



Many Smiles

When I visited San Marcos (St Mark) Lutheran mission in Mesa Rica on Epiphany, I took with me toys, socks and shoe boxes that were filled with little presents for children. Epiphany is celebrated more in Mexico with gifts and toys for children. It is called Three King's Day. It reminds us of the visit of the wise men to Jesus and the gifts they brought for him. In Mexico toys and gifts are given to children as a reminder of the Epiphany story. At Christmas we remember how Jesus came to earth as a gift for us and at Epiphany how we give to Him our talents to His service.



These children's parents very seldom can afford to buy new toys and gifts for their children. When you help by donating toys or funds to buy toys, it makes possible many happy smiles and grateful hearts for the boys and girls to say thank you to God. Thank you!

New Pastor

Job, from San Mateo (St Matthew) and Guillermo from Mexicali have decided to move to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to study at the Lutheran Seminary there. Both were involved with the Bible Institute. Both are young and with a strong desire to serve the Lord. Job has been pastor at San Mateo since his dad, Pastor Jimenez, went to heaven. We pray for them as they embark on this journey.

In order to continue to serve the people in San Luis Rio Colorado, Saul, pictured below, will be taking over the ministry.



Saul is from San Luis Rio Colorado but lives in San Luis, Arizona. He and his wife and children are in charge of the Breakfast Program at San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church. He is enrolled in the Bible Institute and is pursuing other theological education as well. Please keep him in prayers as he takes on the extra responsibilities and joys of sharing the love of Christ with people in Mexico.

New Baños

Eight new outhouses were built for Colonia Independencia, El Fronterizo and Mesa Rica. These three towns are in areas where there is not sewer system in place. People build their own outhouses with very limited resources; most are not well constructed and many are not safe.



Pictured above is an outhouse that was replaced. Pictured below is the new outhouse. Now, eight families received a new outhouse that is safer and is built to last.



New Home

Many thanks to Rodney and his group from Yucaipa, California, who provided the funds to build this new home for Ivonne, Gaspar and their son, Juan. The family are members of El Divino Salvador (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church. Pictured below is the family and the volunteers that build the new home.



The family was living with his parents, in the living room. Three years ago they were able to buy a lot of land, but they couldn't afford to build on it. Now they have a nice, warm and safe home. They praise God for His grace and blessings!

Breakfast Program



A young mother gives food to her two boys at Lirio del Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church as part of the Breakfast

Program there. Every week new children are coming to be fed with a delicious meal and by God's Word. In these areas, malnutrition is a common issue. A lack of financial resources and poor eating habits affect the health of children, their performance in school and can follow them in adulthood where many health issues can arise. The Breakfast Program is addressing this situation by providing a nutritious meal. The spiritual life of the children and their parents are also affected; they are being connected with Jesus and are attending church. Praise God!

Scholarship Program

In the next months, we would like to help more youth to stay in school. Your support would be greatly appreciated. We would like to see more of these young people in churches learning about Jesus and His Word, but also in school, studying as much as possible to help support their families and congregations in the future.

- R. C.

Musicians in Motion

*Gema, from Faith Lutheran Church, San Diego is a musician. She started a music program in Colonia 3 de Octubre teaching youth music. She became part of a collaboration called *Musicos en Movimiento – Musicians in Motion*. The following is information about the program written by Gema:*

The *First Collaboration Musicians in Motion - Music for peace: Art Toward Social Values* was the result of 6 weeks of work in which three different groups of kids in the cities of Tijuana and Ensenada had the opportunity to be part of a workshop in which they learned basic aspects of music and performed Christmas carols in a three concerts final collaboration.

The process of preparation included weekly rehearsals where the main purpose was to encourage kids to participate as a group and to be responsible as essential members of that group, in order to make them at least curious and sensitive about the implications of social interaction. At the end of this short music program, they had the opportunity to perform a concert for each one of their communities.

The collaboration culminated in a wonderful event where 43 kids and their

families were greatly benefited, not only from "Musicians in Motion" artists' efforts and from the work of great people in Tijuana and San Diego, but also because of the support of Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry and members of Faith Lutheran Church in San Diego. As a result, children had the opportunity to perform at the University of Baja's Music Department in Ensenada, where they met the *Children's Flute Ensemble* from "Music for Peace" to present a few Christmas songs together (pictured below), for the joy of everyone present. This marvelous experience was followed by a small reception



where the kids also received Christmas presents and exchanged their experience with great enthusiasm.

Lutheran Border Concerns and members of Faith Lutheran Church together with artists and volunteers in Tijuana did a wonderful job supporting the realization of this collaboration; taking that as a starting point, we will continue to work towards music education and the teaching of human values as a means to contribute to children and youth's development in different communities of Baja California. We believe that eventually it will be more plausible for all of us to understand how relevant it is to responsibly commit to be fully cooperative in all of our social interactions, by being participative and insistent in projects that will increase the quality of our world.

It was a privilege for LBCM to support this program and we look forward to continue to help create the broadest impact in the lives of children, their families, churches and communities. We are advocates of good education and spiritual well being that connects with Jesus.

- R. C.

Mark your calendar!

**LBCM Annual Meeting and Dinner
Saturday March 7, 2015
4:30 P.M.**

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

**Please RSVP – 619-286-2445 or E-mail:
lbcmsd@gmail.com**

NEEDS

Digital Cameras in good condition

Beans & Rice

School Supplies & Backpacks

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

Visit our website:
lutheranborderconcernsministry.org -
where you can find our newsletters in
color! Also find us on facebook: Lbcm
SanDiego

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.

**Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry
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