotional led by Eric Nelson, who is retiring from our board. His leadership and wisdom will be greatly missed, and we presented him with an appreciation gift of Navajo art.

Following the time of devotional and prayer while we were all still together, our President – Lee Vorhies – talked about the State of the Mission. He gave a report about what is happening with the various departments and spoke about our needs, which include an additional maintenance person and someone with a CDL bus driver's license. After Mr. Lee's report the board members convened to the fellowship hall of the church for the actual board meeting. We are very fortunate to have dedicated and supportive board members.

Previous minutes were read, and the agenda moved along smoothly. The treasurer's report was presented, along with the budget for the year. We want to thank our awesome and supportive donors for a great year. We were able to do help our Native Community with several food distributions, propane distributions, daily water distributions, etc.. Our outreach department was able to be very active and do wonderful things because of the generous donations. We were also able to add textbooks and school supplies to the budget (but not a lot, only \$8,000), thanks to the generosity of our contributors. We have depended on fundraisers and book donations and when there were not enough funds, teachers have had to purchase their needs from their own sparse income. They are so excited to hear this and thank you, our donors!! Because of this, our school will be able to function better next year. Please continue your generous support so that we can continue in our mission:



"La Vida Mission exists to bring the love & gospel of Jesus to the Dine' (Navajo)"

The board meeting adjourned shortly after 1:00 pm to the cafeteria dining room where they enjoyed a beautiful smorgasbord buffet put together by our cook, Ann Larsen. She announced that the food had been donated almost entirely by the Farmington food bank and the supplies brought from Montrose, Colorado by board member, Neal Kelley.

- Carol Gillham

La Vida Mission Honored Pastor Eric Nelson

As everybody knows, La Vida Mission is a non-profit independent organization but a supportive ministry to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Despite this status of the Mission, La Vida has found huge support from the Rocky Mountain Conference leadership, especially with Pastor Eric Nelson who has served its Board for more than twenty years.

His announcement to retire from our La Vida Mission Board before its 2022 Spring Board meeting has made all of us sad. We have already missed him since he retired as vice-president of the Conference, and we know that we will miss him even more in this, his retirement from our Mission Board. His leadership and wisdom, his honest but gentle and loving way of giving advice and guidance to our Board will be greatly missed indeed.

Truly, he and his wife have both been friends and strong spiritual and moral supports for us at the Mission especially in times when we struggle with many challenges and issues that sometimes shake our faith. Their kindness and excellent pastoral ministry to our Mission leaders and staff have inspired and encouraged many of us in mission work and ministry and has made us feel very much a part of the RMC and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thank you, Pastor and Mrs. Nelson not only for your services but above all for your love, dedication, and prayers for La Vida Mission.



- Dorie Panganiban

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.



From the President/Director's Desk:

Today as I share my thoughts, the "state of La Vida is good" and we should, when considering the challenges of the last three years, note that is a major accomplishment. God has blessed La Vida Mission. Thank God for our students, teacher and parents. As I am sure you know all of these individuals were tested in a way that we have never before experienced. The hardships during COVID that were imposed on our students and parents are, in my mind, without equal. During this crisis, our primary prayer has been and is simple, can our students move forward to the next grade level without enduring serious and lasting consequences?

When we consider all of the challenges of the last three years, every aspect of La Vida Mission has been tested and I'm proud to share that we have endured. Without the blessing of the visiting schools that did not come the past two summers, maintenance and upkeep still endured. This spring, with the blessing of four visiting mission groups and volunteer working schools, we are enjoying the fruits of their serious labor. As we plan for the coming school year we are more than optimistic that we will be fully prepared for the forthcoming challenges.

The La Vida Mission Board of Directors met this past month and as we shared the challenges and the accomplishments of our mission, it was comforting to know and note that the mission is fulfilling God's purpose in this small corner of the world. It should also be noted that it was difficult to say goodbye to Pastor Eric Nelson who has served on our La Vida Board of Directors for many, many years. Pastor, in my Navy way, we simply say "fair winds and following seas" to you and your family and may God continue to shower His blessings upon your family.

My closing thought is, when I have personally met with many of the visiting students, teachers and leaders, they almost all say without fail "La Vida is a very unique place and I want to come back". So my friends, as we approach the end of another school year, please keep our students and La Vida Mission in your thoughts and prayers. Please know that La Vida thanks you for your prayers, ongoing support and being a member of God's leadership team. - Lee Vorhies



Our closing day/promotion day is May 18. Please continue to pray for our students over the summer months, that what they have learned about our Lord (in the dorms and the school) will make a difference in their lives.

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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.

Interim 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

Donation Information

Make checks payable to:

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Water Project Update

Hello Dear Friends

Spring is definitely here. The gusty winds are getting old and the lack of moisture is of great concern. STILL...I am trusting in God.

The latest figures regarding our water project is \$85,798.00. We are getting closer and closer. THANK YOU to all our donors!

D & R tank received our letter of inquiry and returned an email saying they are working on a plan and replacement figures. Mr Scott Salvias from D & R said we will need a consulting engineer for our water project and that he will recommend a firm he has worked with before.

The Engineering Program with the NM Water Department states we need an engineering design summary from a NM Licensed Professional Engineer, an initial disinfection plan and a designed foundation for the tank. Further, we need a hydraulic analysis to ensure that the new tank will provide adequate pressure to the distribution system and a geotechnical report showing that the existing soil conditions are adequate to support the new tank.

Some of the above items were added to our "to do" list when the NM Water Department told us that we would need to make application to the Engineering Service Program for a Modification of a Public Water System. It is my understanding that D & R Tank will be able to provide most of those items.

Two other deficiencies are to be addressed: 1. To determine if our ground water is surface water influenced. Mr Wayne Jeffs, Compliance Officer from the water department sent an email saying this will be completed after the new tank is installed. 2. The Community Water Hydrant still needs to be re-built in such a way that contamination does not enter our water distribution system.

We were granted a time-extension to complete these items until August 2022. Please continue to pray with us as we move forward. God bless each of you!

Lee McIntosh
La Vida Mission Sanitary Survey Response
Coordinator





Pathfinders Update

Our Pathfinders are staying busy, they learned how to safely build a fire and also spent time helping out around the mission, cleaning up the gym and organizing the PE room.



In Memory of

Carl Anderson
 George & Margaret Armstrong
 Joanne Clifford
 Ptr. Steve Gillham
 Juanita Kunau Halan
 Wayne Hyatt
 Floyd Kooreny
 Albert Lind
 Art & Barry Lizer
 Larry McCoy
 Brenda McDonald
 Fleta Oliver
 Frank Putnam
 Bev Sherman
 Scott Skipper
 Emily Smith
 Kenneth Smith

by Mrs. Carl Anderson
 by Lanny & Barbara Davis
 by John & Robin Korponay
 by Anonymous
 by Sam & Jackie Smith
 by Lynette Hyatt
 by Patricia Kooreny
 by Margaret Lind
 by Oradelle Lizer
 by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
 by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
 by Jack & Mary Wood
 by Clare Putnam
 by Debra Steffen
 by Phil & Audine Dieter
 by Ramona McCurdy
 by Lola Smith

In Honor of

Irene Kalina
 The 4 Awesome April LaVida Ladies: Annette, Carol, Ann, April
 by Andrew Kalina
 by Polly & Dorie Panganiban

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 a weekly supply of produce and other necessary food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry** for donations of food and vegetables.
- Mile High Adventist Academy Mission Group** for food donations and all the work accomplished. (see page 4)



Once Again Blessed by Mission Groups

Praise God for the easing of restrictions related to the pandemic caused by this cruel covid-19. La Vida Mission's door has opened again to having mission groups visit us from different Adventist schools and churches.

So far, during the past couple of months, La Vida Mission was once again blessed by these groups. Last March, as you have read in the last issue of the Navajo News, Shenandoah Adventist Academy from Virginia funded and worked on replacing the clinic's shingle roofs with a better metal roof that can withstand high winds in this area and doing many other projects. The day after they left, Puget Sound Academy came and did more projects like painting of the dorms, preparing the greenhouse beds for our gardening this year, and helping with other common maintenance issues on campus.

Around the middle of April, a bus load of Mile High Academy students and staff arrived at the Mission and did a tremendous job in so short a time. During the two days they were at the Mission, they painted two dorm houses, loosened the beds' soil in the other greenhouse at the Mission, helped with general clean up of the campus, collaborated with our school, both in the elementary and the High School by administering DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), a series of short tests that assess K-8 literacy, result of which will give educators the data to identify students who need additional assistance and to monitor the effectiveness of intervention strategies and having some meaningful meetings with our ES and HS head teachers on how to better improve our school and status and much more.

What a blessing indeed are these dedicated young people and staff from our different Adventist sister schools. Not only did they bless the Mission with all the many various projects they did, but above all, they blessed our students and staff with their presence and the love of Jesus that they demonstrated to our kids so much so that our students get very excited when they hear that another Mission group is coming. Many times, they would ask us, "is there another mission group coming?" And if we say yes, they will chorus and say "Awesome". Truly, we are grateful to all our visiting Mission groups. May the good Lord bless you all as you blessed us. – Dorie Panganiban



The Joy the Greenhouse Brings

We have not had a staff member working full time in our Mission Greenhouse since 2018. But like what the Bible says that "all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose", it paved the way for many of our staff to be involved in this heaven ordained job of tilling the soil and growing crops. Thank God for the Mission groups' help, they prepared the beds in the green house and loosened its soil for us to work on. Almost all our mission staff adopted beds according to their time and ability to till and care for them.

I never did a garden while I was in the Philippines because I have always believed that I didn't have a "green thumb", that it's just my husband who had it, so I just let him grow plants, even the flowering plants. When the staff in-charge of our greenhouse that was lovingly built and funded by the generous donations of the Restore-a-Child to support our children with fresh produce from the garden, I discovered that I could plant and grow some vegetables too and have enjoyed it since. I have discovered too that in gardening, I can always be in a spirit of prayer and praise because I experience that as I plant, I pray a lot in my heart that the Lord will help those seeds to grow and when I see some tiny young green leaves pop from the ground, I would happily exclaim "Praise the Lord, Thank you Jesus". I learned many lessons in gardening like patience and perseverance. The first year I worked in my garden, I got impatient when I didn't see the seeds that I planted grow and so I would dig it to see what's happening then replace it with other seeds which I found out wasn't good because I ended up just planting and planting. I realized that not all seeds grow at the same time, and I must be patiently waiting. Gardening



Gardening happens in the classroom too, as Ms. Claire's class learns how to root Christmas cactus in a potato!

also gave me lots of health benefits because it normalizes and lowers my blood pressure and gives me joy beyond compare. I believe our other staff and families also experience the same joy I have.

– Dorie Panganiban

"Meet Our Staff - Claire James" will continue next month.