

Navajo News

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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

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September 2023

A New School Year Begins!

We thank and praise God for all the work that has been done by our staff and our visiting mission groups over the summer and we are excited to begin the new school year. As we do every year, we look forward to the blessings that God has in store for the mission, our students and our community. There are challenges, of course, but we are trusting that God will move the mountains that need to be moved and also that He will show us the path around the ones He chooses not to move.

Please continue to keep our staff and our students in your prayers. Despite how far we have come, there are battles yet to be won as we follow Him each day.



Ms. Cielo in the High School Classroom
(picture of students on page 4)



The doctor in training says "this will just hurt a little bit".



Ms. Glet and her students, grades 5-8.

These amazing engineers are finally able to have their train track set up again, after the pandemic rules have been eased.

Health Training for our High School Students

We already started our LIGHT (Lay Institute for Global Health Training) here in the mission with the High school students. We hope and pray that as we continue to share this program the Lord will guide us and give us wisdom, knowledge and strength to make this program successful. Through this training the students will gain an understanding of God's methods in keeping the body healthy, in the treatment of the sick naturally, while at the same time preparing them to be health-medical missionaries so they can share the truths of the gospel with their own people.

It says in Ministry of Healing, p.143, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

- VJ and Beth Panganiban



Science class: How long will it take to decompose after we cover it with dirt?
Can you submit a guess?

La Vida Goes to Campmeeting

La Vida Mission staff attended several campmeetings this summer. Some went south to Arizona and I went North to Wyoming and Colorado Western Slope. I enjoyed seeing many of our friends and donors and even some of our board members were there too. What a blessing it was to get to visit face to face! And bless each one of you for supporting La Vida Mission. We so much appreciate your prayers and your sharing.

And what a great reunion heaven will be. Just think, I won't have to drive hundreds of miles alone to see family and friends. Just a hop and a skip and there they are!

Come soon, Lord Jesus.

-Carol Ann Gillham



PS. Once again we are running behind on our finances. Our income for the month only pays approximately half of our expenses. Fortunately we have a small reserve account that we are using to make up the shortfall and we need to replenish that account as well as continue paying our current bills. We are headed into winter and propane will soon be needed (as well as wood for our wood stoves). Please pray that our income will increase and, if you are able, please give to this urgent need.

Clinic Opening

We are filled with gratitude for the success of our 1st month's opening of the LVM clinic. Every week we had patients from the community and most of them got the information from LVM's Facebook page and some of them traveled from miles away just to have their physical exam & other health concerns addressed by Dr. Gardner. During our 2nd week, there was a family who came to the clinic and they were very thankful for our health ministry. They told us it's a big help for them financially because we offer it for free and Dr. Gardner even gave them advice on how to be healthy and how to have a long life.

- VJ and Beth Panganiban



Our students and some staff were also able to get their school physicals.

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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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Water Project Update

Hello dear friends!

We were blessed with more donations this past month. Our total income to date is \$144,887, up from last month's \$139,687. Paid expenses to date remain at \$58,674 and the total on hand is \$86,213. We are getting ever closer to the total project cost of \$161,000.

In August, the Application for Modification of our system was completed and is waiting approval from the NM Environment Department. We have received specifications for the tank, chlorination plans and a design plan for the new tank's foundation.

We remain ever grateful for your generous donations for this large and important project. I pray we will be able to complete the project this fall. May God continue to bless each of you!

-Lee McIntosh, Water Project Manager

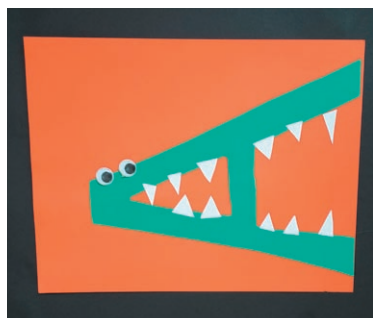


Blessings from Moab, Utah!



The Moab SDA church offered us potatoes, peaches and school supplies as well as donations for our Dorcas outreach if we were able to come and pick them up. Bob, Andrew and Ben were soon on the road with a trailer to accept this gracious donation. We received 35 boxes of peaches and about 1500-2000 lbs. of potatoes in addition to many boxes of school supplies and clothing for Dorcas.

Many thanks to Sister Mary McElhaney, Sonny Ottinger and the other church members who worked hard to gather these donations. What a blessing! Our students will enjoy the bounty and we have another example of God's provision through the hands and hearts of His children.



What do you think this is? Ms. Claire asked her kindergartner and he said it is "Gatorade"!!

In Memory of

Celian Adams
Carl Anderson
George & Margaret Armstrong
Shannon Baga
Bern Bless
Lita Castillo
Joanne Clifford
Arloe Goley
Cory Gray
Wayne Hyatt
Robert Juneau
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Art & Barry Lizer
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Adelaide O'Toole
Frank Putnam
Emily Smith
Emily Smith
Kenneth Smith

by Betty Adams
by Mrs. Carl Anderson
by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Shelly Benedict
by Simon Elloway
by Sal & Emilio Fariaz
by John & Robin Korponay
by John Goley
by Nellie R. Killion
by Lynette Hyatt
by Mr. & Mrs. Lanny L. Davis
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Gene O'Toole
by Clare Putnam
by Mrs. D. Wheeler
by Ramona McCurdy
by Lola Smith

In Honor of

Bob Blair
Irene Kalina
Frank OldLand

by Kenneth & Linda Stevens
by Andrew Kalina
by Arnold & Dorothy Bridges

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

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.

•**Ron & Linda Johnson** for clothing and shoes.

•**Dr. Robert and Kimone Gardner** for clothing, shoes, clothing stands & clinic supplies.

•**Dr. Max & Dr. Kathy Yawingu and family** for working on projects and teaching our HS students about Healthy Cooking (see pictures/article on pg 4).

•**Sister Mary McElhaney, Sonny Ottinger and Moab SDA Church** for 35 boxes of peaches, about 1500-2000 lbs of potatoes, clothing and other items for Hogan/Dorcas and school supplies such as cursive handwriting workbooks, sculpty clay, graphing calculators, copy paper, box of spiral notebooks and pastel paper. (see pictures above).

Introducing 2 New Staff Members

Yaa'teh! Hello, my name is Andrew Moeller. I currently serve as a Dorm Parent, Pathfinder Director, Math Teacher, and Worship Team Leader at La Vida Mission. For a little more about me, I hail from the beautiful Evergreen State also known as Washington. I was born, raised, and went to school in Washington State. Most recently graduating from Walla Walla University with a Bachelor's in Theology degree. Growing up, I was homeschooled till the second half of my fourth-grade year, at which point I was sent to public school. I attended public school till I graduated from high school in 2018. I then felt called by God to go into pastoral ministry, so He chose for me the Theology Department at Walla Walla University which I attended till 2023. Some of the things I enjoy are theological discussions, political discussions, hiking, camping, video games, studying Scripture, and much more.



Ms. Cielo Eduarte Domino, a Filipino, joined the work force of La Vida Mission School on June 11, 2023. She holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in Education from Philippine Union College now known as Adventist University of the Philippines, and a Master in Library Science from the University of the Philippines.

Ms. Cielo worked as a teacher at Lipa Adventist Academy in her homeland for fifteen years before she accepted a call to be a teacher/librarian in Ethiopia Adventist College. She served there as a General Conference interdivision employee (IDE) for twelve years. After more than a decade of service in Ethiopia, she moved to Thailand, and become the associate librarian at Asia-Pacific International University. Barely three years passed working in APIU as an intradivision employee, Ms. Domino was called back to serve in Ethiopia Adventist College as a General Conference International Services Employee (ISE). She resumed her duties as teacher-librarian from August 1, 2018 to May 25, 2023.

God's vineyard is wide and needs laborers for the kingdom. We go where we are needed. That is the main reason why Ms. Cielo is in La Vida Mission School now. She is tasked to oversee and head the alternative high school program known as the La Vida Mission Core+ Enhanced Education Program.

They Read About La Vida Mission in the Newsletter



The last week of August, a missionary family came to La Vida Mission to visit and to help with various small projects at the Mission. The father is Dr. Max Yawingu, from Papua New Guinea and the mother is Dr. Kathy Dennis-Yawingu, from Jamaica but they are now based in Bloomfield, Connecticut. They have four children, Thomas, Ben, Max Jr. and John. The couple's love story started when Dr. Kathy Dennis joined the Solomon Island Adventist Hospital as a missionary doctor when Dr. Max was also working in that hospital as a physician. They fell in love, got married and started a family. When Dr. Kathy moved back to the United States, Dr. Max came along with her and they raised their little family in the US.

The family started attending church in Rockville-Tolland SDA Church in Connecticut which has been one of La Vida Mission's student sponsors for a long time. As far as I can remember, when I first served as Students' Sponsorship Coordinator in La Vida Mission way back in 2008, this church had already been sponsoring two of La Vida Mission students every year. The cool

thing is that they post the Mission's Newsletter, every month, on their church bulletin board and that is where the family heard about La Vida Mission. Being former missionaries and having missionary blood in them, they told me that they always find it exciting to read the news and articles in our Newsletter and it inspired and aroused their desire to visit La Vida Mission and be a part of its ministry in whatever small way they can.

Dr. Kathy taught Healthy Lifestyle Cooking to our High School students and she and her students actually prepared two healthy dinner meals for the whole school/mission and everybody enjoyed them. Her sons helped her prepared the meals with our High School students. Dr. Max worked in our church kitchen and in two staff houses replacing sinks and fixing faucets. He also helped our maintenance crew dig up and fix some broken pipes by the school. The whole family left carrying good memories of La Vida Mission and promised to come back with a bigger group of church members who can work and serve at the Mission just as they did.

— Dorie Panganiban

Pictures on right: our HS students, staff (Ms. Beth and Ms. Cielo), Dr. Kathy and her children

