



Newsletter #221
December 2016 Bimonthly

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Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

In 2017, LBCM will be celebrating 50 years of ministry work in Mexico! And in 50 years many things have changed in the ministry, but one thing remains the same: the sharing of God's love, mercy and grace to those in need. Since I came to LBCM in November of 2010, I have seen changes of the direction of the ministry here at LBCM.

The ministry started with some ladies from Southern California that wanted to help the children in the canyon areas of Tijuana by giving the children clothes and shoes. This continued in late 1960s and early 1970s.

By the late 1970s, there was an effort to reach Central America with theological literature. This literature was also used in the Baja California area in the late 1980s to train lay people to serve in the ministry.

In the early 1980's food distribution was big. Some days, three vans filled with food would cross the border two or even three days a week to give away food. Churches were being built and some houses, too. In the early 1990s and 2000s, the Angel Scholarship Program was added with more house building and other projects like building schools and clinics.

In the 2010s and to the present day, I have witnessed a new direction of the ministry and it is flourishing in new ways. Breakfast Programs are growing and there will be more starting soon. House building has extended to other locations beyond Tijuana. We are involved more and more with children's ministries. Even sewing classes have become an important part of ministry to ladies in the centers and congregations. A Bible Institute was

established and it is training people for the ministry not only for full time positions but also for lay people. I have seen people leaving us and even more people coming and helping to expand God's kingdom on this earth.



Here two children are enjoying breakfast at one of the many locations of the Breakfast Program.



Many, many people have traveled to Mexico to build many houses over the years, blessing many families and sharing God's love.

I want to thank you for all the support and prayers in the past 50 years. Please keep us in your prayers for the next 50 years as we proclaim God's glory!

Current Events

A few things happening in the ministry



Pastor Enrique from Lirio del Valle distributing socks to children donated by Orphan Grain Train. We also received quilts, blankets and school supplies for the Angel Scholarship Program children.



Above are children enjoying a meal as part of the Breakfast Program at San Marcos in Mesa Rica, Sonora. Some days they have more than 50 kids receiving two meals, one for the belly and one for the soul!

We are now supporting eight places where breakfast is served and we are helping two more. Thank you for all your support with this important program!



Sue from Trinity Lutheran Church, Temecula and me showing socks and undies donated for children in Mexico. Two months later, Trinity came and built a house and two raised-bed gardens.



Pastor Don (in the back on the right) is from Connecting Generations, Phoenix, Arizona. He is with the ladies from San Mateo. Pastor Saul is in the back and middle of the picture.



Children from Sonrisas de Angel in Tijuana are pictured above after enjoying a visit with a group of young people from El Centro, California. They also brought a meal for everyone to enjoy.



Me and Pastor Jonathan from Concordia University campus church, Irvine, California. They built their first house in Tijuana. Pictured below are students from Concordia University that helped to build the house.



Pictured above are Angelica and her family. They used to live and sleep in two camping tents that were given to her. She was

blessed by Ascension and Gethsemane Lutheran Churches from San Diego; they built them a new home.

Many thanks to all the mission teams that have built houses through all the years. Thank you for your desire to help others have a better place to live.

All of us here at LBCM wish you a very blessed Christmas and the very best in the New Year!

R.C.

LBCM's 50th Birthday

"Tell the people to keep moving" Exodus 14:15

God's direction for the children of Israel at the edge of the Red Sea (before they knew what He would do) is the same for us today; "Keep moving".

"He has already prepared for us the work to do".
Ephesians 2:10

In 2017, it will be LBCM's 50th birthday. We will be celebrating the work that God prepared in advance to be done. He has so much more in store. Come be part of the journey as we keep moving. We will be celebrating where we've been for the last 50 years, we'll be looking at where we are now and looking forward to where we will be going in the future.

You are the future of LBCM. Come and be part of the future!

On Saturday, March 11, 2017, we will be having the first of our celebrations. Save the date, tell your friends, come and be part of the future of LBCM. We will host folks from south of the border so you can meet them directly and find out what is happening in Northern Baja and Sonora. Watch for more in our next newsletter and check the LBCM website for updates: www.lutheranborderconcernsministry.org.

NEEDS

**Blankets & Quilts
School Supplies
Rice & Beans**

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

Christmas is coming and we will again be collecting **toys and socks** for children in Mexico.

The toys and socks can be for any ages, newborn through teens.

Donations can be dropped off at our office through January 5th or give us a call to arrange pick up. Together we can make it a blessed Christmas for children in Mexico!

Visit our website: lutheranborderconcernsministry.org - where you can find our newsletters in color! Also 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

LUTHERAN BORDER CONCERNS MINISTRY (formerly The Lutheran Baja California Mission) is an 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.