



## Some Ways We Serve in Mexico

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*



There are several ways LBCM serves the Lord with ministry in Mexico along the southern border. The population of the border area where we serve is more than 3,000,000 people. Most of them live under extremely difficult circumstances. Many face a lack of running water, unsuitable electrical systems, no sewers, low paying jobs, a bad transportation system, drug influences, early pregnancy problems, lack of skills to find a good quality job, a school system that is overcrowded and expensive, among other issues. Many are immigrants in their own country, Mexico,

coming from the far south in search of a better life.

Here are just a few examples of how we help and how you help when you contribute to LBCM. We want to continue to help and your support is very important to continue this essential ongoing ministry.

**House Building:** Every year small houses are built by volunteers, with most of the houses being built by mission teams from churches in the United States. The houses are 12-ft by 12-ft, with a window and secure door. Compared to the houses many live in, they are far more secure, warmer and dry in inclement weather.

**Youth Center:** The youth center is a place where children from El Maclovio community, south of Tijuana, can get help with homework, enjoy art classes and martial arts classes, receive Bible instruction and talk about other teen issues. We just purchased a piece of land with a building that is not in good repair, but we are able to use it to meet this opportunity to minister to kids that otherwise would not have the chance to participate in extra activities. We help them build character and give them skills to avoid getting in trouble, sharing about Jesus and giving them a chance to change their lives.

**Church Support and Activities:** Congregations, new churches and mission work are supported by LBCM to meet the spiritual needs of people in Mexico, allowing them to

hear the Gospel. We support pastors and the congregation activities as well. Activities include confirmation classes, celebrations of festivals like Christmas, Easter, etc. Toys and socks are distributed during Christmas and Epiphany. Blankets and quilts are distributed during the winter season. Food distributions (in small amounts) are given to the communities around the churches. When there is a need for a new church building to be built, volunteers gather and make it possible for the new mission to have a place to worship. At **Lirios de Los Valles** (Lily of the Valley), we just started English as Second Language class for children. This will help them in school and also in the future to find better jobs.

**Scholarships:** Most of the teenagers in Mexico cannot attend school because of the lack of money to buy books, uniforms, bus fares and tuition (in Mexico, public schools require tuition). When parents cannot afford to support their children in school, the children, as young as 16-years old, are sent to work in very low paying jobs or the older children are expected to watch their siblings while the mother goes to work. (We have found that the rate of single-mother families is extremely high in Mexico). We provide support to students to help them stay in school. We also encourage them and their parents to attend church to hear about God's love.

**Bible Institute:** We helped establish the Bible Institute this year and continue to support them with professors, materials and support for the students. The institute will not only train pastors but also members of the local churches and missions who want to help in their congregations. Some of them have expressed their interest in helping with social activities in order to share God's love with those in need of Christ.

These are only a few of the ways that we are serving the Lord in Mexico by serving others. With your support and prayers we can continue to share the love of God with those in need. -R.C.

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The following was written by Pastor Susan W. D. from **St. Matthew's** Lutheran

Church, North Hollywood, California after their recent mission trip to Tijuana.

On our latest trip, September 21-23, we were able to build two houses with twenty-three people from three churches, **St Matthew's** North Hollywood, **Bethel** in Encino, and **Salem** in Glendale (a few members are pictured below). We were truly blessed by the opportunity once again to partner with Carmelo and Lutheran Border Concerns. On this trip we had four children with us, their mother said to me that she was sure this experience would shape their lives. For all the adults who witnessed first hand the stark discrepancies between the economies of our two countries, it helped them to understand the immigrant situation in the United States, as well as what life is like for people who live just across our border.

We are pleased to be a part of the outreach of the Lutheran church. We are grateful for this witness to God's love and grace in word and deed to the people of the community. We read in the fourteenth chapter of Luke: "He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous'".

May God continue to strengthen all of us, so that this vital ministry can continue.



## Legna's Corner

The Angel Scholarship program helps teenagers to continue in their studies in Middle and High School. Many of these young people are having trouble with financial or social issues. The Youth Center and the Angel Scholarship program gives us an opportunity to learn more about the family and social situation of the adolescent which allows us to effectively offer assistance.

The Youth Center is located in the community called el Maclovio in Tijuana. It has been established to promote a healthy environment where youth at risk can find activities for enriched development and to get to know Christ in action through special programs and staff.



Guillermo, pictured above participating in a martial arts class, is a teenager who came to the Youth Center looking to be accepted. Although he is 15-years old, his actions are that of an 11-year old boy. It took a lot of work for him to be part of the youth group that was already formed at the Youth Center because he lacked confidence. He continued to attend the activities at the center and has gradually become a part of the group and has excelled with his noble character and his servant heart. Guillermo is an example of how hard work and dedication can open opportunities to grow and mature.

To make positive changes, teenagers need to be shown patience and the love of God. The Youth Center has opened its doors to many

young people and, along with the Angel Scholarship Program, can offer the opportunity to grow, be accepted and, most importantly, to have a relationship with God. Please continue to pray for the youth in Tijuana that they may all know the Love of Christ. Thank you for your support of these important programs!

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Children from **Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church**, the new name for the mission in Colonia Independencia, near San Luis Rio Colorado, singing a special song during worship. Lay Pastor Josafat, on the right, plays the guitar for them.

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On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, as part of the Bible Institute training, the students had the opportunity to join Pastor Richard Vevia, pictured above (second from the left), from **Calvary Lutheran Church**, San Diego, for a workshop on Apocalyptic literature. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pastor Lutz from San Diego taught the first session of the second class, the New Testament, with all the students from the first class returning.

## **Toys & Socks for Christmas**

Christmas will be here before we know it and we are again collecting **toys and socks** for children in Mexico. Toys can be for children ages newborn through teens. Toys need to be left unwrapped.

Please call our office – 619-286-2445 – with any questions.

**Thank you** for helping make the Christmas season a happy one for many children in need across the border in Mexico!

## **NEEDS**

**Rice & Beans**

**Christmas Gifts & Socks** (see note on left)

**School Supplies**

**Blankets & Quilts - New or gently used & clean**

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

**Thank you for your donation!**

**Follow us on Facebook at:**

[lbcm.sandiego@facebook.com](mailto:lbcm.sandiego@facebook.com)

**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!**

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.