



Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry
(formerly Lutheran Baja California Missions)
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Crossing the Border for Mission Work

Over the course of a year, mission teams from churches and groups, as well as individuals, travel to Mexico to help our brothers and sisters south of the border with both physical and spiritual needs. The mission teams call LBCM to reserve a week or weekend to stay in one of the retreat centers. Then they start planning! They host fundraising events to raise the funds to build a house (or two or more), for various work projects and to pay for their trip. Much effort is put into the planning and fundraising, but in this time the Lord blesses them as they work together, encouraging their congregations to meet their mission opportunities. They are excited because they know they are serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time comes for the mission trip, the mission team flies or drives to the border of Mexico and they cross over into Tijuana. While they are there, they have the opportunity to help people by building houses, distributing food, building or repairing churches or centers, etc. Some teams have the opportunity to help at the Youth Center, where activities are held for the youth in the communities. The mission team might help with improvements like painting, etc. Orphanages can be visited to play with the children or deliver donations.

The mission teams also have the opportunity to meet the spiritual needs of people in Mexico. The teams might distribute Spanish Bibles, have VBS with children in the community or at one of the local churches built by other mission teams through LBCM. Visiting

pastors are usually invited to preach, celebrate communion or give a workshop to the Bible Institute students. Most mission teams join in worship at one of the local churches, and share a meal with the congregation. Activities are planned with the children. Some teams share music by singing or playing instruments. Everyone shares in the word of God.

Mission teams that travel across the border have the opportunity to see how safe Tijuana is, especially in the areas where we serve others. Teams have the opportunity to share their experiences with other team members when they have their devotionals, are sharing in the work of building a house or working on repairs to a property. They share meals. Each member of the team grows in their faith as they reflect on the physical and spiritual needs of the people in Mexico. When the mission teams return to their congregations or groups, they have the chance to share their experiences and to encourage others to join them for the next time. They know that the Lord has blessed them and they were a blessing to their brothers and sisters in Mexico and now they can be a blessing to others in the United States. Many team members return to the United States saying that the mission trip changed their lives while making a change in the lives of new friends in Mexico. If you are interested to hear more about this and other mission opportunities and how you and your group can be a blessing by blessing others, give us a call, send an e-mail or visit our website. - R.C.

The following was written by Jackie, a team member from **Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Montana**. The mission team is pictured below.



Mission Trip 2012

Goal – Montana to Tijuana.

Barriers – Money, concerns about safety, Spanish language skills, teams members willing to go, construction foreman.

God's answer – In June, sixteen people from Montana took a mission trip to Tijuana. In coordination with LBCM, the group built two houses, worked at a youth center and visited an orphanage. It was a special trip with three moms bringing their sons, one dad bringing his daughter, one mom bringing her two daughters and cousins and friends joining the trip. For thirteen of the group, this was their first mission trip to the area. Each and every one hopes to return soon. The people of Mexico grab our hearts and don't let go. God blesses us with special friendships that will last for all eternity.



Some team members from **St Paul's of Shorewood Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington**, after dedicating one of the two

houses they built for families in need. They have been coming to Tijuana for 15 years.



Josefat, pictured above with his wife, Armandina and daughter, Karen, is now conducting services at **Colonia Independencia Sonora Mission**. Karen is studying to become a nurse and is involved in the Angel Scholarship Program.



On August 11th, a group of volunteers from Tijuana built a house thanks to a donation from **The Skate Church, Seattle, Washington**.



Raphael, Dennis and Peter installed new cabinets at **Lily of the Valley Lutheran Church**.

Legna's Corner

By Legna Lanza

The Angel Scholarship

Books and backpacks are ready for another school year in the city of Tijuana. Every year, through LBCM, many young people receive a scholarship which helps them complete their education. Thirty-eight children are being supported this year, most of them living in areas of vulnerability where poverty and neglect are visible.

Many of these children do not have enough resources to enable them to continue a proper student life. Parents provide books and uniforms when they can but often cannot cope with another financial burden. They choose to remove their children from school or send them without the uniforms and schools materials that are required. This often brings extra worry to the family; much as they want to be able to cover school expenses, they cannot. This brings stress and feelings of being inadequate to the children and many do not want to continue to go to school.



*A young man from **St Mark's Lutheran Church**, Tacoma, Washington, delivering school supplies for children in Mexico.*

The Angel Scholarship Program provides parents a way to value education and support their children in bettering themselves for the future.

There are many stories how the Angel Scholarships encourage young people in Mexico to continue their education, but the most important story is that they have the chance to

follow Jesus and know His love for them. Families realize that it is not by our own merit we can give but because God is planting the desire in our hearts of wanting to help. They realize that they can also support others, no matter how much or little they might have.

Transform, San Diego, California, spent a weekend building new bathrooms at the new Youth Center property. More work needs to be done in order to make the old building on the site work for youth activities until the Lord provides for a new building.





Members from **St Mark's Lutheran Church**, Tacoma, Washington, sang at the dedication of the new property for the new Youth Center in Tijuana. St Marks provided a generous donation toward the purchase of the land for the new Youth Center. Thank you, St Mark's!



On Saturday, August 18th, Pastor Gloria Espeseth from **Gethsemane Lutheran Church**, (center) led a workshop at the Bible Institute.

Follow us on Facebook at:

lbcfacebook@gmail.com (Lbcm SanDiego)

Check out our website:

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

NEEDS

**Rice & Beans
School Supplies
Backpacks
Keyboard (for Lily of the Valley)**

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

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.