

Navajo News



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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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Clarifying the Religious Status of La Vida Mission

Since the **"Independent/Supporting Ministries: Guidance for Engaging in the Relationship"** Prepared by The Rocky Mountain Conference, for use by RMC Employees and Institutions, which (to quote it) "are designed to help you assess whether access should be granted to an independent/supporting ministry, and if so, what safeguards must be in place to protect you from liability for their actions" was released and circulated and that a connection between SDA Conferences and Self-Supporting ministries was carefully guarded, apparently there seems to be some misunderstanding and the misconception that La Vida Mission is no longer a Seventh-day Adventist facility because it has pulled away from the Conference and no longer want to do anything with it. This is not true and because we have received many inquiries and questions as to what La Vida Mission's Status is now, our Mission Leadership decided to write this article to clarify the issue.

Our La Vida Mission Employee Handbook, Section 11.2 page 26 states that "La Vida Mission is a self-supported Seventh-day Adventist Mission station within the continental United States of America. Founded in 1961, LVM has become a 501 (c) (3), non-profit corporation witnessing for Jesus to the world". Therefore, La Vida Mission is a bona-fide non-profit religious organization that espouses the beliefs and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Section 11.3 on La Vida Mission Church further stipulates: "Following the apostolic commission given by our Lord (Matt. 28:19-20) we strive to proclaim the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to the neighboring community & beyond. La Vida Mission Church is a member of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh-day Adventists sisterhood of churches. It shares a pastor with the Farmington, NM church. Church officers are elected by a nominating committee and follow the policies and procedures of the SDA church manual and the North American Division of SDA. Mission employees agree to practice and accept the teachings & practices of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Mission staff, including teaching staff as well as all members of the team are encouraged to attend the local church at least ¾ of monthly services".

Therefore, while La Vida Mission is a self-supporting ministry which is not under the Rocky Mountain Conference, we do maintain a good relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a good supporting relation with the Conference as well. Our Seventh-day Adventist Church on campus sends a regular monthly Tithes and Offering remittance to Rocky Mountain Conference, we have our own Church Board that runs and operates the church and while RMC cut our yearly financial support from the Conference Advance offerings, their Community Service Department under the directorship of Cathy Kissner, still does their Annual Donation Drive for and on behalf of La Vida Mission.

We hope that this article will clear the confusion in our readers' and supporters' minds. Please continue to support the ministry of La Vida Mission to the Navajo Native Community and beyond through your prayers and generous financial support. If you have further questions and inquiries, send them to office@lavidamission.org or call us at 505-786-5539. Thank you very much.

— Dorie Panganiban with LVM Admin

Fall Board and Constituency Meeting News

The annual La Vida Mission Board and Constituency Meeting was held on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Board and Constituency members came from New Mexico, Colorado, California, Utah and Arizona. Some came earlier on Sabbath to join us for worship and others drove in early Sunday morning with prayers in their hearts for the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Constituency meeting was held first in the morning, attended by all Constituency and Board members with the La Vida Mission staff as invitees. Highlights of the meeting were the State of the Mission and Financial Report respectively read by Dorie Panganiban, LVM Admin Team Chair and Carol Gillham, Board Treasurer. Round-table meetings and discussions with different departments of the Mission by all Board and Constituents followed. During this round-table discussion, department heads and the Board and Constituency members were given time to meet in small groups. Department heads were able to share and discuss the current status as well as the progress of their respective areas of ministry and the board and constituents were given the chance to not only ask questions and see the needs and challenges of the whole Mission, but most of all to explore together with our department heads and staff possible opportunities for improvement and growth. Other highlights of the Constituency meeting that morning were the reelection of 5 Board members, Vicky Pioche, Carol Gillham, Doug English, Doug Parks and Edison Tso and the election of additional Constituency members, Brad Beierle and Tobin Savage. Recommended too, as an added Constituency member, was Irene Henry. Pastor Dale Wolcott was also given the time to update the group about the Dine Adventist Radio ministry before the morning meeting concluded. After less than an hour lunch break, the Board of Directors gathered in the church fellowship room to meet and discuss specific agenda items such as the proposed amendments for the LVM Employee Handbook and School Handbook which were unanimously accepted and approved and the election of Dr. Robert Gardner as the new La Vida Mission Board president after Lee Vorhies officially tendered his resignation as president of the Board.



Dr. Gardner, newly elected Board President.

Continued on page 4

The Story of Jesus in Revelation Revival Series Continues

Our Crownpoint Revival meeting is continuing until December, every Tuesday at 6 PM. Our guest speaker is Pastor Tobin from the Texico Conference. We praise God for Pastor Tobin's willingness to invest his time and energy in these meetings and for sharing the story of Jesus in Revelation to the students and community. They are so thankful and blessed with the messages. It is only with the help and the guidance of God that we can have an understanding of His Word. Amazingly, in spite of the cold weather, the people are still eager to learn the Word of God. We hope and pray that as they listen and apply it to their lives, they will also share it with their families and that the character of the Lord will be seen in them. We are now in the last days and the Lord wants us to be closer to Him and surrender our lives to Him. We will encounter a lot of trials and challenges in life but as we look forward



for His soon return, we are taught to be sober and faithful to Him.

The Revival theme song says: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face and the things of Earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

The chorus of the song is a beautiful reminder that as we look to Jesus, as we reflect on who He is and what He has done for us, as we acknowledge who we are because of Jesus, then the things of earth truly will grow dim. Whatever storms beset us, the Lord will strengthen us and help us get through them as we turn our eyes to Him.

The story of Jesus in Revelation was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ, who came to earth to offer salvation to people of every nation, tribe, and tongue. As Jesus is in the most Holy Place right now, mercifully and lovingly interceding on our behalf, He promises that He will draw all men to Himself. It is our humble prayer that our lives will testify that we have been with Him and our lives will be drawn closer to Him through daily surrender and that our dear families will continue to be revived by His transforming love.

- V.J. and Beth Panganiban

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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.

Director

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

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Water Project Update

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I am so excited to tell you that because of your generous donations, the Water Project has met it's minimum financial goal! Thank you and THANK GOD! Without you, this would not have been possible. The total raised for the Water Project is \$162,237, expenses have been \$58,673.85 with a balance of \$103,563.15.

We are still waiting for the NM Environment Department's approval of our Application for Modification of a Public Water System that was submitted in August. We are praying that the application will be approved by November 15, 2023. Once the application has been approved, we can move forward, weather permitting, to complete the foundation for the new tank, re-route distribution lines and have the new tank installed.

The re-design of the Community Water Hydrant has not been completed as of this writing, but it is possible that this part of the project can be completed before winter weather sets in.

The last of the project is to affirm that our water is sourced from ground water, rather than surface water, something we cannot determine until the new tank is in place.

Please continue to pray with us that the entire project can be completed as soon as weather and approval warrants. I will continue to update you about the progress of the project.

God bless each of you and, again, I thank you for your support.

Lee McIntosh, Water Project Manager



Prayer requests

During this season of giving, we are especially grateful for your support. We express our thanksgiving to our Lord regularly and want to express it to you, our extended family, as well. Everyone of you who reads our newsletter, cares about our mission and intercedes for us in prayer is a vital part of our ministry here. We know that your prayers are heard and that God answers them in many different ways. Now, as we head into the winter, we ask that you lift our financial concerns up to the Lord in your prayers. Our expenses are up, and our finances are down. With the help of concerned individuals like you, we continue serving the Navajo on the eastern side of the Reservation. Thank you for your giving to day-to-day operations, as well as supporting our students and the many donations to the water project. This huge project is now fully funded, thanks to faithful donors like yourself. We are now waiting for the permits to be approved so that we can complete the task and get the tank installed, hopefully very soon.

Now we have a new project that needs funding. Although not as expensive as the water tank, it is desperately needed. Our "new" tractor of only about 5 years lost its diesel engine and it was too costly to repair. Our roads are in very bad condition because we have been without a tractor for some time while we were waiting to get the water tank project completed. We need to raise funds to purchase a heavier duty, stronger tractor. We have done some research and the cost for the tractor we need will be about \$40,000. Some have suggested that we finance and get it right away, but La Vida Mission bylaws state that we will not go into debt for anything, and we want to honor the guidelines set up by our founders so we patiently wait for the tractor. The Lord will provide for our needs when He sees fit.

Thank you again for your prayers and generous support and remember us during this season of giving. And please, while you are giving to the tractor fund, please don't neglect our operating funds.

And, by the way – I will put up the first \$1,000 for the new tractor. Who will match my donation?

Carol Gillham
Treasurer



LVM staff members singing during opening worship at the October board meeting

In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong
Bern Bliss
Dr. Muriel Chapman
Arloe Goley
Marge Gotshall
Wayne Hyatt
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Art & Barry Lizer
Jose A. Lopez
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Frank Oldland
Fleta Oliver & Lydia Brook Wood
Frank Putnam
Leon & Lenore Rittenhouse
Sam Small
Emily Smith
Kenneth Smith
Albert Willis, Jr. & Albert Willis, III

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Simon Elloway
by Jacqueline Kinsman
by Ptr. John Goley
by David Johnston
by Lynette Hyatt
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Diane Lopez
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Peggy Oldland
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
by Clare Putnam
by Lois Pecce
by Jackie Small
by Marilyn Hickey
by Lola Smith
by Elizabeth H. Willis

In Honor of

Verneda Bayless
Irene Kalina

by Rusk Family
by Andrew Kalina

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 cleaning supplies, donations of food and vegetables.

•**Partnership with Native Americans** for food for the community food pantry.

•**Mary Lynn Green** for assorted socks.

•**Dr. Robert and Kimone Gardner** for TV, vacuum, clothes, footwear & kitchen items.

•**Janeel Dowell** for magnet bookmarks, headbands, hair clips & key chains through **Carmen Infantas**.

•**Sherman Mohler** for pots, pans & appliances.

•**Joe Reavis** for assorted groceries.

•**Tom Kingbury** for a roll away bed for the guest house & an ATV.

•**Pinon Hills SDA Church through Ptr. Mark Phillips** for a microwave, clothes, musical instruments (violin, ukulele) & other useful items.

Board meeting update continued from page 1

Also voted in the meeting is the new onsite mission director effective January 2024. Watch out for the detailed special update and news about this in a later issue of our Navajo News.

We thank our Board Chairman, Ms. Annette Williams, for directing these meetings in a professional yet kind and Godly manner and we thank every Board and Constituency member for their participation. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation also to our outgoing Board president, Mr. Lee Vorhies, for investing his time, effort and resources for and on behalf of La Vida Mission. He promised to continue to share his wisdom and expertise to help and bless the Mission and its needs and that in itself is another blessing. We also thank Dr. Gardner with his wife, Kimone, for accepting the call to leadership of the Mission. They have been blessing the Mission for years with their medical services and support to our health and community outreach programs. Please join us in praying for our leaders and the whole La Vida Mission family of staff and students. – Dorie Panganiban



Ms. Claire's Class

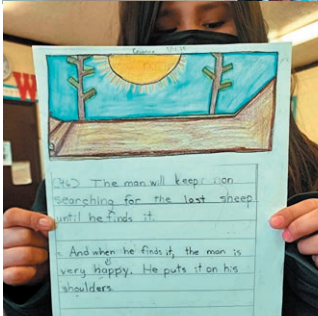
We have another decomposition experiment, this time it is some pumpkin. Do you have a guess as to how long it will take?



Fall is time to experiment with pumpkins in Ms. Claire's science class. First the students cleaned out the pumpkins, they took great delight in the tissue that connects the seeds to the wall of the pumpkin, calling it "slime". After they remove the seeds and count them, they will toast them and cook the pumpkin as well.



Left to right, pumpkins 1, 2 and 3. Can you guess the number of seeds we removed from each pumpkin and also the weight of the pumpkin?



Above: Every class is designed to keep the students attention and to teach them about God. They often illustrate their memory verses, this story is of the shepherd who has lost one sheep.

Right: Students are learning about missionary doctors.



Above: This figure on a snail was done by a 9 year old boy. His hands are quite large but he does such delicate work. Left: Students love to color and express their love for Jesus.