



Giving Thanks and Praise with Rice and Beans

You might ask how we are able to give thanks and praise with rice and beans, I'll share with you my experience.

Rice, beans and tortillas have been the basic diet of Mexican people for centuries. Many times during a week, it is very much the only thing they eat. But rice and beans have been increasing in price in the border regions of Baja California, and families have to stretch what little they have to feed their family. In the desert areas, the scarcity of food is even greater. During summer months, not much is going on. School is out and there is no work and there is less money to buy food, but still people need to eat. In the past few years I have noticed something peculiar. Mothers tend to let their children sleep much longer and I always ask myself why? Then I realized that the more the children sleep, the less their mothers need to feed them. With so little food in their homes, the mothers need to plan wisely on when to feed their children, even if this is not the best for them. I always pray that these children have a good meal at least once a day.

When we receive rice and beans, we get excited because it means we can provide families at least a few more meals. Most of the time, I give the rice and beans to the local pastors or to the Breakfast Program coordinators. Occasionally, I participate in distributing the rice and beans to the people in need in their communities. In October, I filled the LBCM truck with some of the rice and beans donated by First Lutheran Church, Vista,

California. I headed to Santo Tomas (St Thomas) Lutheran mission in Mesa Rica and to San Pedro (St Peter) Lutheran mission in El Fronterizo, both in Sonora. Many of the parents were so happy and thankful to our Father, the Provider, that we were able to give them these simple groceries. Pastor Josafat and Eunice, a Breakfast Program coordinator, also delivered some of the precious food to families in need near their own homes.



Pictured above is Pastor Josafat on the left, I'm on the right, with some families that received some of the beans and rice, along with some donated blankets and school supplies.

Every time we stopped and gave families rice and beans, it reminded me of how our Lord and Savior makes every possible attempt to feed us with His Word, Sacraments, love and mercy! I am always overwhelmed that my God provides for us and we can provide for others in need with both material and spiritual needs.

We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas season!

More Opportunities to Share Blessings



Pastor Josafat was blessed to celebrate his birthday with his grandchildren, pictured above.



Many thanks to those that have donated quilts and blankets to us! It will be a non-ending list of names to list all of you here! What a pleasure to see little children or elderly people when they receive a quilt or blanket. Most of them hold the quilt or blanket to their chest, hugging it like something they already love, and of course, the smile that comes with it is even warmer!

LBCM has been helping a ladies cancer group, pictured on the next page.



I was invited to participate in an event where the ladies received a basket filled with food items. They also received scholarships for their children. We all enjoyed a nice meal as well. God provides opportunities for us to comfort those having difficult times in their lives.



With love from England! A sewing group from a church in England sent several packages for girls, each with a beautiful handmade dress, teddy bear and a new pair of undies.



We have been able to distribute a lot of school supplies. Here I am pictured with thankful

children that received school supplies and new backpacks. And pictured below is a girl that received a new backpack and other items.



It is hard to keep track of how many children are fed or that receive donated items through LBCM. We are able to count the number of houses built every year. (Last year 48 homes were built!) Those little houses are usually lived in by the immediate family and a few extra people. It is hard to keep track of how many families are given food, clothing, quilts, blankets and other items. But we know for sure that your help and support demonstrates Matthew 25:35-40 that begins “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” and ends with “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.

Giving to those in need is a way to thank our God for his goodness. The bonus is that He works his own way on the people we help. We help others because it is serving our God. Many times we never see the result of our help, but He who is in heaven does, and we just give thanks to whom all glory belongs.

I want to take a moment and add a few words on the caravan from Central America. In the last few weeks a lot has been said about the caravan of immigrants coming to the border regions. We are not involved in any specific

project to help at this time. We will be asking other organizations, when the time comes, if they would like to accept a little bit of help from LBCM. If needed, we can collect food, blankets and hygiene kits to be given out. We are also hoping to share with them God’s Word and the comfort of His peace and love.

R.C.

In a Season of Thankfulness

By Janet Grosser

It is that time of year when we pause and take the time to give thanks for all of our many blessings. So many times we take for granted all of the good things that happen to us or come our way. As Angel Wings sponsors, those who have decided to sponsor a child become a huge blessing in their lives - and receive big blessings themselves!

As a sponsor, you have the opportunity to change the future for a child who without your support, would most likely not be able to have hopes or dream dreams. The blessing of knowing that you will be able to stay in school and get an education is a real game changer for students. A sponsorship gives a child the ability and opportunity to fulfill their potential and realize their dreams.

And as a sponsor, the blessing comes to you in the form of getting to know your child, correspond with the, encourage them, rejoice with them in their accomplishments and share genuine love and concern. You have the joy of knowing that you really make a difference in the life of someone (a child). It is a true ‘heart-to-heart’ connection!

If you have not done so already, please consider becoming an Angels Wings sponsor. Your child will be forever grateful, and so will you! Let’s be thankful together!

Mark your calendar!

LBCM Annual Meeting & Dinner
Saturday, March 9, 2019, 4:30 pm

Watch for more information to come
in our next newsletter.

Christmas Gifts & Socks

We will again be collecting Christmas gifts of toys and socks for children, ages from baby to teen.

If you have any questions, contact us by email at: lbcmsd@gmail.com or by phone at 619-286-2445

We will accept the gifts through January 6th - Epiphany

NEEDS

Rice & Beans
Quilts & Blankets
Socks – children & adults
Used Vehicle - in good condition
for new mission work

We also accept monetary donations for purchase of these items.

Thank you for your donation!

Follow, like and share us on facebook: **LBCMSD** and at **Angels Wings-Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry**
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

LUTHERAN BORDER CONCERNS MINISTRY (formerly The Lutheran Baja California Mission) is an 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.