

New Campus for the Bible Institute

In January 2012, our Lord gave us the opportunity to start a new Bible Institute in Tijuana. The students were so excited at the opening ceremony and the beginning of the first class, the Old Testament. Now a year later, in January 2013, we had the opportunity to celebrate the opening ceremony of the newest Bible Institute Campus located in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, which is south of Yuma, Arizona. They have started their first class, the New Testament.



Pictured are the students of the San Luis Campus along with Pastor Carl Lutz, the professor, Pastor Job from **San Mateo (St Matthew)**, lay pastor Josafat from **Rey de Gloria (King of Glory)** and myself.

The classes are being held at **San Mateo Lutheran Church**. Eleven students are enrolled. What a blessing to see people eager to learn about God and to share His Love with those in need.

LBCM provides the teachers and material for the students, we also provide financial support for the students and their expenses. The Lord blessed many last year with donations for the Bible Institute and we continue to pray that this year the Lord continues to provide for this important part of our ministry.

Youth Center

On December 29th, we evaluated the new youth center property and the old building to start making plans to tear down the building and to begin with some ideas for floor plans. We still need a lot of help from mission teams, groups and individuals to come and help with this project where we will be able the help children to stay out of trouble but also to learn and know Jesus.



Pictured are Legna, Rose, Dennis and Peter from Memorial Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington, inside the old building after the evaluation of the structure, which was not built up to code.

We wish to build something that will replace the old structure to accommodate the important activities for the youth of El Maclovio community, which is in south Tijuana. One of the activities for children during January included a workshop, 'Taking Care of the Environment', where they learned about recycling. Trash is a problem in Mexico, where the culture has been not to recycle, causing an impact on city maintenance and health issues in the poorest areas.



Legna with some youth, pictured above, after a retreat at the youth center in late December. They spent a weekend learning how to take care of the environment, and more importantly, they studied the Word of God.

Angel Scholarship Program

Jhoselyn, pictured below, is the daughter of Esperanza and Carmelo, our project coordinator in the eastern side of Tijuana. She graduated from college in 2012 as a Nutritionist from a university in Tijuana. She was able to achieve this important step in her life with the help of your generous donations to the Angel Scholarship Program.



In Mexico, education up to high school is provided by the government, but this includes only the teachers' time in the classrooms, not school supplies. The supplies and materials are paid for by the students and their families. There are some fees for each student to pay the cost of electricity, water, white boards, etc. Most families cannot afford to pay for this and prefer to take their child out of school and have them go to work.

With the Angel Scholarship Program, the youth have the opportunity to finish high school and even go on to college, like Jhoselyn did, providing for them and their families more opportunities for a better life and a thankful heart to praise the Lord!



Picture above is Filiberto, in front of **Mission Independencia**, Sonora, where he plays guitar at services. The mission is looking good after a coat of new paint on the exterior.

It is always a blessing to see a family receiving a house! Pictured below, a family from Tijuana saying 'Thank You!' after receiving the keys to their new home.



Christmas & Epiphany

A time to celebrate and share Jesus' birth!



A little girl from Mexicali, so excited with her gift of a big ball!



Children and parents enjoying a meal during a Christmas party at **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church** in San Luis Rio Colorado. We shared a meal and had some fun with the kids playing with a soccer ball.

Children from **Lirios de los Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church** in Tijuana, pictured below at their Christmas party. They were so happy after receiving toys! They enjoyed having a Christmas pageant followed by a party that included a typical Piñata filled with treats.



We want to thank all those that made it possible to distribute toys, socks, blankets, quilts and warm clothes during the Christmas season. Your donations were a blessing to many of our brothers and sisters in Mexico. Children from Mexico send you a big **Thank You!**

I had the opportunity during the last year to visit several churches and groups to speak on behalf of LBCM and its ministries. It is always a joy to share all the good we are able to accomplish, with your help, in Mexico.

I am available to come to your church or group meeting and speak or give a presentation. If your congregation or group is interested, you can contact me at the office, the information is on the front page of this newsletter.

Blessings and thank you for your support and prayers!

- Ramon

Changes to the LBCM Constitution

At the LBCM Annual Meeting (see information below) 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. To receive a copy of the proposed changes or for more information on the proposed changes, please contact our office by phone, 619-286-2445 or e-mail at lbcmsd@gmail.com

NEEDS

Beans & Rice
School Supplies
A Used Cargo Van or Pick-up for Carmelo-
(Project Coordinator in Mexico)
Drum Set

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

LBCM Annual Meeting

**Please join us!
LBCM Annual Meeting & Dinner
Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
Calvary Lutheran Church
3060 54th St, San Diego
Please RSVP to 619-286-2445 or lbcmsd@gmail.com**

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.