

New Home for Margarita & Carlos

In March, during one of my trips to San Luis Rio Colorado for a Bible Institute class, I met Pastor Don Smidt from **Connecting Generations**, Phoenix, Arizona. Pastor Don saw the only house we built in San Luis last year and liked the idea of building a house for a family in need.

Pastor Job from **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church** and lay pastor Josafat, both from Sonora, chose Margarita and Carlos to receive the blessing of a new home. Pastor Don brought some friends from Arizona and Utah. Others volunteers were invited from San Diego and Tijuana to help build a house for this lovely family. This was the first house built by a group from Arizona in Sonora, Mexico.



Margarita and Carlos, picture above in front of their old house with one of their

daughters, are members of **Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church** with lay pastor Josafat. They live in Colonia Independecia, Sonora. They are married and have lived all their lives in Sonora. They have 4 girls, (8-, 5-, 3-, and 1-years old). They live in a very difficult situation because of the scarcity of jobs in the area. Margarita is a stay-at-home mom and her husband, Carlos works as a fisherman or in agricultural jobs, both seasonal jobs with very low pay (around \$4,000 per year in the U.S.).

They have not had a decent place to live. Their home was built poorly, not up to standard codes. The door was not secure; it didn't even have a lock. There was a window; they covered it with a blanket. The roof was full of holes; there was no roofing material on it.

On April 19-21, we went and built a new home for Margarita and Carlos and their girls. Their new home is secure, has a window and a door that even locks. What a blessing!



Pictured above is Pastor Don, opening the door of the new home for Margarita and

Carlos. At the dedication, a comment from one of the team members, a young man regarding how he felt about building a house for this family in need: “The most rewarding thing for me was when I watched the little girls dancing and jumping inside their new home. That’s how we express our joy when we received blessings from Jesus”.

Angel Scholarship Program & School Supplies

How can we help children at risk to stay in school? Many children in Mexico can’t even finish middle school because their families can’t afford to buy them the basic supplies and pay the tuition fees. We are so happy to be helping more than 80 children through the Angel Scholarship Program; we would love to be able to help twice that!

As an independent non-profit organization, LBCM is meeting the needs of children in order to help them achieve a better future. Children that are enrolled in the program through the Lutheran churches, receive money twice a year, about \$300 in total, for school fees and supplies. We also help other children in the church neighborhoods with school supplies. In both cases, church and neighborhood children receive spiritual support by connecting them to the church to learn about God’s love. Pictured below is a group of youth after a karate class.



We want to provide support for children to finish at least high school so they have a better chance in life. The Angel Scholarship Program is a vital part of LBCM’s ministry because we believe that education, in both academics and

spiritual matters, opens the doors to a brighter future for children.

Bible Institute

What a joy to finish the third class and have students still eager to learn about God’s Word! Pictured below is Pastor Joseph Robb (center, in back row) on the last day of the Bible Theology class with some of the students from the Tijuana campus, at **El Divino (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church**.



We also finished the first class, the Old Testament, at the San Luis Rio Colorado campus at **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church**. Pastor Carl Lutz has been doing a marvelous job in helping design the curriculum as well as teaching classes. He is pictured below, on the right, with lay pastor Josafat from **Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church**. Lay pastor Josafat is always eager to learn more about God’s Word and to share the message of His great love for us. Josafat’s wife, Armandina is always ready to serve and help. They are both a blessing to everyone around them!



Youth Center

We are about to start building the new youth center! In June and July, mission teams and volunteers will start tearing down the old building and start building the new one. If you are interested in helping with the demolition, let us know, it is scheduled to be done during the first two weeks of June. After the new structure is built, there will be a lot of projects to be done, like book cases, benches, fences around the property, etc. If you or your mission team is interested in helping with any of these projects, please let us know, we will need a lot of hands to complete the job!

ESL (English as Second Language)

Tom Maier has been teaching an ESL class at **Lirio del Valle (Lily of the Valley) Lutheran Church** in Tijuana since November 2012. He meets with a group of children in the morning that go to school in the afternoon and in the afternoon he meets with the children that go to school in the morning. Tom is pictured below with some of his students.



These classes will help the children and teenagers to improve their English skills which will equip them with an essential tool in a border region, where both Spanish and English are important. Someone that is bilingual in a border city has a better chance of getting a better paying job.

Most of the materials Tom uses for his classes are based in the Bible with a Christian message. Since the classes are held in the church, he is able to use the Bible as well. Tom is helping the children better themselves and share the Word of God.

Backpacks & School Supplies

School supplies are almost twice the price in Mexico than in the United States! When you collect school supplies for us or give us a donation to purchase supplies, we help girls and boys to thrive in school! I was recently invited to



the LWML Desert Zone 2 Spring Celebration by Nancy, pictured above with me and a very large backpack! They collected backpacks and school supplies for us. The celebration was held in Holtville, California. More than 140 backpacks filled with school supplies were collected, along with rice and beans and were donated to LBCM by this wonderful group of ladies!

Pictured below are 2 women and a girl receiving rice and beans at **Lirio del Valle (Lily of the Valley)**. Beans and rice are the main diet of the people in Mexico and we love to help them these basic supplies for their families.



**Welcome new
LBCM Board Members!**

At the LBCM Annual Meeting several new board members were voted in. We welcome Pam Bohrer, Jake Ching, Gary Crawford, Ann Folting, Jesse Rivera and William Teysko to the board.

We thank the board members that left the board and wish them the very best in the future.

NEEDS

Beans & Rice
School Supplies
Drum Set
New or gently used tennis shoes

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

**Visit our website:
lutheranborderconcernsministry.org**

**Find us on facebook:
Lbcm SanDiego**

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 .

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.