

Feeding Children with Food and Gods's Love

In our last newsletter, I wrote about the idea to start a breakfast program after I had a conversation with a little boy, Gabriel from San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora. After some prayer and preparations with Sofia and Saul from San Luis, Arizona, a breakfast program on Saturdays was opened for the children in the neighborhood around San Mateo.

From the beginning, this breakfast program for children up to 18-years old was well attended. Sofia and her husband, Saul, along with their children, are so excited to serve these kids a healthy, nutritious meal at least once a week.



Saul at San Mateo during a recent breakfast.

But what really makes me think that this is an important program is that children are being fed also by God's love and His Word.

Every Saturday before they start eating their meal, Saul prays with them; sometimes

pastor Job plays the guitar and teaches them a new song. Every time I go back to visit, I can see that the same children are in church on Sundays and how it is helping them to see a different perspective in their lives; that there is a God who loves them, but also people who love them in the church as well.

Another site where we are serving breakfast is at Lirio del Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church in Tijuana. They started serving breakfast to children on February 15th. I was there for that day and I talked to a lady, Antonia and she told me 'Muchas Gracias' (thank you very much) for feeding the children a good meal once a week. Then she added, 'Yesterday my children had only one meal, in the afternoon'.

I thought what a wonderful opportunity to tell these children and their mothers that this was thanks to the generosity and love from many people in the United States, that people are moved to help because the love they receive everyday from our loving Father in Heaven.



Children at Lirio del Valle eating breakfast on February 15th.

Josafat's New Home

I remember when I met Pastor Josafat, pastor at Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church in Colonia Independencia, Sonora, for the first time. He was still a member of San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church with Pastor Job. I asked Josafat what he wanted to do in the future in the ministry. He replied, 'To serve my Lord with all my heart'. Then I asked him what he was expecting from God. He replied, 'I wish he would give me more work in the church'. The Lord has now given him a mission to take care of.

On March 25th, thanks to Memorial Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington, a new home was built for Pastor Josafat. He wasn't expecting a new home, but the Lord provided for him a home that can accommodate him, his wife Armandina and their daughter, Keren. What a blessing to build a new home for a family that serves the Lord!



Members from Memorial Lutheran Church as well as volunteers from San Luis Rio Colorado and Tijuana are pictured above with Pastor Josafat and Armandina after the dedication of their new home.

Trinity Youth Group Builds a Home

Trinity Lutheran Church, Santa Ana, California, came for the first time and built a house for Jesus and his wife and little daughter. The day they arrived, the group came to meet me in the United States before crossing the border into Mexico, I saw some teenagers with no experience in construction. Since they were

only coming for the weekend, I thought they were not going to be able to finish the house, not even one wall. But I was wrong! With help from Carmelo, LBCM's project coordinator, these teenagers and their mission team leader, Kristen, were able to finish the new home for a family in need. This reminds me of Luke 18, when Jesus said 'What is impossible with man is possible with God'.



Youth from Trinity Lutheran Church hammering nails on the first wall they have ever built.

Angel Scholarship Program Changing Lives



What a pleasure to see a young girl finishing High School in Mexico. Keren, pictured above, was about to leave school because of a lack of money and supplies for school. Her dad, Pastor Josafat from Rey de Gloria Lutheran Church, works as a taxi driver

during the night and in the ministry during the day, only making around \$120 pesos a day (\$10). When I heard that Keren was about to leave school, I offered her parents help with a scholarship from our Angel Scholarship Program. LBCM provided financial support as well as school supplies for Keren. She has been able to continue in High School in a training program to become a nurse's aid in Mexico. I have personally seen how she struggled to go to school and how she helps her parents in the church. After graduation, Keren will be able to get a job as a nurse's aid that pays a little bit more than others and she will have a chance to be the first in her family that will go to college.

Since LBCM started to give Keren support for her schooling, I have witnessed how her attitude toward her life has changed. The last time I saw her, she expressed to me that Christ has changed her life forever and the support she has received has helped her change her life on this earth.

May the Lord continue to bless the boys and girls like Keren in their spiritual life and in their schooling. Thank you for your donations and prayers!

Food Distribution in El Fronterizo



A group of people from the community receiving basic groceries during a food distribution event.

Recently groceries, rice, beans and flour were distributed at the mission Ejido El Fronterizo, which is about 20 miles south of the Arizona border in Sonora state, Mexico. There is always a great need within this area for basic supplies.

Bible Institute



A group of students, pictured above, from Sola Fe Sola Gracia (Faith Alone and Grace Alone) Bible Institute campus in Tijuana during the last day of the class 'Introduction to Lutheran Confessions'. The class was taught by Pastor Michael Hagenow, (back row, third from left), from Resurrection Lutheran Church, Coronado, California.

Food and Clothing Distribution



Two little girls received bags of food, some clothing and a quilt.

During a recent distribution many families received food, quilts and clothing in the Canon Palmas area near Lirio del Valle Lutheran Church. Pastor Enrique is busy ministering to many people in the surrounding neighborhoods.



Pastor Rick Schowalter and a member from Carlton Hills Lutheran Church, Santee, California, painting walls for a home they built in Tijuana on March 22nd.

**Visit our website:
lutheranborderconcernsministry.
org
Find us on facebook: Lbcm
SanDiego**

Thrivent Choice Dollars

LBCM is a qualifying organization for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Choice Dollars Program. For more information go to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice .

NEEDS

**Rice
Beans
School Supplies**

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

The LUTHERAN BORDER CONCERNS MINISTRY (formerly the Lutheran Baja California Mission) is independent, inter-Lutheran, non-profit incorporated in California in 1967 to supplement ongoing Lutheran efforts with Latin Americans on both sides of the border. All programs are supported solely through voluntary contributions. Initially the work centered in two of the fastest growing and economically depressed areas in the Americas, in the border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, today we include San Luis Rio Colorado. LBCM continues to provide religious Spanish literature to all areas we are currently working in. ALL GIFTS TO LBCM ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. With a dollar or more contribution, one becomes an LBCM member.