



The Joy of Helping

By Pastor Joe Robb - Transform San Diego



“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much,” Helen Keller once said. This is a mantra that we believe to be true, and one we try to live by.

Partnership in ministry is a beautiful thing, and the more we are willing to work together, the more we can accomplish. This is the reason that we saw fit to partner with LBCM.

As a worshipping community in San Diego, it was an easy call for us to work alongside LBCM when we saw the incredible work they were doing across the border. Too often the church tends to see its mission field defined by manmade borders, but LBCM saw right through them.

We have begun a wonderful partnership that has brought us to Tijuana once a month for the last six months. We have aided in building of homes, running VBS, doing construction at local churches, and, in our most recent trip, providing school supplies for children.

During the month of August we were able to hand out school supplies to nearly 150 kids in the Tijuana outskirts of Maclovio. The beauty of partnering with LBCM is that it has opened even more doors to relationships and partnerships with the churches and people of Tijuana.

What an overwhelming task it would have been to know that there were people in great physical and spiritual need less than 30 miles from our homes in downtown San Diego, and have no clue how to reach them. To have LBCM leading the way into Tijuana, we are able to meet the needs of the people of Tijuana, not just what we assume to be their biggest needs.

This partnership has opened our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to a wonderful group of people and a city that needs the Gospel as much as our own. We strive to Live our lives including these people, Look around and see the needs, Listen to the stories of the people we meet and Love them in the way Christ would, meeting their needs so the Gospel can be shared.

Partnership is a wonderful thing, one that causes much to be accomplished, but even more so, one that begins to answer the prayer of Jesus in John 17, “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

We pray that the world would continue to see the legitimacy of Jesus as Christ, as we work together accomplishing great things in Mexico. May your partnership with LBCM grow and flourish, knowing that when we all work “together we can do so much.”

Little Help, Big Blessings

Patricia and Jose, along with their two children, one 2-year old and one 3-month old, receive a new home thanks to **St Paul of Shorewood** Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA. The family was evicted from their rental apartment the same week that their new home was build.



Martha, from **El Divino** (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church, pictured above on the left, along with members of the mission team and Alicia and Jose and family, celebrating the dedication of a new home on August 11, 2011.

St Paul of Shorewood also did some repairs on the roof and painted the walls at **El Divino** center, while some of the youth had VBS with the children from the church and community.

Volunteers from Tijuana churches, pictured below, after the blessing of the house they helped to build.



Thanks to the generous donation of a family from Southern California, volunteers from local churches from the Eastern and Western sides of Tijuana got together and built a home for Alicia and

Jose on September 3. Carmelo, project coordinator from Concordia center, and Daniel, the coordinator at El Divino center together led the group to provide a home for this family, members of **El Divino** Lutheran Church. The family has 5 members. The children enjoy going to church and activities. They have been waiting for this house for almost 3 years.



Pastor Joseph Robb along with members from **Transform San Diego** distributing back packs and school supplies to more than 150 kids. (Read more about this on page 1).



Children from **San Mateo** (St Matthew) Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado receiving school supplies. Even the little ones got crayons and coloring books to enjoy the rest of the summer.

School supplies in Mexico are double and sometimes triple the price as in USA. Your donations help our brothers and sisters south of the border. These children get connected with the church as they grow up listening to the story of Jesus Christ as mission teams teach them the love of God with items but also with the Word of God.

- R.C.

Legna's Corner

By Legna L.

Each year through the efforts of diverse organizations, churches, and individuals we can give hope and encouragement to adolescents and their families so they can continue their education. We also provide help with school supplies and most important, we share the love of Christ with them.

Education is an important part of development in children and adolescents. Many children do not have this opportunity as economic or social reasons keep them unable or unwilling to continue their basic education. The Angel Scholarship Program is a blessing for many families in Tijuana. I would like to share some photos and information about families that are benefiting from the scholarships.



Diana, 16-years old and her brother, Alfredo 13-years old, and their mother who works weekends cleaning houses. Alfredo would like to be a painter when he grows up and Diana's desire is to go into the Mexican military and study a career there.

In the next picture, we see Erik, who is 14-years old and his mother. Erik is going to High school and he helps his family economically by working in the traditional markets that are called 'Sobreruedas' (on wheels market).



Franco, below, is 12-years old and would like to become a forensic doctor. His mom, a single mother, works selling candy on the streets.



The academic school year has started. We are very happy that we have been able to give out 63 Angel Scholarships to High school and Junior high school students in need during 2011. Pray so we can involve more students in this program and connect them with our local churches. God bless these students and their families as well as the many people who made these scholarships possible. Thank you!

Christmas Toys and Socks

Please help us make it a brighter Christmas season for children in Mexico. We are again collecting Christmas toys and socks to give to children. Toys and socks can be for girls or boys, from babies to teens. The toys need to be unwrapped, no food products or gift cards please.

URGENT BASIC NEEDS

Rice & Beans
School Supplies
Ramen Noodle Cups
Blankets and Quilts
OTC Medications

Other Needs:

Digital camera (in good working condition)

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

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.