

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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La Vida Mission Church Welcomes New Members to the Family of God

April 29, 2023! What a special and awesome Sabbath it was! Ten precious individuals accepted the Lord and surrendered their lives to Him through baptism and were warmly welcomed into the family of God at La Vida Mission Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Five of these 10 are students of La Vida, 3 are temporary staff we hired this year for some emergency needs at the Mission and two are from the community, one is the wife of a staff member and the other is a long-time regular attendee in our church. Six of them have also attended our Native Impact Bible Prophecy Revival in Crownpoint last September who expressed a desire to prepare for baptism and thus, continued Bible studies were given them at the Mission by the Outreach team and some staff at La Vida. Four of the students baptized also attended the GYC in Phoenix last December 28-January 1 and have surely been inspired by their experience and the spiritual messages they heard from the Convention. This Baptism Sabbath has been looked forward to by these individuals and their families.

But unexpected things always happen to test our faith and our hold on God. On Sabbath morning, one of the candidates with his family had to go through three flat tires, the mother of a student almost ran out of gas on the way, and our district pastor who was supposed to do the baptism, sent us a message an hour before the service began to tell us that he could not make it because he woke up running a high fever with a sore throat. He suggested postponing it for several Sabbaths but the candidates for baptism and their families from different places in the community were already on their way and postponing it didn't seem to be a good option. And so, we told him that we will try to find a pastor to do it and he agreed. We called 3 other pastors in the area but with little time and short notice, none could be available. So, we prayed and we believe that the Lord impressed VJ, our son, that his Dad, being an ordained pastor could do it. But my husband hasn't baptized in La Vida since 2017 because of his physical disability. Seeing the great need however, he was compelled and he consented to do it. He knew that he wouldn't be able to lift the people back up from the water, so they devised a plan for VJ, who is currently our church outreach director, to join his Dad in the pool and assist him in lifting those people up from the watery grave. We presented our contingency plan to our district pastor and he agreed.



My husband said he prayed the whole time for God to give him strength to do it. And the Lord worked out everything really well. It was very quiet, very solemn in the sanctuary during the baptism ceremony according to church members who approached me after the service (because I was at the back behind the scenes helping the baptismal candidates). They said they were in prayer as well for my husband and were in tears seeing him do it with his son. One of the staff who was baptized in our church 10 years ago said, "I was praying for Pastor Polly and also saying in my heart, dip me again in the water." A Navajo lady that was baptized said, "I have really wanted Pastor Polly to baptize me and God granted my wish". Because we have worked here for 17 years already, all these people know my husband very well, more than any of the pastors in the area so all worked out well.

Thank you for your partnership with the La Vida Mission in bringing the love of Jesus to the Navajo and everyone around us. You, our sending missionaries, because of your prayers and financial support to the ministry of La Vida Mission have played a huge part in leading these precious new members to Jesus. Please continue to join us in prayers that they will continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, winning others to Him as well. *by Dorie Panganiban*

New Director Sought for La Vida Mission

As you will read in the article about our board meeting on page 2, 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.

(Continued on page 2)





Moving Forward with Jesus

With Jesus as its Captain, its Pilot and Guide, La Vida Mission has moved, is moving and will continue to be moving forward to fulfilling its goals and visions of bringing the love of Jesus to our Navajo Native American community and everyone around us and to help them make good decisions that will affect their eternal future. We are not without trials, difficulties and challenges on our way, but we recognize that in this journey, we need to be walking with Jesus in obedience to Him day by day and we can be sure that we are in God's will and are exactly where He wants us to be. This is what we at La Vida Mission pray to do and to be as we conduct the business of our Lord in this area of His vineyard.

I'm happy to report to you that on April 23, 2023, the La Vida Mission Board of Directors met for its Spring Board Meeting to look at the progress of the work, including its present challenges and future opportunities for growth. Pastor Charlie Whitehorse, a Native Navajo pastor set the tone of the meeting in his devotional message by reminding us of our real purpose and mission—and that is, to fulfill the Great Gospel Commission that Jesus left His disciples and all of us in this earth. Ms. Annette Williams, our Chairman of the Board and Mr. Lee Vorhies, our Board President, opened the meeting with encouraging remarks and state of the mission respectively. It was followed by departmental reports and highlights including the progress of our water project (a separate update is on page 4 by Lee McIntosh, our water survey and project coordinator), and with the concluding reports from our Board Treasurer and Mission bookkeeper, Carol Gillham, regarding the financial status of La Vida Mission. Economy, the new restrictions and guidelines on the relationship of the organized church with independent and supporting ministries, and significant donations to our water project seemed to have affected the down flow of our donations for operations and posed a little challenge in the balance of our income and expenses, but overall, thank God that we are continually OK in our cash flow and capital reserve, thanks to our treasurer for carefully guarding our expenses.

One of the major discussions was centered on our school's present status and challenges, especially with the right staffing needs, logistics and availability of upgraded educational resources and the future of our High School program. Therefore, a small committee was created to look deeper into this and to find possible solutions and alternatives so we can continue to provide the best possible educational care and services to our precious Navajo children and youth. Another important item in the agenda was the resignation of Lee Vorhies as mission interim director. He will continue to serve as the Board President but he asked to be relieved of directing the daily operations of the Mission. To fill the vacuum he left, an Admin Team was formed to run and administer the work at the Mission while a prayerful, decisive search for a permanent director is on. The Admin Team will be composed of Carol Gillham, Vicky Pioche, John Husby, and your servant, Dorie Panganiban to serve as its chairman. In a separate article (page 1 and below) is our ad for a permanent director with qualifications and attributes we're looking for. (If you, or anyone you know, might be a great fit for this need, please reach out to us by email, phone call or by sending us a letter of interest and/or your resume. 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 fill out that application and send it to us).

On another happy note, as our month's highlight of events, we have witnessed a beautiful baptism of 10 precious individuals in La Vida Mission Church this Sabbath, April 29, 2023. This is part of the follow up work from the Native Impact Evangelism started on the Navajo reservation last year. You will read more details about it on page 1.

In all these present joys, needs and challenges, this message from the pen of inspiration is our encouragement: "In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." Counsel for the Church p. 359.4

by Dorie Panganiban

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(Continued from page 1)

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.

Outreach Activity with Mile High Academy

April 18, 2023 we were blessed and full of joy working for the Lord with Mile High Academy. First we prayed and then went to Crownpoint, NM, outside the local grocery store to give away Ellen G. White's wonderful book, "The Great Controversy". It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. It bears a powerful testimony of the truth about earth's history. The students from Mile High were so happy with that experience, especially those who were doing this for the first time.

After giving books to the people, we went to another place by the Speedway gasoline station and we started distributing more books. Most of the people accepted the books with smiles on their faces. We hope and pray that they will be able to read the books and it will be one way of reaching them, helping them to know Jesus in their lives.

We also had prayer meeting in Crownpoint church that day and the Mile High Academy led the program and the people in the church were so thankful to meet the students and have the opportunity to listen to their wonderful voices and inspiring testimonies.

by VJ & Beth Panganiban

Far right: giving out books at a local grocery store. Right: singing during the prayer meeting at the Crownpoint church.

NAD Health Summit 2023 Trip

It was a great opportunity for growth in the ministry and a blessing to attend the Health Summit with my wife. Jesus' promise to His disciples is still true today, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you". Matt. 7:7 He plans the solution to our problems, arranges the events, and brings about the answers just at the right time. So, the Lord answered our prayers to go to Lexington, KY, last April 2-8 even though we didn't have enough money but God provided. God is so marvelous. It was our heart's desire to attend every health summit to learn and share with our mission field, especially with our Navajo community. We learned about leadership development, strategic planning, and health everlasting, there were health exhibits and different plenary sessions, and Friday evening was commissioning service. We were blessed to be with the delegates there in the seminar, especially all the speakers who shared their ministry in different fields of medicine. They also gave us time during the Sabbath School program to share the ministry of La Vida Mission and a lot of people were thankful and inspired with the work of the missionaries here. And it's all glory and praises to you, Lord!

We remembered Ellen White's book "Counsels on Health" that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but in medical missionary work.

by VJ & Beth Panganiban



VJ and Beth with Ms. Angeline D. Brauer, DrPH, MHS, RDN- NAD Director of Health Ministries



In Memory of

Ken Albertsen
George & Margaret Armstrong
Opal Billips
Joanne Clifford
Karen Duncan
Arloene Goley
Wayne Hyatt
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Barry & Art Lizer
Jose A. Lopez
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Frank Putnam
Gloria J. Redfield
Nobert Sammer
Kenneth Smith

by Ardis Stenbakken
by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Richard & Judy Durham
by John & Robin Korponay
by Linda Duncan
by Pastor John Goley
by Lynette Hyatt
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Diane Lopez
by Nancy McCoy
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Clare Putnam
by James W. Redfield
by David & Maxine Smith
by Lola Smith

In Honor of

Irene Kalina
Mary Wood's Birthday

by Andrew Kalina
by Sam & Jackie Small

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

Bulletin Board

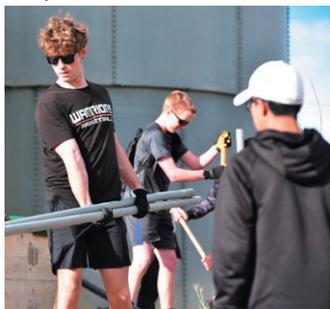
Special Thanks to:

- 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.
- Sussie Thompson for clothes, toys, school, office and dorm supplies.
- Mile High Academy, students and staff, for all their hard work and donations. Story above and on page 4.

New Year, More Blessings

Well, the mission group season has kicked off once again here at La Vida. The first one was a big blessing, 54 blessings to be exact. It is such an honor to have a large group of helpful staff and kids that want to return time after time. To know that La Vida came to their mind when they thought about reaching out & helping ones in need, in the form of a mission trip. Thank you Mile High Academy!

You guys were awesome. MHA helped us get so much done and just in time. I would like to share a little bit of that with you now. It all began the minute they got off the bus, literally! I had informed them of a new freezer that was waiting next to the gym to be taken out of the crate and installed. It was on a list of things to tackle that week. The bus driver parked right next to the gym, and instantly they were off the bus and unpacking the freezer. And before I could finish going over the projects for the week with their team leader, they had it in the kitchen. Well.....one down and seven to go.



That's how the whole mission trip went. They went on to help us with prepping and painting the exterior of a duplex building that is housing staff, prep and painting of the exterior of the church, performing multiple fence repairs and then staining the staff housing fences.

As many of you may know, we are currently in the middle of a huge water project. We had just reached the point where we needed to remove a bunch of chain link fence, barb wire and the posts. Those kids were amazing. They not only removed all that was asked of them but also dug out a tree stump and its roots to clear the path for the ramp up to the water tank pad.

They went on to remove an old ragged looking fence we had at one of the apartments and started the install of a split rail fence. They continued on with cleaning the interior of the church and performing a few miscellaneous repairs across the campus.

Another beautiful thing to see was that they got right in beside us and helped out with outreach to the community. A portion of them went with our outreach team down to Crownpoint to help with spreading love and literature to the people down there. As we all know, there is truly a blessing received when teaming up with Jesus and spreading the gospel.

I hope that these kids have experienced that, because we sure have, by having them come be a part of La Vida. I pray that God bestows a blessing on each one of them as well as the school as a whole. I would just like to say "Thank You Mile High Academy!" Not only did they do all that work, but they funded their projects as well! You have made a difference at La Vida and put a smile on Gods face.

Thank you newsletter recipients for your partnership with us by donations and prayers. Let our Lord come and find His people working.

Maranatha and God bless!

by John Husby and the LVM Maintenance crew



Water Project Update

Hello Friends!

April 23, 2023 was a pack filled day for La Vida Mission. Students were on campus for weekend school, Board of Director members had come for La Vida's Spring Board Meeting and a 19,000 lb. excavator sat stationary, primed for its day's work. The day dawned with promise of a beautiful spring day, cool and not too windy for a change.

Students scurried off to their classes; Board Members to their meeting. The beast that was the excavator roared to life at the hand of Pastor Mark Phillips of the Farmington Church. A road base was cut to the west of the old water tank and the boundary fence was cut between La Vida Mission and Becenti land whose owner will benefit by the old tank. The excavator continued to the south, marking a pathway. Chains were laid out and attached to the old 23,000 gallon galvanized tank by John Husby, Bob Blair and Pastor Mark. Once the tank was secured and tightened, the tank slid slowly to the south over several feet, pulled by the beast. A change of position of chains allowed the tank to be turned over on its side. The move was made in the slowest of motions. The task was complete! Please see the included photos.

I am happy to report several things: No human was injured in this process! A MAJOR step was taken in the long list of steps to be taken to get our new water tank in place and operational. The pad for the new tank is ready for soil testing by our engineer. Having La Vida Mission employees and Pastor Mark complete this step will result in a HUGE cost saving to the overall cost of the Water Project. Sadly, two baby bull snakes were injured during the process.

We still have a long way to go, but this was a critical step in the process. Our new tank is almost ready to be delivered. Then the process will begin to connect the water lines to the new tank and the distribution system. Without you, none of this would have been possible. We are so ever grateful for your donations and prayers.

by Lee McIntosh, Water Project Manager

