



Pastor Jesus Manuel Martinez Perez 1955 – 2012



Pastor Jesus Manuel Martinez Perez, (pictured above with his wife, Martha), was born September 21, 1955 in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. When he was one year old his mom decided to move to Mexicali, B.C. Mexico. His mom was a single mother, and it became necessary to take her son Manuel and his two brothers to a Christian orphanage, Parque de Rosas (Rose Park) when Manuel was 6 years old. He lived at the orphanage until, at the age of 18, Manuel decided to study to become a pastor. He went to a Bible Institute in La Puente, California for about 2 years and continued at an institute in Tecate B.C. He went to serve in the ministry in a church in Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico where he met his wife Martha G__ R__. She was an elementary school teacher there and was a member of Iglesia Luterana San Pablo (St Paul Lutheran Church), the church where her dad was the pastor. Manuel and Martha had two children, Daniel

and Martha. In 1984 they moved to Tijuana, B.C. Mexico, with the purpose of helping in the orphanage where Manuel was raised. Unfortunately, the government closed the orphanage, but with God's help Manuel and Martha were able to buy the building. Manuel and his wife Martha would go evangelize at new colonies where families had a desire to know God's word. This is how they started the mission **El Divino Salvador** (Divine Savior) in 1994 and to this day the church keeps growing. Now with a new place to worship, built in 2008, it is a beautiful building, built with the support of the congregation and congregations from the United States.

In 1996, Pastor Manuel and his family decided to use the old orphanage to host American groups that come to Tijuana to build houses for families in need. Thankfully, this ministry continues to this day. This requires finding families in need, preparing everything for the groups that come to build the houses and taking care of them while they are here. Pastor Manuel dedicated this work to God, he always did this work with happiness and he never received any pay for it. To make ends meet, Pastor Manuel worked for 25 years in a hospital, until 2006 when he had to retire for health reasons. Daniel has taken charge of this ministry and it continues on today.

In 2008, Pastor Manuel and Martha established a religious association called **Iglesia Luterana de la Sola Gracia y Sola Fe** (Lutheran Church of Grace Alone and Faith Alone). Thanks to this religious association, the Bible Institute was able to open in Tijuana in March, 2012.

Pastor Manuel spent his whole life serving the Lord every day. He demonstrated his love for God and his neighbors until God called him to His presence on April 21, 2012. The ministry, his spirit of service and selfless example that he demonstrated will continue to be reflected in his family and church as they continue forward with God's help. Thank God for the life of Pastor Jesus Manuel Martinez Perez; he will live in our hearts forever.

- By Martha Reck, Manuel's Daughter

A group of men from **St Timothy Lutheran Church**, San Diego, recently spent a Saturday at the Concordia Center. They were preparing an area in front of the center for a patio. Much digging was accomplished and the men had a great time.



This was the first time the men from **St Timothy** had come to Tijuana. They have already planned another Saturday to continue the work on the patio.



Alfredo, a member of **San Pablo** (St Paul) Lutheran Church, with Pastor Abdiel, right and Alicia, left, on June 3rd, the first day of the first class at the Bible Institute. The students were excited about the New Testament class and at the end of the class they were looking forward with great expectations for the next class, the Old Testament; it will start on September 2nd. We want to thank Rev. Carl Lutz and Mrs. Melissa S_____ for their efforts with teaching and translating.



On April 21st, a mission team from **Christ Lutheran Church**, Costa Mesa, CA, built this house for a family of four. During construction, children from around the community came and enjoyed games, Bible stories and crafts. The mission team also distributed beans, rice and ramen noodles. The mission team usually comes twice a year to bless families in need with a safer home and to share the love of God with their brothers and sisters in Mexico.

Continued on page 3



Children love to hear bible stories and enjoy craft time with the team from **Christ Lutheran**. What a blessing!



El Divino Salvador (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church hosted the annual Women's Retreat. 32 women, pictured above, were able to attend. Thank you to **St Luke's Lutheran Church Women** for the lovely towel kits that were given out at the Retreat. — R.C.

Legna's Corner

By Legna L ____

How can we make a difference in the lives of those who need it most? Do we need to go to remote parts of the world or give lots of

money to people who need it? Jesus touched the lives of each person he had contact with and He did not have much money or great possessions. He invested time in people that were around Him. He showed genuine love in wanting to help those who needed it most. He gave Himself to those He loved.

In a modern world run by technology, it is unthinkable to live without money. Money is something we need to survive, but it is not the most important object in our lives. Sometimes we forget that the most important thing is to share the love of God, no matter how much (or little) we have. By sharing ourselves we make it possible for others to know God. We do not need to have a lot of money to be able to share the love of God. We only need to let God use us to reflect His love to others.

One of the things I tell the youth that I work with at the Youth Center is to 'be yourself'. God created each one of us to be unique and different. God wants us to show His love by truly being ourselves, showing to others what beautiful creations He has made us to be. In this way we are able to influence others, helping them to see His love and be able to achieve the full potential that He has placed in them as children of God.

Thank you for prayers and support of the youth in Tijuana. You have helped make our work with the youth a success. May the Lord continue to expand this ministry, may we share the love of God to those in need.



Lots of basic school supplies, like notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, markers, crayons and backpacks, are given out to the youth in Tijuana. This helps families in need keep their children in school, giving them a chance at a better future.



A girl from **Lirios de Los Valles** (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church enjoying the Day of the Child Celebration on May 6th.

NEEDS

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Thank you for your donation!

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Check out our website: lutheranborderconcernsministry.org

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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.