

Rainy Season

The rainy season brings pleasure to some people, the cooler weather, a sense that the Christmas season is here, but for others the rainy season comes with a lot of complications. For example, in Tijuana, when it rains, life becomes chaotic for the people living in the canyons on the outskirts of town.

The dusty dirt roads that are normal during the dry weather become muddy and slick and it is very difficult to drive, except with a 4-wheel drive vehicle. People don't go outside the house because it becomes unsafe to walk. There is a scarcity of food in the local, small stores because delivery trucks can't pass on the roads. Even the paved roads become dangerous and slick. School is canceled because of the danger of traveling to and from school. Many schools that are in session have leaking roofs, broken windows and no heater system. Students have to replace any supplies that get wet and are not usable, which is costly to the family.

Most houses in the outskirts of Tijuana are poorly constructed. During a rainstorm, the roofs leak. Some people cover their roofs with plastic or other materials which don't work well. If there are windows or doors, most aren't properly installed and let in wind and rain.

When a family receives the gift of a new house, they get so excited because they know that they will have a safe and warm place to live. LBCM continues to hand out food and blankets. Canned foods and instant ramen are easy to store and have on hand when it is hard to get out to buy food during a storm. The blankets and socks we hand out all year keep children as well as the elderly warm and less likely to

contract the sicknesses that come with the cold weather. Pictured below is Herlinda, she received a quilt and requested another for her husband, who also uses a wheelchair. She said that she will now have a warm winter!



We continue to try to meet the physical needs of the people living in the poorest neighborhoods in Mexico. Your donations help us to make it a brighter and warmer life for those in need, not only during the Christmas and Epiphany season, but during the entire year.

The Love expressed by God to us in His Son Jesus, we can share with others by expressing our desire of good will and hope by helping those in need.

**LBCM and those who serve in Mexico, wish
you a blessed Christmas and the very best in
the New Year!**

Youth Center

This year, during summer, we were asked to leave the place we were renting in El Maclovio that we had been using for youth activities. We were worried about where to go. But the Lord answered our prayers when a neighbor lady came to us saying that she was selling her property just next door of the building we had been renting. The Lord blessed us with the ability to buy the property!

We are so happy to have a place where we can continue with youth activities to help children stay out of trouble and to hear about God's love.



However, the building that is on the property is not in good repair and is unsafe and not built to code. There is a need for a building that is more secure and suitable for a youth center. It is our desire to build a building that is more appropriate for Legna Lanza, LBCM's youth ministry coordinator, to hold activities for the children of El Maclovio community in Tijuana.

We would like to start the construction of the new building during summer of 2013 and even earlier, if possible. To make this possible we will need many mission groups to get involved in the process. We are hoping that the work can be accomplished in stages. One group can pour the cement slab, another can build the walls, another, the roof, one more for paneling, or sheet rock, and others for the insulation, dray wall, painting, etc. There are other things involved that can be done in one day or a week, like the plumbing, sewer connection, electrical wiring, build some cabinets, book cases, etc.

There is lots of work to be done, little by little we can do it!

If you are interested in helping in this important project for next summer please let us know. Help us to bring more children to know about the love of God through this important part of our ministry.

Rey de Gloria Lutheran Church



On Thanksgiving weekend, new benches, pictured above, were built and the interior was painted at **Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church** in Colonia Independencia, Sonora. People from **Morning Star Lutheran Church**, San Diego and local church members, including the local lay pastor Josafat, and pastor Job from **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church**, San Luis Rio Colorado helped to make this project possible so people have a nice place to worship our Lord Jesus.



Pastor Jimenez baptized 4 children on November 25th at **San Mateo Lutheran Church**, San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.

Bible Institute

Tijuana Campus: As the end of the year comes, the end of the second class comes, too. Pastor Carl Lutz has been teaching the New Testament with great success. The students are excited learning about the Bible. They have a commitment to the local churches and missions. Those that are already serving are using the tools they have learned to serve more effectively in their congregations.

The next class, Bible Theology, starts on January 6, 2013, with Pastor Joe Robb from **Transform San Diego**, teaching this course. We are expecting to have all the students returning for this class.

New Campus at San Luis Rio Colorado: what exciting news! The Lord opened the doors for a new campus for the Bible Institute. On January 13, 2013 we will celebrate the opening of the new campus in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora. This campus will help to support and establish new ministries on the Eastern side of Baja California and on the Sonora state border, which is just south of Yuma, AZ. The first class will be the New Testament.

There will be people coming as far as 45 miles to take these classes from places like Colonia Independencia, El Fronterizo, and Mesa Rica, Sonora. In the future we intend to include the Mexicali area too.



In October, **Ascension & Gethsemane Lutheran Churches** from San Diego came together to build this house for Lucio and Teresa. The following day, on a Sunday,

Ascension's choir came to **San Pablo (St Paul) Lutheran Church** and sang three wonderful songs that blessed the people. Pictured are Pastor Rick, Pastor Gloria, Teresa, Lucio and their daughter, as well as myself.



Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, built this house for a woman who has been battling cancer for over a year. Praise God that she now has a warm house for the winter!

ESL Classes

At **Lirio del Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church, Tijuana**, Tom, an American Lutheran deacon who is working in Mexico has started an English as Second Language class for children. Tom is also a student at the Bible Institute in Tijuana.

Changes to the LBCM Constitution

At the LBCM Annual Meeting (see information on page 4) there will be an important vote on changes to the LBCM Constitution. You are a member of LBCM if you have donated \$1 or more and you can vote at the Annual Meeting. For more information on the proposed changes, please contact our office at 619-286-2445 or at lbcmsd@gmail.com to receive a copy of the proposed changes.

LBCM Annual Meeting

Please RSVP to 619-286-2445 or
lbcmsd@gmail.com

Please join us at the LBCM Annual
Meeting & Dinner
Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 3:00
p.m.
Calvary Lutheran Church
3060 54th St, San Diego

Toys & Socks for Christmas

Christmas will be here before we know it and we are again collecting **toys and socks** for children in Mexico. Toys can be for children ages newborn through teens. Toys need to be left unwrapped.

Please call our office – 619-286-2445 – with any questions.

Thank you for helping make the Christmas season a happy one for many children in need across the border in Mexico!

NEEDS

Rice & Beans

Christmas Gifts & Socks (see note on left)

School Supplies

Blankets & Quilts - New or gently used & clean

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.