



Posadas

By Ramon Contreras

During Christmas time in Mexico, Posadas are a very important celebration in the community. A Posada is a traditional Christmas event celebrated every year in Mexico. The Posadas celebration includes foods like tamales and champurrado (a chocolate based drink) and a piñata. There is also a show to perform during the celebration. People go door to door in the community singing a song, asking for a room at the inn. No one opens the door, pretending not to hear their petition. Finally after a long walk (to the place where they will have the celebration), someone will open the door for everyone. They go in and celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. In the picture below, children reenact the Nativity scene at **San Pablo (St Paul) Lutheran Church** in Tijuana during part of their Posada celebration.



What does posada mean? In Spanish, posada means inn. The Posada celebration reminds us of the Bible story when Joseph and Mary were looking for a place to stay and for a place for baby Jesus to be born. There was no place for them at the inn and after walking around Bethlehem looking for a place to stay, the only place they found for baby Jesus to be born was a stable, placing him in a manger.

During the Christmas season, Posadas were celebrated in the churches, youth centers and communities in Mexico. Although resources are limited for people in Mexico, they open their

hearts to the fact that baby Jesus is at the door asking for a place to stay. Our ministries in Mexico are always open to those in the community in need. We serve them by building houses, providing food, giving out clothing, helping children to stay in school by providing them with scholarships to cover school costs through the Angel Scholarship Program and by providing school supplies. It is not only that we have the doors open to serve them, but also that we care about their needs. In our churches in Mexico we serve them by helping with physical needs, and by opening our doors to them, they come, feel and learn about the love of God through Jesus Christ.

House Building



Transform San Diego came to Tijuana to build a house in January! They have been coming almost every month for the last year, helping with different projects like repairs in churches, VBS in the community, distribution of backpacks and school supplies, and helping others build a house. On January 14, 2012 they built a house on their own with their own funds. What a blessing that these young people come to help our neighbors in Mexico, giving them better opportunities in life. -R.C.

Gifts for Children



Thanks to **St Paul's Lutheran School**, Pacific Beach, California, for the shoe boxes full of little gifts that were distributed in different locations in Mexico. Children get so excited when they receive the shoe boxes, and they are learning that the Lord provides for them even in small things. Pictured above are children from El Cardon, Baja California Sur. -R.C.

Visiting an Orphanage

A visit to a local Tijuana orphanage to learn how the orphanage operates has helped us to continue to prepare for the girls Foster Home. We saw the needs of the children and how much love and care they really need. The number of orphans in Mexico has been increasing during the last several years. The facilities, both government and private, are not sufficient to meet the needs and number of children.



This is a boy we met at the orphanage. These children need to hear and feel that somebody loves them with acts of service and love. -R.C.

Bible Institute

We are ready to start the first class in the new Bible Institute. The first class will be taught by Pastor Carl Lutz from San Diego, CA and the class will be on the Old Testament. We look forward to the Opening Ceremony in March and the first day of classes with around 20 students! Please keep the Pastor Lutz and the students in your prayers. -R.C.

Legna's Corner

By Legna L.

The New Year is here and in 2012 there will be opportunities to grow and learn more about God's word and purpose for our lives.

This year our ministry with LBCM will be based in finding ways to fulfill His purpose of making disciples. Programs and special workshops are being prepared for children and teens, all aimed in cultivating the Word of God in their hearts.

Our challenge is to learn and understand which programs would be more beneficial to the youth in each of the communities. Tijuana is a very diverse and dynamic city and every community is different as the population has diverse beliefs and cultures.

The Angel Scholarship Program, sports, after school programs and counseling for parents have been programs that were successful in 2011 and previous years. Our hope is that more children and their families are integrated into our programs where they can be helped and be encouraged to learn more about God's word.

Children from low-income families, exposed to drugs, alcohol abuse and neglect are a large part of the population that we work with. This group of adolescents is at a higher risk of falling into the same problems and situations as their parents and communities. They especially are in great need to see, hear, and experience the Word of God.

Caring and ensuring their spiritual growth is important to us. In the communities and programs which we work in, adolescents learn that Christ is present in every situation and that they can be empowered with His Word so that they can live a full and healthy life now and when they reach adulthood.

I thank God for the opportunity to continue to serve another year in this area of Mexico, the border city of Tijuana, one of the areas most affected by the problems of poverty, child abuse and neglect. Thank you to every person and church congregation that has supported our work here, for putting your trust in us to bring the Word of God to youth in Tijuana.



Legna holding a Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead) traditional craft, the lesson was to teach children that in Jesus we have abundant life.

Receiving Gifts



Children from **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church** in San Luis Colorado, Sonora, enjoying their Christmas gifts. Some of these children rarely receive presents during Christmas or Three Kings Day (January 6th).
-R.C.

Please join us!
LBCM Annual Meeting
& Dinner
Saturday, March 10, 2012
3:00 p.m.
Calvary Lutheran Church
3060 54th St, San Diego CA
Please RSVP – 619-286-2445 or
lbcmsd@gmail.com

We really have a great need for the following items:

Rice
Beans
School Supplies

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

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. Choice Dollars lets Thrivent members help choose where Thrivent distributes its charitable funds. For more information go to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice . **Thank you to all who have already designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to LBCM!**

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.