



San Luis Rio Colorado



Gabriel, Lolita and Eduardo, pictured above live in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, next door to San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church where Pastor Job ministers. Last November, volunteers from Phoenix, Arizona, San Diego and a few locals were at San Mateo repairing the roof of the sanctuary. They were also building a second story classroom for youth activities. Gabriel, a 10-year old boy, came to visit the church and say 'hi'. I was enjoying a delicious burrito that one of the ladies from the church had prepared. Since I had 3 burritos, I offered Gabriel one of them. It was around 1:30 p.m. After sometime, while we were still eating, I found out that Gabriel hadn't had any food the whole day and that his mom was trying to borrow some money or food from one of the neighbors. Lolita, Gabriel's mom had been laid off from work two weeks before, and being a single mom, it had become difficult for her to

take care of her family. Living in the harsh desert makes things even more difficult for the family.

This situation with the family really made me sad. That same afternoon, talking with Pastor Job, I discovered that it is a very common situation for mothers with children, to have no husband to help and no money or resources to feed their families. Pastor Job told me about two other families near the church in the same situation. That afternoon, I went to the local store and got 3 baskets of food that contained the basics to feed the families for at least a week. Many people think food in Mexico is inexpensive, but that is not the case. Each basket of nutritious food to feed a family of three for a week was about \$100.

Starting this month, San Mateo will offer a breakfast program for the children in the congregation and from the surrounding community. They will be using the expanded, newer section of the church building. The Lord prepares things in His own time. There is a need to feed these families, but there was also a need for a good place to provide these services to them. (See the next page for more about this).

It is my hope and prayer that in the coming months and years, we will be able to open doors to provide food for children with precarious diets. These children are fed poorly due to harsh economical and social situations. But many children haven't experienced the spiritual food that comes from God in Christ, our daily bread for our hungry souls. May we also provide these families with this most important gift.

A New Roof and an Addition to Better Serve the Community

In November 2013, we started working on making San Mateo a more useful place. In August and September of last year, the roof of the church was damaged due to some heavy rains that are not normal in the Sonora desert. The damage started in August when it rained very hard; the roof looked very bad. In September when I went back for a Bible Institute class, that Sunday, right before the service started, the rains came pouring down and I saw with my eyes how bad the roof was leaking! In the next days, I contacted Pastor Don from Connecting Generations in Phoenix, Arizona. He wanted to fix the roof and also add an extra classroom that would help the congregation to serve the community better, helping to preach the gospel and love of Christ to those in the area. Pastor Don and his friend, Wayne have a passion to make it possible to share Christ in these communities, including children, like the children pictured below.



In November, we started to repair the roof, adding galvanized sheet metal that is more resistant to the inclement desert weather. At the same time, a group of volunteers from San Diego, Tijuana, Phoenix, and a few local people worked on the first stage of a second story classroom, which included reinforcing the old structure so it could support the new classroom. We are still working on some final details, but the new addition can now be used.

These new classrooms are not only for Sunday school, but for the breakfast program as well as for sewing classes for the ladies. The ladies will be learning to make clothes for their children, including school uniforms, as well as household items like curtains and tablecloths. This will be a new skill that might be helpful in finding jobs in the future.

Pictured below is the new addition at San Mateo Lutheran Church.



As Pastor Job puts it: 'I just want to serve the Lord by preaching His Word and to serve the needs of my neighbors so they can receive the joy that I experience every day in serving Him'.

Angel Scholarship Program



All of the youth above are from San Mateo Lutheran Church. They are all part of the Angel Scholarship Program.

This year, the number of youth receiving scholarships increased in San Luis Rio Colorado, from four to fifteen in junior high and high school and from one to three in college! At least half of these young people were in need of

a scholarship to be able to complete their studies; otherwise they would have had to drop out of school.



Rubi, pictured above, is 12 years-old and a freshman in junior high. She has been attending church since she was born. Her mom, Esperanza and her grandmother, Carmen, diligently take her to church every Sunday and to other activities at the church. Anytime there is a mission group working on something in the church, she wants to help. Esperanza is enrolled in the Bible Institute and is a Sunday school teacher at San Mateo.



Pastor Enrique, pastor of Lirio de Los Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church, delivered school supplies to a family in the community.



Pastor Enrique and me, with children that received gifts and toys at Lirio de Los Valle at Christmas time. Thank you to everyone that donated gifts and socks for the children!



These two boys from El Divino Salvador (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church were very happy to receive toys!



Food and clothing were distributed at Santo Tomas (St Thomas), a mission in Mesa Rica, 27 miles south of the border. Many thanks to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hayward, California for their generous donation of clothes, many that were given out in Mesa Rica.

LBCM Annual Meeting & Dinner

**Please join us for our
Annual Meeting and Dinner
March 1, 2014 3:00 p.m.**

**Calvary Lutheran Church
3060 54th St. San Diego, CA**

**Please R.S.V.P. – 619-286-2445
Or e-mail: lbcmsd@gmail.com**

NEEDS

**Rice
Beans
Canned Food
School Supplies**

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

**Visit our website:
lutheranborderconcernsministry.org**

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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.

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.