

Navajo News



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

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August 2023

Summer Fun

Summer time is the busiest time for us in the Outreach Department because, besides having good weather, students and kids are home and on vacation so they're pretty much available for visits and other outreach activities. We had the privilege of doing two Vacation Bible Schools this June and July. One was with the Oceanside Mission Group from Oceanside, California, the last week of June that we did outside our rented church building in Crownpoint, NM (which we are sure you remember from last month's newsletter). The next one was a Mobile VBS that we did in Dalton Pass and Red Mesa both in the Crownpoint area with the Paradise Valley Mission Group from San Diego, California, July 11-15.

This VBS proved to be a blessing, not only for the children, but for the mission group members and La Vida staff as well. This was the first time most members of the mission group served in a mission field and they were really thankful because they learned a lot from the experiences that they had here. It was fun working with them both in the morning when we worked with them on campus fixing, cleaning, and organizing things in the different buildings and in the afternoon doing VBS with them.

We are grateful for the mission groups that come to La Vida and for our La Vida staff who joined us in the outreach. They were a huge help & blessing to us. A lot of things were

accomplished during this summer school break because of their time and willingness to serve.

When we give up self and pray for whatever may best serve Him, then God will work in a way that we could have never imagined. It's a life changing experience, especially getting the chance to talk and help parents and kids on the reservation. Seeing them happy and joyful at even the simplest things offered and done for them is a great delight and encouragement.

— VJ & Beth Panganiban





Life at La Vida

People sometimes ask what it is like to live and work at La Vida Mission. We can't cover all the aspects in one short article, but here is a brief overview.

We live in a desert wilderness. We have a well that provides plenty of potable water, enough to give away 3.5 million (yes, MILLION) gallons to our community members, a very important aspect of our ministry here that brings our neighbors to our community pump and shows them God's love and care through our continued efforts to supply physical water as well as spiritual refreshment. The high salt and mineral content make it difficult to use for gardening/landscaping, so our landscaping plan is mostly Xeriscaping. We do have reverse osmosis for greenhouse and gardening, but it is high maintenance, so it isn't always working well.

Our summers are hot (100°+) and dry, except for the occasional thunderstorm that sends lots of water (flash flood) thundering down the wash, which becomes a river for a few days (Chaco River). Our winters can be severe -- down to 0 degrees, but very little snow, except for an occasional blizzard and then the snow is usually gone within a day, so no snow days for our students. Springtime is beautiful with wildflowers and flowering cacti.

Our school has about 24 K-12 students. Our High School students' class work includes vocational studies, such as gardening, welding, auto mechanics, cooking, outreach, etc., although some classes depend on available instructors.

The staff are working hard right now, getting ready for school. They are getting the grounds, buildings and dorms ready for the students that will arrive for the first day of school on August 15. There are three full-time teachers plus 3-5 more that are part-time. Most staff have multiple jobs and are involved with the school in some way. We have two staff members that are primarily Outreach but still do other jobs at the Mission and two other staff that regularly assist in the Outreach, 3-4 in maintenance (one of which is a water operator to help keep our water pure), 3-5 office staff, some of whom are part time, and two cooks. Our dorm parents usually have other part time jobs, often in the school or the office, and are vital to our success with the students. (If you wonder why sometimes when you call us, there is no one to answer the phone, it is because the office staff usually have a number of other duties.) Staff is always in short supply, we currently need a mechanic desperately, as well as a greenhouse manager.

Outreach is as much a part of the mission as is the school. The biggest outreach is the church plant/evangelism in Crownpoint and the outreach team goes there 2-3 days per week for visitation, Bible studies (Native New Day) and services. They also do health outreach, health fairs, etc. Most of our staff have had formal medical missionary training. Dr. Gardner and his wife come to volunteer at the clinic once a week to do physicals as well as health counseling and medical care. (see the article on page 4)

Hopefully, all staff are here on duty by August 1 with orientation on August 10-11 to get ready for the coming school year. We have a total of 24 staff (some of whom are part-time). Beginning stipend for full time staff is \$900 per month plus a furnished house and utilities (and meals when school is in session.)

Located on the eastern side of the Navajo Nation, La Vida Mission is an independent mission outpost in your backyard. We do not receive any support from the Conference, so our total funding comes from you, our partners and donors, and the occasional grant that comes our way. Our Navajo Nation brothers and sisters are sometimes in a forgotten area for Adventists because it is located within 3 Unions and 4 Conferences.

There are challenges and blessings but the greatest blessing is to work with our Lord to love and care for our neighbors and students while growing in our ability to trust and follow Him. **We thank you for your prayers that open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out the strength, encouragement and resources we need to do His will!**

Carol Gillham, Treasurer

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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.

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Donation Information

Make checks payable to:

La Vida Missions, Inc.

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La Vida Missions, Inc. is a

nonprofit corporation of New Mexico.

Water Project Update

Donations continue to come in for this critical project. We still have a way to go but we are blessed with each and every donation. Our total income = \$139,687, Paid expenses (1/2 of the water storage tank and geotechnical engineering) = \$58,674 leaving a subtotal on hand of \$81,013.

We still estimate that the total project will cost \$161,000 barring any major increases in costs. Thank you SO MUCH for donating to this project.

All of the reports I mentioned last month, the engineering report, the site plan, boring records and laboratory test results have been forwarded for approval to New Mexico's Drinking Water Bureau.

As plans are approved, the engineers will move forward with the new foundation for the new tank.

Again, I thank you for your donations and prayers. May God bless each of you!

Lee McIntosh, Water Project Manager



Summertime and the Living is Easy?

Do you ever wonder what we do in the summer, when students are not on campus? In addition to the outreach activities, when we go out together on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, our staff is also busy on our campus, working on the many projects that need to be done.



We spent some time every day fixing, cleaning and organizing all the areas and buildings that need some attention. When the students are here, most of our energy goes toward them, during summer "break" we work on the many projects that we were unable to concentrate on while school was in session.



Our "to-do" list keeps us busy and we are grateful for the time to focus on these necessary items as we prepare the buildings and the supplies for the new school year.

This is the hardworking FCO team that worked together to make sure that things are ready for school opening.

If you have been praying about employment or volunteer opportunities with La Vida Mission and have sensed God's call, please contact us. **We are still accepting applications for a permanent Director and maintenance/mechanic personnel. Temporary volunteer positions are also open, especially as vocational instructors for the High School students.**

If you are wondering if this is for you, please contact us and we will be glad to discuss it with you and pray with you regarding this important matter.

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.
- Partnership with Native Americans for food for the community food pantry.
- Mel & Maureen Bersaba for assorted clothing.
- Cortez SDA Church for school books.
- Sherman Mohler & Southwest Paleontologist Society for groceries and a post for the La Vida Mission sign.
- Paradise Valley SDA mission group for leading the mobile VBS in Dalton Pass & Red Mesa in Crownpoint and many projects around the mission: Installing wood laminate floor in the big boys dorm; replacing the posts of the La Vida Highway Wood Sign; organizing books in the library; fixing, organizing and cleaning the High School room; cutting grass/weeds around the office, cafeteria and school; staining decks and painting in 2 staff houses; scraping, priming and painting in woodshop building and helping to clean the clinic's Health Van.

In Memory of

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| George & Margaret Armstrong | by Lanny & Barbara Davis |
| Dick Balkins | by Don & Lynn Nicolay |
| Nami Gennetten | by Mr. & Mrs. Keith A. Riese |
| Arloe Goley | by Pastor John Goley |
| Wayne Hyatt | by Lynette Hyatt |
| Robert & Mary Lee | by Lynette Hyatt |
| Albert Lind | by Margaret Lind |
| Barry & Art Lizer | by Oradelle Lizer |
| Jose A. Lopez | by Diane Lopez |
| Larry McCoy | by Nancy McCoy-Wearner |
| Brenda McDonald | by Pat & Rhonda McDonald |
| Fleta Oliver | by Jack & Mary Wood |
| Frank Putnam | by Clare Putnam |
| Kenneth Smith | by Lola Smith |
| Lydia Brooke Wood | by Jack & Mary Wood |

In Honor of

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Irene Kalina | by Andrew Kalina |
|--------------|------------------|

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



DINÉ HÓZHÓ CENTER (Wetzel Williams La Vida Mission Clinic)



When our nurse practitioner left La Vida Mission ten years ago, the “family practice” part of it closed, although it remained open as a Healthy Lifestyle Education Center for student health missionaries as well as extending its services to

the community through Health Fairs and Health Expos in the different chapter houses, senior centers, the local University Wellness Gym, and even for the Crownpoint Healthcare Facility employees primarily before the pandemic, in addition to 2 Health Expos outside our Crownpoint Church building last September 2022.

The Clinic was occasionally opened for Medical and Dental Services when nurse practitioner Mark Bramblett, son of a former La Vida missionary, and Dr. Doug Parks, a dentist and Board Member of La Vida, came to visit us.

This August, we are extremely delighted and truly grateful to God for sending Dr. Robert Gardner, Internal Medicine (who is also a member of the La Vida Mission Board) with his team and health assistants to La Vida Mission to offer a regular, once a week, free clinic to the community including our own students and staff. Services to be offered include: Basic Physical Exam (Work, School/Sports), Ear Canal Exam (With TV), Skin Exam (for Moles, Etc.), Foot Exam Care, Toenails Trimmed, Basic Health Education (Handouts), Review of General Health (Discussions), Doppler Leg Circulation, Blood Pressure/Diabetes Review, Gastrointestinal Problem (Discussions), and Lifestyle Changes Help (Free Videos).

**LA VIDA MISSION
DINÉ HÓZHÓ CENTER**
(Wetzel Williams Healthy Lifestyle Clinic)
700 COUNTY ROAD 7730, LAKE VALLEY
505-786-5539 / 505-786-3011
OPEN WEDNESDAYS 10AM-3:00PM
August Thru September 2023

FREE SERVICES OFFERED:

- BASIC PHYSICAL EXAM (School / Sports / Work)
- EAR CANAL EXAM (With TV)
- SKIN EXAM FOR (Moles, etc.)
- FOOT EXAM CARE → Toenails Trimmed
- BASIC HEALTH EDUCATION (Handouts)
- REVIEW OF GENERAL HEALTH (Discussions)
- DOPPLER LEG CIRCULATION
- BLOOD PRESSURE/DIABETES REVIEW
- GASTROINTESTINAL PROBLEM DISCUSSIONS
- LIFESTYLE CHANGES HELP (Free Videos)

STAFF:

- ROBERT GARDNER, MD, INTERNAL MEDICINE
- KIMONE GARDNER, Health Education Assistant
- VJ PANGANIBAN, Health Assistant & Counselor
- BETH PANGANIBAN, Health Assistant & Coordinator



Medical Missionary work is the right arm of the Gospel. We're praying that through this, many people will hear, know and see the love of Jesus and the Gospel in action and be eventually won to Christ.
– Dorie & VJ Panganiban

Dr. Gardner and his wife, Kimone, ministering to our congregation in Crownpoint.

Reaching Out at the Navajo Fair

Navajo Fair is one of the most-looked forward-to events on the Navajo Reservation. They have it in many different locations and the Eastern Navajo Fair is in Crownpoint, NM. Everyone, from babies to the elderly, come to participate in the different activities like song and dance, baby contest, Rodeo and many other enjoyable pastimes. Many organizations also come to run booths to promote their services and to give informational materials to the people who come to the Fair.

La Vida Mission has participated in the Fair before the Pandemic and this year's Fair was July 20-23, the first since the Pandemic lockdown. We set up a booth with information about the Mission and School, and gave out books like "Walking with Jesus" written in English and Navajo, "The Great Controversy" and many booklets on Health and Healthy Living like "Coping with Stress", "Help with Depression", "American Indian Living", and many others.



While running the booth, we had the chance to be heard on air and introduce La Vida Mission and its ministry as some of our staff were interviewed by KCZY 107.3 FM Skyhawk Radio. Our booth was also visited by Ms. New Mexico who was very excited to receive a copy of the "Walking with Jesus" book.

We thank God for His leading and blessing as we grab every opportunity to witness for Him. It was a fun break and a great experience for our Mission staff to be able to share the love of Jesus to many people from different walks of life.
– Dorie Panganiban

