



## 2009 ACTIVITIES

We reported in the last newsletter about the mission teams canceling their trips to Mexico in 2009. Yet the result of the 24 teams that did come was that 30 small houses were built. One mission team made 2 trips and one mission team made 3 trips. Seven mission teams came on a Saturday to build a house or two in just one day. They leave home early and drive for a couple of hours. Since they don't stay overnight, we usually don't know how many people actually make the trip. In 2009 there were approximately 405 – 430 team members that participated in mission trips to Mexico. Volunteers from the Tijuana churches built another 4 houses with funds that were donated for that purpose. Two mission teams spent several days making repairs and painting at **El Redentor** (Redeemer) and **Principe de Paz** (Prince of Peace). One mission team consisting of 15 - 22 people came once a month to conduct VBS at **Lirios de Los Valle** (Lily of the Valley).

Our churches continue to try to find ways to attract people to the church. We have had many discussions on how important it is to have special celebrations at the church. Baptism is a church function, but weddings and quinceaneras (a girl's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday) do not automatically take place in a church. To get married officially in Mexico you have to go to a government facility. A church wedding afterward is optional but encouraged for church members. Quinceaneras can be celebrated without the church, but this depends on the family. It is always good to have visitors and family that don't normally attend,

visit the church. Our pastors encourage at least a prayer of thanksgiving. The purpose of a church celebration first and foremost is to give thanks to God and for His blessings. –M.C



Pastors and lay leaders from 5 different churches met in Tijuana on January 8, 2010 for a seminar presented by Pastor John Durkovic. They studied 'Law and Gospel' based on the publication The Good News Magazine out of St Louis Missouri.

Church activities during 2009 at **El Redentor**, **Principe de Paz**, **Lirios de Ville**, **San Pablo** (St Paul), **Buen Pastor** (Good Shepherd) and **San Mateo** (St Matthew) in San Luis.

Baptisms – 16  
Quinceaneras – 8  
Ladies Retreat – 2  
25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary – 1  
Confirmations – 19  
Married Couple Celebrations – 2  
Funerals – 1  
Weddings – 2

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In November, a mission team lead by Pastor Larry Wagner from **Ascension Lutheran Church**, Thousand Oaks, CA. They were able to build two houses.



Children receiving gifts on Three Kings' Day at **Principe de Paz**.



With Pastor Romelio is Rafael and two youth from **Principe de Paz**. They were building new toilet facilities, actually an outhouse with a nice building, they have no sewer available yet.



New blankets were given out at **Principe de Paz**.



The breakfast program continues to be a great success at **El Redentor**, **Principe de Paz** and **Lirios de Los Valle**.



At **Sola Gracia y Sola Fe** (Grace and Faith Alone), Melissa G., celebrated her quinceanera. Melissa is the daughter of Carmelo G., LBCM's Project Manager.

## Legna's Corner

by Legna L.

Even among difficult situations, God's presence shines through the circumstances, reminding us of His grace and love for us. The Angel Scholarship Program has blessed many teenagers that otherwise could not continue their education. The story of Selena C. is an example of how God can work in the life of someone facing difficult obstacles. Selena is pictured below with her mother, brother and younger sister.

Selena is 13 years old and she was born in the United States. Unfortunately, her mom, Maria, is a Mexican citizen and was deported back to Mexico a few years ago. Selena, along with her brother, little sister, her mom and dad started a new life in Tijuana. Selena's dad found a job as a mechanic and also collected old metal to sell to the recycling factories and Maria stayed home to care for the family. Sadly, Selena's dad, while trying to connect an electrical cable, was electrocuted and passed away. Since then Maria has worked hard to raise her three children alone. As a woman it is hard to find a job in Tijuana, but Maria has found work cleaning houses.



A year ago, Maria met Manuel and Martha M., lay leaders at **Sola Gracia y Sola Fe** (Grace and Faith Alone) Lutheran Church, located in the community called Obrera on the Northwest side of Tijuana.

The church and congregation welcomed the family with open arms. The family started to attend frequently at Sunday church services. Just recently Selena took confirmation classes and was confirmed. She was able to see how happy her mom and friends were as she became part of Christ's family.

Selena did not have many options for her education. If she had the money, she could go to school, if not, she would not be able to go to school. She heard about the Angel Scholarship through people of the church and wanted to know more. Selena immediately enrolled in the program and this enabled her to pay her tuition for her first year of junior high.

With hope for the future, Selena's desire is to go back to the United States when she is ready and would like find a way to become a nurse.

Many people in Tijuana live everyday not having enough money to help their children with their education. With your support of the Angel Scholarship, parents are able to encourage the teenagers to continue their education, resulting in a more favorable perspective for the future. The teenagers that receive the scholarships understand that the scholarships are a blessing from God.

We ask for prayers and support for the Angel Scholarship, that in this new year it can touch and change more young lives in Tijuana.



The Nativity play by the Children at **Principe de Paz**. The church was full with standing room only.



This house for Francisca was built, along with 3 others, by volunteers from the churches in Tijuana, with funds donated by **St Paul Lutheran School** in Fort Dodge and **Trinity Lutheran Church** from Kalispell, MT.

### **LBCM Annual Meeting & Dinner**

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Calvary Lutheran Church  
3060 54<sup>th</sup> St San Diego CA

**Please RSVP** – 619-286-2445  
or E-mail: [lbcmsd@gmail.com](mailto:lbcmsd@gmail.com)  
so we can plan the Fiesta!

### **Needs**

Car  
Rice  
Bars of Soap  
Ramen Noodle Soup

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, but now LBCM collaborates with other border efforts and through its literature program helps Hispanic work throughout the Americas. ALL GIFTS TO LBCM ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. With a dollar or more contribution, one becomes an LBCM member.