



## Bible Institute Opening Ceremony

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. the **Instituto Biblico Luterano (Lutheran Bible Institute)** was officially open for classes in Tijuana! There was a well attended ceremony at **El Divino Salvador (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church**. There are 40 students enrolled for the first class. These students are members of different Lutheran churches near the California border. Some of them are lay pastors serving already in congregations. Most of them are people who want to be trained to serve the Lord. They have intentions to serve in churches, others to serve helping in our programs, like the building of houses or in the youth center, among others.



These are the first students enrolled at the Bible Institute! They are enrolled in the first class which is 'Introduction to the New Testament' which is being taught by Pastor Carl Lutz from San Diego, CA.

The classes are part in-classroom with a instructor and part self-study and group-study. The students meet with the instructor once a month, four times in the class duration of three months. The rest of the assignments are for homework and in group studies.

We give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Mexico by providing them the opportunity to receive formal biblical training. As we help people in Mexico with their physical needs, this new Bible Institute will help even more with meeting their spiritual needs.

We give thanks first to our Lord Jesus Christ and then to those who in one way or another helped to accomplish this important goal. Special thanks to Pastor Joseph Robb and **Transform San Diego**, for their donation to cover the scholarships for the students attending the first class. We also want thank Melissa S. from **Concordia Lutheran Church**, Chula Vista, CA for all of her time and help.

We also want to thank you for your support that makes possible that the love of God can be expressed to people in need in different ways.



Above, Pastor Douglas Jones, **St James Lutheran Church**, Imperial Beach, CA, Pastor Richard Schmitt and Melissa S., **Concordia Lutheran Church**, Chula Vista, CA, and Ramon giving the commencement and blessing to the students during the Bible Institute ceremony.

—R.C.

## Blessings for Families and Churches



Pictured is one of the families that were blessed by receiving a new house from **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, Yucaipa, CA on March 24th. The team from Good Shepherd, led by Rodney, has been coming to Tijuana several times a year to build houses now for many years. The team comes for a day and usually builds two houses at a time. During the construction, they distribute food, Bibles and other items, along with sharing their food with the families.

This has been such a great blessing to so many families, as well as in the communities and churches where those houses are built. Many families, after receiving a house, commit to attending worship services and their children get involved at the Youth Center. Some children receive Angel Scholarships. The blessings continue to multiply!

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People continue to get involved with LBCM in different ways. Recently a young man named Ryan, chose to work on a service project for school by collecting school supplies, rice, beans and canned foods and other items to be taken to Mexico to help those in need. After getting in touch with us to see what items were needed, Ryan organized and collected donations through his church, **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, San Diego, CA, where his dad is pastor. The items were then delivered to the LBCM office to be taken across the border to

Mexico. We think this was a great way to help others!



Pictured above are Anya, Pastor Paul, Cory and Ryan delivering the donated items to our office.

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In the photo above, several ladies from **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church** prepare food to be shared by the congregation after worship service. One of the ways people get to know each other in Mexico is through food. When people from the community attend church meals, food distributions or breakfast programs, they not only have the opportunity to hear about Jesus but they feel like they are part of the church.

-R.C.

## Legna's Corner

By Legna Lanza

*For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide  
me.* *Psalm 31:3*

The Youth Center in Tijuana is a place where children and teenagers participate in different workshops and classes for physical, mental and spiritual growth.

Within the Youth Center, I lead various activities, but the one I like the most is the sports ministry.

A couple of years ago, I started a martial arts class at the Youth Center. Since then, many have asked me what is the purpose of my work, is that class only for exercising, to help children lose weight or is it just something that will make them stronger? What good does that do?

One of my greatest satisfactions that I have as an educator of children and teenagers is witnessing changes in children that are not temporary; but a complete transformation of attitude and lifestyle. This can only be achieved by giving them a Christian education which is the real road to freedom.

As Christians we know that our goal is to lead others to eternity, however, while we wait for that moment, we live in this temporary world and we need to show fidelity to God in our physical body. Jesus is our greatest example, He died for us. He knows and understands our pain. He teaches us how to handle our broken bodies in this world of sin.

The Youth Center has been a blessing for children and teenagers who arrived with a lack of discipline, commitment and love in their physical body. Martial arts meet these needs. Through activities that they can relate to, we can meet a physical need and also a spiritual need, injecting in them Christian teachings which will lead them to a life that honors God until the day He will call them to His presence.



Legna recently took a group of children from the Youth Center to a martial arts tournament in Mexicali. Many of the kids have never had the chance to travel to a different city. With the help of the Youth Center they were able to participate in this important tournament that otherwise would have been difficult due to the lack of financial resources within their families.

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On April 1, Dennis, pictured above on the left, delivered school supplies in Tijuana. The supplies were collected by **Memorial Lutheran Church**, Vancouver, WA. Dennis and his wife Rose, along with their church have been a blessing to many in Mexico for many years.





A group from **Mision Independencia (Independent Mission)** after worship and food distribution.

**LBCM would like to thank Robert H. for his service on LBCM Board of Directors as his term ends. We would like to welcome Emily H. as our newest Board Member.**

**Follow us on Facebook at:**  
[lbcmfacebook@gmail.com](mailto:lbcmfacebook@gmail.com) (Lbcm SanDiego)

**Check out our website:**  
[lutheranborderconcernsministry.org](http://lutheranborderconcernsministry.org)

### **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) . **Thank you to all who have already designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to LBCM!**

Donations of the following items are down a bit. Can you help?

**Rice & Beans  
School Supplies**

If you have any questions about donating these items please call the LBCM office at 619-286-2445. **Thank you!**

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.