

Navajo News



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

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March Mission Groups Return!!

Since covid hit we haven't had more than a couple of mission groups and in addition to that we have been very short staffed in the maintenance department so we have lots of maintenance needs and projects.

What a blessing it was to have Shenandoah Academy from New Market, West Virginia and Puget Sound Adventist Academy from Western Washington.



The Shenandoah group, led by Pastor Tim Harley, brought almost 50 students and staff and stayed 10 days. They accomplished several much needed projects including a new roof over the clinic, deep cleaning a dorm and a guest house, painting, other maintenance repairs, as well as vespers and worship services. They were somewhat disappointed that they didn't get to interact with students because it was spring break.

The group from Puget Sound, led by Troy Ahrens, brought about 20 students. They also spent time cleaning and painting as well as installing doors and windows, moving a wall to expand the Pathfinder room, helped in the cafeteria and other projects. They also got the greenhouses ready for spring and cleaned up weeds around the campus. Since our students were back from spring break the group spent a lot of time in

the classroom and on the playground playing with our students, who enjoyed the interaction.

We are so blessed and refreshed to have mission groups again. We are looking forward to having more in the next few months.

- Carol Gillham



Is God Calling You?

Do you feel God's tug on your heart to be a full time worker for Him in His vineyard?

We have new openings every year and currently need new dorm parents and a cafeteria assistant.

If you wonder if this is where God is leading you, please contact us at (email) office@lavidamission.org or call (505) 786-5539. Please remember to leave a call back number if you get voicemail.

And please pray that God will lead people here to serve Him in whatever positions open up as we move forward.



From the President/Director's Desk:

I pray this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to a wonderful spring and summer. To say we have been busy during the last month would be an understatement. I am pleased to say our school is back to a normal operating schedule and our students are now staying on campus during the school week. This required much planning and exercising our management skills as it has been several months since we enjoyed our normal weekly routines.

The dorms were prepared and checked to ensure they were safe and ready for the return of our students. We made a change to school hours by going from five eight hour days to four ten hour days. The primary purpose for this change was to ensure that the teachers and staff had adequate time to document and record the week's activities and prepare for the following week of instruction. I am pleased to say that the school restart went well and we are striving to get back to what we consider to be normal.

I am sure that most everyone knows that the COVID restrictions created a difficult set of circumstance for our school. The opportunity for other schools to visit and work on campus was extremely difficult to plan or even consider and it became necessary to put these visits on hold. However this year is a new year and we are blessed to have a total of at least four, or maybe five, schools visiting our campus. We were first blessed in March by two groups visiting La Vida. Shenandoah Adventist Academy came from Virginia and Puget Sound Adventist Academy came from the State of Washington. Both schools accomplished several tasks while here which included the removal of asphalt shingles on the medical clinic and replacing them with a metal roof. Some of our dorms and faculty houses have had sidings repaired and painted inside and out. The Ark, a building that stores most all of our tools and other materials was cleaned and reorganized. Major work was also accomplished in and around our greenhouses as we prepare and look forward to the coming growing season. Each of these groups took day trips to see some of the unique sights in the area and this part of our country.

I share these visits and accomplishments in hope that other schools may want to come and enjoy the uniqueness of La Vida Mission and the surrounding area. What a blessing these young men and women have been to our mission. We are currently looking forward to and preparing for visits by Mile High Academy from Denver and San Gabriel Academy from San Diego. We pray that they will also enjoy their time at our mission.

We pray that with most of the COVID restrictions behind us, we can move forward and finish the school year on a positive note and that our students can go on summer vacation and return in the fall to a full year of learning at La Vida Mission. Please remember "La Vida" does mean "The Life".

- Lee Vorheis

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Water Project Update

Hello Dear Friends,

I think spring is here. We have all four seasons in one day and the wind is blowing my raked up leaves back into the yard. It is nice to see some green and especially the early spring flowers.

The latest figures regarding our water project is \$81,348. We are getting closer and closer. THANK YOU to all our donors!

So, where are we now? I sent a letter of inquiry to D & R Tank on March 21, 2022, outlining the items the NM Engineering Service Program has said we need to have completed regarding the replacement of our water storage tank. The Engineering Program states we need an engineering design summary from a NM Licensed Professional Engineer, an initial disinfection plan and a designed foundation for the tank. Further, we need a hydraulic analysis to ensure that the new tank will provide adequate pressure to the distribution system and a geotechnical report showing that the existing soil conditions are adequate to support the new tank. As of today, March 29, 2022, I have not heard from D & R Tank.

Some of the above items were added to our "to do" list when the NM Water Department told us that we would need to make application to the Engineering Service Program for a Modification of a Public Water System. It is my understanding that D & R Tank will be able to provide all those items.

Two other deficiencies are to be addressed: 1. To determine if our ground water is surface water influenced. You've heard this before, but I'm still waiting for the NM Water Department to tell us how we can test for this. 2. The Community Water Hydrant still needs to be re-built in such a way that contamination does not enter our water distribution system.

We were granted a time-extension to complete these items until August 2022. Please continue to pray with us as we move forward. God bless each of you!

- Lee McIntosh

La Vida Mission Sanitary Survey Response Coordinator





Pathfinders learn new skills



Knot tying and baking, two of the many skills our Pathfinders are learning.

In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong
 Lita Castillo
 Oliver (Bob) Hacker
 Wayne Hyatt
 Mildred Jenkins
 Robert & Mary Lee
 Albert Lind
 Art Lizer
 Barry Lizer
 Mary Lou Marquait
 Larry McCoy
 Brenda McDonald
 My Chikasaw Grandparents
 Glenn & Karen Oberkramer
 Adelaide O'Toole
 Frank Putnam
 Nobert Sammer
 Gloria Sanders
 Kenneth Smith
 Albert Willis, Jr.
 Albert Willis, III
 Dalmain Wood
 Marlene Wood

by Lanny & Barbara Davis
 by Sal & Emilio Fariaz
 by Karmen Shores (Hacker)
 by Lynette Hyatt
 by Margaret Hill
 by Lynette Hyatt
 by Margaret Lind
 by Oradelle Lizer
 by Oradelle Lizer
 by Margaret Hill
 by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
 by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
 by Richard Jopling
 by Randall Oberkramer
 by Gene O'Toole
 by Clare Putnam
 by David & Maxine Smith
 by Robert Schneider
 by Lola Smith
 by Elizabeth H. Willis
 by Elizabeth H. Willis
 by Margaret Hill
 by Margaret Hill

In Honor of

Claudia Austin
 Irene Kalina
 Allyson Oliver
 Nora Lee Young

by Sam & Jackie Smith
 by Andrew Kalina
 by Sam & Jackie Smith
 by Eloise Jackson

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 a weekly supply of produce and other necessary food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry** for donations of food.
- Delta CO SDA Church** for donations toward Warren Begay's college tuition.
- Shenondoah Mission Group and Puget Sound Adventist Academy** for multiple projects (see page 1).
- Pastor James & Ms. Nancy Crosby** for trays of fresh eggs.



Meet Our Staff - Claire James - Part 2

In the first part I mentioned the dear 82 year old, Sabbath-keeping lady who gave me a Bible, Christ Object Lessons, and the 9 volume Testimonies to the Church. I was intrigued by her life and kindness. She taught me to pray and loved me.

With that wisdom in tow, I went to the Rio Grande Valley city of Weslaco where my mother and step father were editing the local newspaper. There I began to read the Bible for the first time in my life. I also continued to keep the Sabbath. I would never get in a car or pick a flower because that would be doing my own pleasure. But in spite of my misunderstanding, it was a joy, albeit a lonely one.

You see Ma, that kind lady who gave me my first Bible, was not actually a Seventh-day Adventist. She had been disfellowshipped for talking to the Shepherd's Rod people. Wonderfully, she told me that, if I needed to, I could always contact the Seventh-day Adventists.

About three months after I moved home, the library where I went to study my Bible was closed for Easter. I remembered that Ma said I could always go to the Adventists. So I walked over to Valley Grande Academy. Asking for a place to study, I was taken to the attic of the girl's dorm. A bit later, the pastor's teenage daughter came up and got my name and phone number.

The following week, Ellyn, a friend from Austin, visited me. She was a follower of an Indian guru who was made famous by the Beatles. She actually was one of the select group allowed to be part of his group living with him in Switzerland. Ellyn was teaching me yoga and deep meditation when the phone rang. I was just at the point where I was almost in a trance when the obnoxiously loud phone rang in my room. A booming voice said, "Mary Claire, this is Pastor Gilbert Goodwyn. Would you like to come to our Sabbath School?" I replied with an emphatic, "No!"

I tried to get back to my meditative state, but the spell was broken. Not only that, but after Ellyn left, when I tried to do the yoga exercises, my intestines became so cramped for three days that I could not eat or move easily. I was later told this was the result of adhesions from the extensive intestinal surgery to repair my gunshot wounds.

At the time, I was attending Pan American University. One of my classmates was the young wife of a Pentecostal preacher. Occasionally, we went to the campus chapel to pray. One day she asked me to invite Jesus into my heart. I said that I didn't think He would want to be there, but she encouraged me, and I did.

My next question was, Should I keep Sabbath? I asked my friend who said she would try to find an answer. The next day she brought me a clipping from her church magazine which suggested that one need not keep Sabbath. I knew what the Bible said, so I decided to just go ahead as I had and see what happened.

I prepared as I always did, and when sunset came, it was as if my whole room was filled with golden light. And I thought, "Oh, yes, Jesus loves the Sabbath." I also understood why Pastor Goodwyn invited me to Sabbath School - he loved Jesus and wanted to talk to other people about Him.



Ma's house in Left Hand Canyon, outside of Boulder.



Claire at Valentine's Dance at CU Boulder 1967

Next time: How God got me past the Children of God and into the Seventh-day Adventist Church



Drevin has been attending La Vida Mission school for a number of years. Here he is holding a photo of himself from 2017.

Ms. Claire's class is working in the greenhouse after the Puget Sound Adventist Academy group spent hours preparing it for spring.



Birthdays are special at La Vida Mission, especially when the students are away from their family. Their mission family makes sure they know they are loved by celebrating with them. In this case it was a double celebration, a birthday for twins, Damian and Damiana.