



Prayers Have Been Answered!!

During Manny Cruz's retirement celebration on October 30, it was announced that the Religious Association named Iglesia Luterana de Baja California en Mexico, ILBCM, (Lutheran Church of Baja California in Mexico) was recognized by the Mexican government. After many years of waiting for approval by the Mexican government, finally the petition to create a new Religious Association came through!



Above, Pastor Romelio Perez, Pastor Douglas Jones and Manny Cruz announcing the approval of the ILBCM.

Manny always said he would retire after the Religious Association was approved and the approval came just in time!

It was a long process, paperwork was sent, meetings were held with the lawyer and public notary, the applications were filled out and filled out again, plus more paperwork along with the anxiety of waiting for what else might be needed to be done before the Mexican

authorities would give the okay. On October 28, the ILBCM Religious Association under Mexican law was accepted.

The Board of Directors of the ILBCM consists of Omar P., Silvia M., Elisabeth P., Marina N., along with Ministers Romelio Perez, Josue Del Carmen and Bladimir Martinez.

Why is this Religious Association so important for the ministry in Mexico and LBCM? With this recognition, the lay pastors that have been supported and helped by LBCM now can form their own Bible Institute or theological school and then can be ordained as Ministers of the Word. Now the pastors and churches are registered as part of a specific church and they can perform religious duties openly. They have access to some social services. They are protected by the law. Another important aspect is that ILBCM will be able to add more churches and pastors and can grow and expand by opening new mission churches.

This Religious Association opens doors for both Pastors and congregations to preach the good news in their own setting and in public places. This is an accomplishment of the work that you and LBCM have been part of all these years.

There is more to say about this new Religious Association, but that will come in future newsletters.

Praise God that He is still opening doors for us to share the love of God with our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

-R.C.

Meeting People

By Ramon Contreras

During my first two months at LBCM, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to meet with the churches and lay pastors in Tijuana, Mexicali and San Luis Rio Colorado. I have also met some of the mission teams that come to work in Mexico. What a pleasure to see these men and women working for the Lord to change the lives of many people.

On October 19, pastors and lay leaders from Tijuana met at **Lirios de Los Valle (Lily of the Valley)** for a seminar on Liturgy and worship. The seminar was lead by Pastor Salvador Ferrero from **First**, El Cajon, CA. Twenty-nine people were in attendance. Pictured below is Pastor Ferrero leading the seminar.



I met some of the mission groups that come on a regular basis to build a house or two and help people in Tijuana. I'm impressed how they come down to Mexico with such joy and heart to provide for those in need. But I'm more impressed to see how they continue to come year after year and continue to help. Some of the groups I met with were from **Good Shepherd**, Yucaipa, CA, **St Matthew**, North Hollywood, CA and **Faith**, Meadow Vista, CA. LBCM and many in need have been blessed by the mission teams that come to share the love of Christ. May the Lord bless these congregations and all the mission teams that come to Mexico.



Pictured is a mission team member from **St Matthew**, North Hollywood, painting a house that they built in one day.



Pictured is a family I met from Colonia Independencia Mission in San Luis Rio Colorado. They were celebrating the birthday of the older son.

I have met with some young men who are willing to serve the Lord in the border area through the ministry of LBCM by starting churches in different areas. Help us to pray to find the means if it is God's will for these men to serve in this way.

Check out our website:
lutheranborderconcernsministry.org

Legna's Corner

By Legna Lanza

Education and Sports Can Transform the Lives of Children

In Mexico there are many traditions which are a time of celebration and togetherness for many families. Some of these are Baptisms and Confirmation. Not only are these a time of celebration but, for Christians, it also reminds us of the importance of becoming a member of the family of God, bringing us closer to each other and to Him.

This was the case at **San Pablo (St Paul)**, which is led by Pastor Abdiel Perez. The little church was filled with joy when ten children between the ages of 7 and 13 years old were confirmed and baptized in one service. Parents, friends, neighbors and relatives gathered together to accompany this group of children when they publicly confessed that they were members of the family of God.

Many of these children and their families have not had the opportunity to baptize their children because of economic reasons and they were not congregating at any church. However, with the support of the Project Joel Program through Cristo para Todas las Naciones and through the sports ministry which includes martial arts, many children that are part of Project Joel have become involved at San Pablo. In this way we work together to offer the younger population, which are more vulnerable, resources to stay away from risky behaviors and at the same time offer them new ways to grow in character. It is important for us to work together and connect families and children to God and to the church where they can learn more about His love.

In the same way, we work with children through the Angel Scholarship Program in order to support them with their education so they can continue in their studies, not to get discouraged and drop out of school due to lack of money.

My hope is that in this coming new year God will continue to bless our programs which directly help children and their families to be

strengthened, to learn everyday about God's love and to remain in God's caring hands.

Que el Senor los llene de ricas Bendiciones en esta Navidad y Ano Nuevo. May the Lord fill your Christmas and New Year with rich blessings.

-Legna



Legna Lanza, in back row, with the younger children from the marital arts groups.

Church Volunteers Build a House



In early October, volunteers from **Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace)** built a house, pictured above, using a donation from Jacob and Susan S. in memory of Jacob's parents, Jacob and Lottie S. and in honor of Manny Cruz at the time of his retirement. The house was for a family that has been attending Principe de Paz almost from the beginning of the church. There were 18 volunteers in all and the work was coordinated by Carmello, LBCM's Project Coordinator. Ramon, LBCM's new Ministry Coordinator was able to join them and enjoyed being one of the volunteers.

Mark your calendar!
LBCM Annual Meeting and Dinner
Saturday, March 5, 2011 - 3:00 P.M.
Calvary Lutheran Church
3060 54th St San Diego CA
Please RSVP to 619-286-2445
or lbcmsd@gmail.com

NEEDS

Rice
Instant Ramen Soup Cups
Bars of Soap
Cough & Cold Medicines
Car for the new pastor

Announcements!

We are collecting **Christmas gifts** for children.

We are asking that the gifts be unwrapped to make it easier to cross the border. We are also collecting socks, in all sizes, boys and girls, to give away with the gifts.

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

**LBCM wishes you and your family a blessed
Christmas and the very best in the New Year!
¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!**

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.