

Navajo News

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

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Stories of the Savior

On December 16, 2023, La Vida Mission students presented a Christmas Program for our dear parents and community members at La Vida Mission Church. The highlight of the program was the Christmas Play, entitled "Stories of the Savior." The play is about 2 scientists giving a presentation about the birth of Jesus. These scientists did not just tell the story of Mary. They go all the way back to Creation and tie it all together through the story of Simeon and Anna. Each student wore their costumes portraying the different Bible characters like Adam and Eve, Abraham, Noah, David, Mary and Joseph, whose lives were connected to the birth of Jesus.

In addition, the students sang songs and recited Bible verses. The K-4th grade class sang "Go tell it on the Mountain" and recited Isaiah 9:6, the 5th-8th grade class played "Silent Night" with Hand chimes, the High School students sang "O Holy Night", and the La Vida Mission School choir sang "How Great is Our God" and other Christmas Songs.

Ms. Dorie closed the program with a wonderful reminder to ponder upon. She expressed, "I believe we all have our own need of the Savior. In the different stories of our lives, in the different aspects of our lives that are causing us to doubt our salvation.. We can live under the grace of God and under the shadow of our Savior's marvelous love." Truly, this season is a reminder of God's infinite love for us, shown in the birth and life of Jesus.



After the program, we all headed to the cafeteria and had a sumptuous meal prepared by our staff. The program went well, and this was because of the full support of our students, teachers, and staff.

We are immensely thankful to God for His undying goodness for us, especially to our beloved school. We pray that as we go along this new year, we can press on each day, claiming God's loving care.

- Glet Franche



Happy New Year.

I want to thank all of our supporters for your prayers and gifts.

La Vida Mission could not exist and help the Navajo in this area to see Jesus without you. We appreciate every gift, whether it is \$5.00 or \$5,000 or the many gifts of food, clothing, appliances, etc. Each one of you is precious to us – including those who cannot give financially. Please continue to pray for us and share our newsletter with your friends and family.

God bless every one of you!

For those of you who donated in 2023, you will get your receipt for those donations this month.

- Carol Gillham, Treasurer



Community Christmas Fiesta 2023

As far from the city as La Vida Mission is, with not much entertainment of any kind, big stores, malls or other places to visit, community gatherings and community events among the local people have been one source of joyful experiences and merriment, especially during special occasions such as Christmas.

Prompted by this and by our love and desire to continually serve our Native friends and neighbors and share with them the love and gospel of Jesus, La Vida Mission has started a Christmas tradition for our com-

munity family, the Annual Community Christmas Fiesta. For this event, we fill up our school gym with all kinds of goodies, from groceries and food, clothes, shoes, bedding, various household items, even small appliances and furniture to the delight of everyone. We also run a Food Court that serves the people non-stop and our door prizes are something everybody looks forward to as well. One good thing we're grateful for is that the Lord blesses us with enough door prizes for everybody.

This Community Christmas Fiesta 2023, we were blessed by donations from some churches of the Rocky Mountain Conference through Pastor Mike and Cathy Kissner of the RMC Community Services Department, the Navajo PRIDE NAPI (Navajo Agricultural Product Industry), and Bimbo Bakeries USA. Dr. Robert Gardner, our newly elected La Vida Mission Board president with his loving wife, Kimone, have made several trips from Rio Rancho during their weekly clinic at the Mission and on many other different occasions, to deliver all kinds of wonderful items to support this Fiesta. They not only led in the Health Spinning Wheel Prize Corner but also brought and donated most of our door prizes. We also thank some family, friends and even a La Vida staff member who donated financially to help with the Fiesta logistics.



All in all, services offered during the Community Fiesta include the Free Flea Market, door prizes, spinning wheel prize, food bags, snacks and refreshment, Christmas lunch, games, and the much-looked-forward-to propane give away that is truly a blessing during this cold season.



Almost two hundred people gathered that day to celebrate and fellowship with one another, 135 of whom received propane refill for their propane bottles. Our guests at the Mission always asked me where we get all the people who come to our events because when they drive to La Vida, all they see is barren land and a few houses here and there. You may not see them but they're there, they're here, and yes, they do exist so we can continue to share the love of Jesus to them.

— LVM Outreach Department, VJ & Beth Panganiban & Team
(See more pictures on page 3)

Water Project Update

Happy New Year Friends!

News has come from D & R Tank, the folks who are building our new tank. They are also the ones who will construct the concrete "bedding ring" foundation for the new tank. The quote for the foundation is \$62,163.60 that is good for 30 days. As you can imagine, there will be meetings about this with the new director, our engineer, maintenance team, Ms. Dorie, Ms. Carol and Karl Schwinn. The Mission will need to do as much as possible of the work so that the final cost is not as high. As our Certificate of Approval came so late in the year, construction may be delayed until early spring.

The project funds are as follows: Total donations: \$164,912 less Paid to Date: \$58,673.85 = Balance of \$106,238.15. Balance due to D & R Tank for the tank itself = 44,173.00 Balance due to Dan Flack, PE for engineering services = \$4,277.50 Quote from D & R Tank for foundation = \$62,163.60 Totals of balances due and quote = \$110,614.10 Current balance of funds = \$106,238.15

Total of balances due plus quote = \$110,614.10 This leaves a deficit of \$4,375.95.

Two other items that will need to be paid for are: The pipes to and from the new tank and the cost to revise the Community Hydrant. At this point, these item costs have not been determined.

Please consider donating to this very important project for La Vida Mission. We are very grateful for the generous donations we have received thus far and I am personally thankful for each dollar received. Let's get this project done this spring together!

God Bless You!
Lee McIntosh



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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:

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La Vida Missions, Inc. is a

nonprofit corporation of New Mexico.

2023 Community Christmas Fiesta in La Vida Mission Wednesday, Dec. 13 @9am



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 cleaning supplies, donations of food and vegetables.
- Partnership with Native Americans for food for the community food pantry.
- Dr. Robert and Kimone Gardner for clothing, foot-wear, kitchen items
- Native American Toys for Tots for gifts for the students.
- Carmen Infantas for homemade bells made by a lady at her church.
- Bags of Love, San Juan Chapter for gifts for our students.
- Navajo PRIDE NAPI (Navajo Agricultural Product Industry) and Bimbo Bakery for donations to our Community Fiesta Giveaway.

In Memory of

Virgil Allen	by Marcia Allen
George & Margaret Armstrong	by Lanny & Barbara Davis
Steve Gillham	by Carol Gillham
Arloe Goley	by Pastor John Goley
Wayne Hyatt	by Lynette Hyatt
Andrew & Irene Kalina	by Elise Thompson
Robert & Mary Lee	by Lynette Hyatt
Albert Lind	by Margaret Lind
Art & Barry Lizer	by Oradelle Lizer
Bonnie Lloyd	by Harry Lloyd
Jose A. Lopez	by Diane Lopez
Larry McCoy	by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
Brenda McDonald	by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
Mom & Dad	by Jackie Small
Fleta Oliver	by Jack & Mary Wood
Naomi Pitman	by Jack & Mary Wood
Emily Smith	by Mr. & Mrs. Doug Wheeler
Kenneth Smith	by Lola Smith
Dave L. White	by Pauline White
Lydia Brooke Wood	by Jack & Mary Wood

In Honor of

Joyce Dabydeen (92nd Birthday)	by Judith Coe
Jim Norcliff	by Judith Coe

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

AHÉHEE' for the GIFTS

"Giving" is the spirit of Christmas. God gave first, He gave His only begotten Son. The animals gave, they gave and shared their barn. The shepherds gave, they gave their time and worship to the King born as a babe. The magi gave, they gave gold, myrrh, and frankincense. The angels gave, they gave their sweet voices of songs and praise to the new-born babe. Yes, they all gave.

Since time immemorial, Christmas time has become a season of giving but mostly of giving to children. After all, as the songs goes, Christmas is for kids.

La Vida Mission exists to share the love of Jesus. In our ministry, the students and the children always take priority. It's always, "children, students first". And so at every Christmas celebration, our preparations are focused on them and for them.



Thank God for students sponsors who continue to support not only our students' school expenses but even send them birthday and Christmas gifts. Thank you sponsors for loving and taking care of our students as your own. We also thank The Office of Dine Y.O.U.T.H. - Crownpoint Agency and their coordination with the Native American Toys for Tots Program that distribute gifts to various Schools on the Res to help our less fortunate Navajo Youth. We want to also thank the "Bags of Love San Juan Chapter" under the directorship of William Clopine and Ellen Stromeier for the "bags of love" they gave to all our students.

You can just imagine the smiles these gifts have brought to our children and youth. They went home bringing the love from each sponsor and partner that goes with each of these gifts. May the Lord continue to bless you as you have truly been a blessing to our precious students. AHÉHEE' for the GIFTS, Thank you.

– Dorie Panganiban, Students Sponsors Coordinator

Ms. Claire's Class

On November 1st, I received a message from a Facebook friend whom I had known in elementary school. She asked if we had ever received gifts from an organization called Knit for Peace. She said they were based in Utah and made things for Navajo children. When I told her no, she enlisted her knitting and crocheting club to provide hats, and scarves for La Vida Mission.

This has been a very hard winter for us. We had a lot of snow at one point that turned into hard dangerous ice. For some reason donations of hats and gloves was sparse this year. And, of course, children lose those things easily.

My friend, Nancy, seemed somewhat abashed when I told her how many children and staff we have. So you can imagine the great surprise I had, when, on December 8, just one week before school was out for the year, I received five big packages vacuum packed with hats and scarves for our children and staff. Please enjoy the pictures of the work of these fine ladies.



These came from the Darn Yarn Club, a loosely-knit group of people who like to knit and crochet. I (Nancy) asked my DYC friends if anyone could donate a hat or two. Hats, scarves, cowls, and mittens started coming in week by week. Donations were made by Linda McMillan, Shelly Chambers, Kris Dobie, Cindy Hays, Pat Clark, Sarah Pitzer, and Lola Gray. The crochet kits were donated by Sarah Pitzer.



Below is an excerpt from a letter we got from a teacher in one of our Adventist schools in Kenya. Our class voted to support these girls in their education this year with some of the funds we raised (during Ms. Claire's Birthday Facebook Fundraiser). It was very moving to see my class respond. I presented it to them before Christmas trying to be very neutral about it. We always take our votes by standing or sitting. My class rose as one to vote Yes!

I'm praying and asking for assistance from well-wishers/sponsors, for continued education for studious Faith and alert Genevieve.

Tuition at Sunbeam is \$60 per term, per child,, for a total of \$180 per year, per child.

As the only school available, in the area, for Sabbath keepers, and members of the community who want quality education for their children, I greatly appreciate whatever assistance provided, to keep the girls in school,