



## A Big Celebration



After over three years of classes and workshops the day finally came for the graduation of the first generation, the class of 2016, from the Bible Institute. Glory be to God!

I really worked hard, a lot of hours and many trips across the border from San Diego to downtown Tijuana to El Divino Lutheran Church. But nothing compares with the satisfaction of seeing a group of ladies and gentlemen working so hard and graduating! Some of them never graduated from high school. Imagine the happiness of these seventeen students receiving in their hands a piece of paper that symbolize the diploma and certificate of graduation. I still have fresh images of them with big smiles and shining faces. After the graduation ceremony on January 17 at 5:00 p.m. a delicious meal was shared to celebrate the big day.

## One Big Family, One Big Home

When I met Lupita and Jose, I noticed that they have six daughters! And that they were living in a small room, approximately 11' x 9' that had problems with leakage, a door that was not in good shape and a few other problems.

Just thinking how six girls and their parents can live in such a small room made me realize that they needed a bigger space.



Pictured above is the old house, it would leak when it rained.

We built a house for them with an extra room and a porch. One of the girls said to me, 'Oh! Our own room!' Pictured below is a picture of me and the family in front of the new house.



May the Lord bless this family and the others that over this year will be getting the blessing of a new home where they can praise and bless Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

## El Nino Storms

Many homes in Mexico are not prepared for the El Nino storms that are coming through this time of year. Many homes leak when it rains and many will not survive the damaging winds. We are expecting to need to make many repairs in the next months. If you would like to donate roofing materials or other supplies to be used in Tijuana for the repairs on these homes, please let me know. We will also be accepting donations that will go toward the materials to make needed repairs. We have volunteers in Mexico (and San Diego) that are willing to make the needed repairs. Of course more willing hands are always appreciated!

### A Little Bit Makes a Difference



Brookfield Lutheran Church, Brookfield, Wisconsin, donated funds to buy rice, beans, cooking oil, flour and other basic items for the tables of people in the area that El Divino Lutheran Church serves by building houses. What a blessing from God our Father, our Provider, that more than 60 families were helped. For some families, as little as \$15 US can make a difference in having enough food to feed their family. That reminds me how the Lord blesses us with a little piece of bread at His Table.

Food distribution is a great option for churches and mission teams to use the Thrivent Action Teams program. Items like food and school supplies can be purchased and given out to families and children in Mexico.

## Meeting the Needs of Children

What a wonderful time Epiphany day is for children! Pictured below is a member from St Paul's Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach, California, delivering gifts for children.



Epiphany is a celebration remembering the wise men bringing gifts to baby Jesus. In Mexico it is a special celebration where kids receive gifts remembering how Jesus gave His life for us and how we can share this with others.



Pictured above is Guillermo and a group of kids after breakfast, making crafts and hearing a Bible story. Guillermo is on break from seminary in Argentina. His family lives in Mexicali. Before he came back from seminary, I asked if he and his family were interested in starting a breakfast program in his home town. They said yes and since December they have met with the children in a park that is close by. They feed the children breakfast and teach them Bible stories, crafts and enjoy games. Please pray for Mexicali; we have plans to expand the ministry in this city which is the capital of Baja and has a population of about 1 million people.



These children are enjoying breakfast at El Fronterizo, Sonora. Some of these children have no food or breakfast in the morning. Most of them have only one meal a day that consists of beans and tortillas. I can tell a difference in their appearance and energy level after being fed breakfast for a few months. We are now serving breakfast in eight established locations and two that are just getting started. We feel so blessed by Our Lord that with so little funds we are able to feed such a large number of children!



Kids from a close by community in 3 de Octubre, Tijuana, were invited to Lirio de Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church to receive premade school supplies packages thanks to Orphan Grain Train.



Pictured above is a young boy from Lirio de Valle Lutheran Church. He's wearing his new shoes, while holding on to his old shoes. He enjoys playing soccer with pastor Enrique.

### **Cold? Hot? No problema!**



This is the middle of the desert. There is no building. It is cold out. But this does not stop pastor Josafat and people from Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church in Independencia to celebrate with God's Word. The work of the Lord expands as we celebrate his mercy, love and grace to us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

- R. C.

**Please join us!**  
**LBCM Annual Meeting & Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 12, 2016**  
**4:30 p.m.**

**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)**

**Hope to see you there!**

## **NEEDS**

### **School Supplies:**

Backpacks, pencils, pens, erasers, 70-page notebooks,  
glue sticks, pencil sharpeners, markers, scissors, rulers

### **Rice & Beans**

### **Toothpaste and Toothbrushes**

### **Sewing Supplies**

### **Fabric – in good condition**

We also accept monetary donations for purchase  
of these items.

**Thank you for your donation!**

Visit our website:  
[lutheranborderconcernsministry.org](http://lutheranborderconcernsministry.org) - where you can find our  
newsletters in color! Also find us  
on facebook: [Lbcm SanDiego](https://www.facebook.com/LbcmSanDiego)

**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](http://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.