

Latin American Lutheran Mission

CLARION

Vol. 69, No. 4

“You shall be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

August 2004

“Lord of the Past, Lord of the Future”

I will build my church and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. —Matthew 16:18

LALM Annual Meeting

Monday, September 20, 2004

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls

5212 - 41st Avenue South • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Office: 612-724-3691

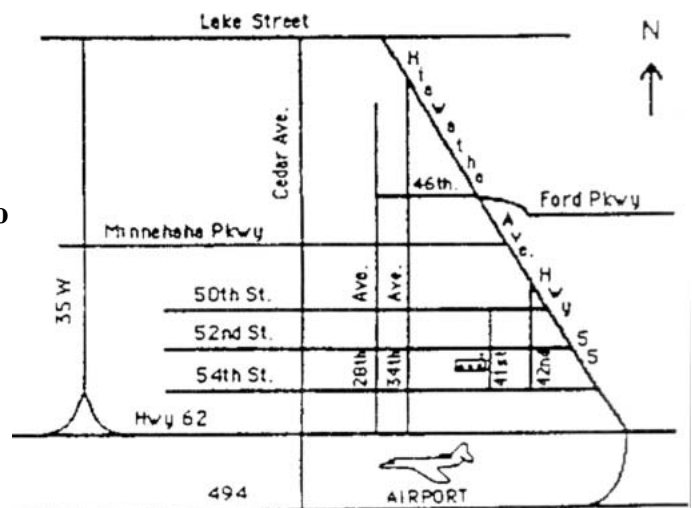
12:30 pm Lunch
 1:30 pm Singspiration, Devotions
 2:00 pm Sharing by groups or individuals
 that have been to the border
 3:00 pm Break and Fellowship Time
 5:30 pm Registration

6:00 pm Banquet and Program
 Welcome - Pastor Tedd Ostrem,
 Trinity of Minnehaha Falls
 Short Business Meeting
 Special Free Will Offering
 Evangelical Church of Mexico

Please call the church office to make reservations for noon lunch and banquet. Phone 612-724-3691.

A trailer provided by Servant Unique Family Ministries will be at the LALM Annual Conference again this year to transport quilts, kits, and layettes to Mexico.

Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls
 5212 - 41st Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN
 612-724-3691
 Corner of 52nd St. and 41st Avenue South



Thank You Carol and Gary!

At the end of May 2004, the pastors from Mexico came together in Nuevo Laredo for their conference. During the conference they gave a farewell luncheon at a hotel in Nuevo Laredo for Gary and Carol Olson. Twenty-two of the twenty-three pastors were present and they each shared words of thanks and words of farewell. They presented the Olsons with a plaque with a message of thanks. It stated as follows:

1990-2004

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico confers the present recognition on the Honorable Victor Gary Olson and his wife Carol Olson

–For the help bestowed through the different groups of brothers who came from the United States of America offering their work, time and money, all of these efforts coordinated by our brother Olson as missionary director of the Latin American Lutheran Mission.

–We send our sincere thanks to the Olsons for the help and encouragement given to all the pastors and their families of the church of Mexico during these years in which we worked as a team in the work of God in Mexico.

–Thank you Gary and Carol and may God bless you.

“The sower went out to sow...” Mateo 13:3

“A virtuous woman - Who can find her?” Proverbs 32:10



Latin American Lutheran Mission

ELC-M Partners Who Help Proclaim the Gospel

Incorporated in 1936, LALM is a faith mission depending entirely upon God for the supplying of its needs through the prayer and freewill offerings of His people as the Holy Spirit moves them. LALM is an independent Lutheran organization, having members on its Board of Directors from various Lutheran bodies. To learn more about LALM, please feel free to contact the board member nearest you.

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V. Gary Olson, Retired 162 Paintbrush Trl., Lockhart, TX 78644	
Rev. Ricardo Dominguez 3518 Salinas Ave., Laredo, TX 78041	956-722-2273 H 956-722-2427 H
LALM Guest House 3517 Salinas Ave., Laredo, TX 78041	
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Our NEW web site: www.lalm-elcm.org

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Faith & Fellowship Press, Clarion Editor Contact: Milo Scott 1020 Alcott Ave. W., Fergus Falls, MN 56537	800-332-9232 O

Latin American Lutheran Mission Clarion

The Clarion is published bimonthly by LALM for friends of the Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico. If you wish to be a prayer helper in this Mission for Mexico and would like to receive the Clarion, please contact the Editor at the address listed under "Mission Staff." There is no specific subscription price for the Clarion, but for those who wish to and have the means to help LALM with its cost, it is about \$3.00 per year for each mailing address. Please send contributions to our Treasurer at the address listed under "Mission Staff."

Publication deadline for the next Clarion issue is September 3, 2004.

Donations for LALM should be mailed to:
PO Box 17385, Minneapolis, MN 55417-7385

Mission Delivery via Orphan Grain Train

In March a semi-load of clothes was delivered to the mission in Laredo. It was 751 boxes plus some medical supplies and other odds and ends. It was a donation from an organization called Orphan Grain Train. The organization works in partnership with the International Lutheran Laymen's League. The things we received were from their Wisconsin Division. It was very organized, each box being marked with what was inside, such as, "men's winter clothing" or "children's summer clothing."

The load was first delivered to a warehouse of friends of the mission, the Bowens. Then Ricardo Dominquez who works at the mission would make daily trips and bring 50 to 100 boxes and he lined the walls of Hobart-Pfluger hall and other people helped organize the tables with the men's, women's and children's clothing.

Several pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico came and went thru and picked clothes to take back with them. And then we invited the churches of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo to come and take boxes for their churches.

What a blessing it has been to many people and what a lot of hard work was done by so many volunteers before it reached us as well as the many volunteers from Bethel Lutheran in Laredo to distribute it. Thank you all so very much.



CAN-DO Jr. High in Laredo

Mission Trip Reflections

The language of God's love is universal! You can share it with everyone you meet and the love continues to grow. The children of Nuevo Laredo have so little and appreciate the smallest things. It is a tremendous blessing to share the immensity of God's love with them.

—Arlyn Maloy

God is very mysterious when it comes to showing us what He wants us to learn. On this trip I brought a soccer ball to play with at VBS in Mexico. On Thursday, I decided to give the soccer ball to an older Mexican youth, and he was more concerned about me leaving than the actual ball. Through this God showed me the heart and deep compassion of the Mexicans, and also His strong love for each of us. He is always with us and cares for us!

—Jacob Knettel

Children in Nuevo Laredo, especially in the alley where we held VBS, truly desire the simple things in life. They were extremely content with the little amount of crafts, coloring pages, and games that we offered them. However, the only thing that these children wanted from us was our love and smiles. Here in America children are not even content with TV sometimes, yet Mexican children are happy just with our being there. A statement that I read on this trip that touched my heart was written by St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel and if necessary use words." That statement does not ask much of us, but the Good News is what these children truly need – the knowledge of the love of their Savior. From our point of view they live in poverty but they are more than rich spiritually because they have Jesus Christ in their hearts. All that we need to do is to show our love, joy and our willingness to help even if we cannot speak the language well.

—Jake Hedrick

God taught me on this trip how grateful we should be for all the things we have. In Mexico they were grateful to have a package of crayons and some paper. When we gave them these things their faces were like ours if we had "won a million dollars." From this experience I have a good understanding of how grateful we should be for all the things we have.

—Michael Streeter

Jesus calls us to serve others as if we were serving Him. It is no wonder that He provides opportunities like mission trips to help us rise to meet His call as He imparts His strength, wisdom, and love to His glory. Whether we were serving in Laredo at Faith Lutheran Church with 17 children eager to fellowship, working at El Calvario in Nuevo Laredo hauling trash and painting, working at Latin American

Lutheran Mission helping the new director move in and the previous director move out, or teaching VBS at Benito Juarez street (playing "pato, pato, ganzo," singing Spanish songs, and acting out Bible stories for 60-75 kids), we were serving the Lord. Christ is the foundation of our faith, and His love removes all obstacles and helps transcend any differences between the two cultures. The joy we received was immeasurable, as we saw the gratitude in the eyes of those we served. Their excitement was seen in their smiles, giggles, and hugs. They ran to hold hands with us as we arrived each day, and their faces were sad when we had to say good-bye. Our final day of VBS there was an older man sitting on a bicycle who also professed Jesus as his savior and wanted to take a Bible story book with him so he could learn more about Jesus. I've learned that we sometimes shortchange our joy by limiting God's boundaries for ourselves. It is only when we step out in faith and allow the Holy Spirit to carry us where He needs us to serve that we can fully appreciate the love He gives us and commands us to share. Thank you Lord and Messiah for this opportunity

—A fellow servant in Christ, Peggy Hadrick

I'd like to share some of the closing comments from Pastor Antonio at El Calvario, and Pastor Dick at LALM. Pastor Antonio thanked us for coming to work and share Jesus in Nuevo Laredo. He said that his congregation thanks God for us and needs us to be partners with them in sharing the Gospel. Everyone is welcome at El Calvario Lutheran. He encouraged us to come back every year until Jesus comes again to take us all home to heaven. What an awesome picture of the body of Christ!

Pastor Dick had an interesting object lesson to share with us as we were saying our final prayer and good-byes. He talked about the shed that had been cleaned out by our volunteers. It had so much junk in it that it could not be used as a storage shed for the things that are necessary for the ministry of LALM. How often are our lives so full of stuff that doesn't matter, that we cannot be used by God to do the things that really do matter – loving God and our neighbor? I hope you will take a moment to ponder that question. What things do you need to get rid of so that you can faithfully love and serve God and your neighbor? May God enable us all to Live Simply so others may Simply Live!

—In His love, Pat Fick

"Can-Do" is a ministry that originated in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to provide congregations with short term mission opportunities and the LALM is one they recommend. We are happy to partner with Can-Do. Through them the word spreads in an ever widening circle about the LALM and its work with the Evangelical Church of Mexico, and through them needed resources reach the church of Mexico.

VBS in Mexico with ELCM – Summer 2003

The LALM has been helping supply the materials for summer outreach to the children for many years. Through the years the VBS program has been a great success. This past year over 3003 children were instructed through VBS in over 19 locations. The ELCM has held a contest to see which pastor would have the most children in the VBS. Rev. Samuel Diaz of Bethany Lutheran in Apodaca won for this past year of 2003 with 497. The cost of these materials has been about \$1800 per summer. We have a great opportunity to share with Mexican children about Jesus. The doors are open. Please join us in prayer for the summer of 2004 VBS program.

Church	Students	Pastor
1. Youth Center – San Rafael	300	Rev. Juan Cortez
2. Jordan River – Villa Mainera	0	Rev. Ulises Lopez
3. Calvary Lutheran – Nuevo Laredo	380	Rev. Antonio Tirado
4. Ebenezer Lutheran – Saltillo	185	Rev. Bulmaro Velasquez
5. Sower Lutheran – Rio Bravo	395	Rev. Carlos de Leon
6. Bethany – Apodaca	497	Rev. Samuel Diaz
7. Upper Room Lutheran – La Boca	150	Rev. Homero Cortez
8. Mission Philadelphia – Saltillo	292	Rev. Marco Antonio Rdz
9. Sinai – El Potosi	130	Rev. Eduardo Aguillon
10. Christ the King Luth – Atongo	173	Rev. Glen Estrada
11. St John – Huachichil	39	Geronimo Salazar
12. Shalom – Torreon	0	Rev. Juan De Leon
13. Gethsemane Luth – Monterrey	84	Rev. Brigido Villarreal
14. Good Shepherd Luth – Torreon	50	Rev. Jesus Velasquez
15. Nazareth Luth – Matehuala	53	Rev. Hilario Castro
16. Our Savior's – Guadalupe	96	Rev. Brigido Villarreal
17. The Good Shepherd – Saltillo	61	Rev. Mucio Reyes
18. Only Grace – Nuevo Laredo	42	Rev. Aureliano Zapata
19. The Lamb – Saltillo	29	Rev. Rogelio Salazar
20. Mission – Linares	20	Rev. David Aguillon
21. Only Faith – Nuevo Laredo	27	Rev. Arnulfo Camacho
TOTAL:	3003	



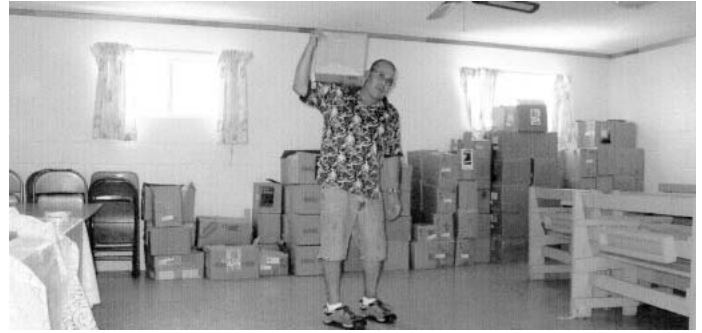
Rev. Samuel Diaz, Rev. Carlos de Leon,
Rev. Antonio Tirado



May Mission Delivery of Literature

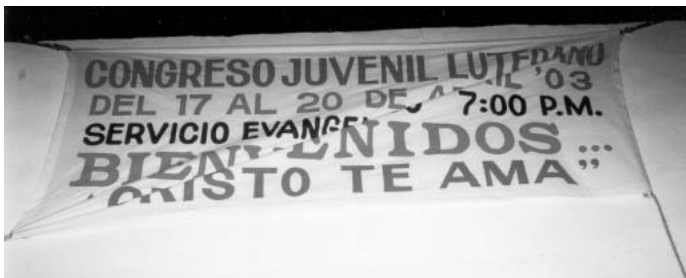
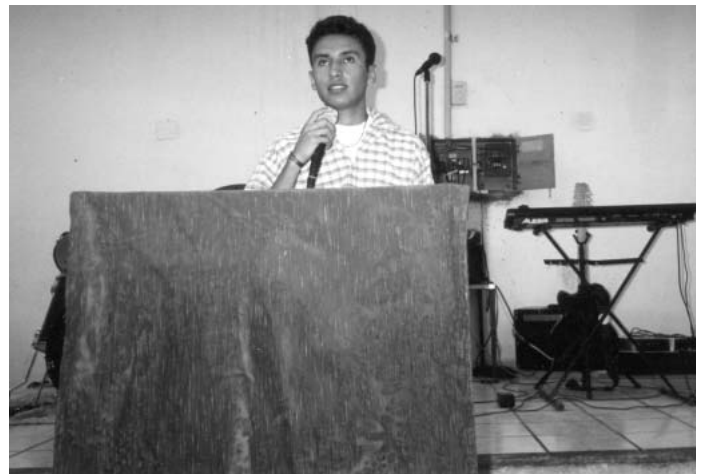
After receiving a semi-load of clothing and miscellaneous items for Mexico in April, the month of May brought more treasures to the mission in Laredo. We received 3 skids of Spanish tracts, books, study books, etc. from an organization called ICLD. Those initials stand for International Christian Literature Distributions. They receive Christian literature in the form of Bibles, books and tracts and then redirect them to countries and people groups around the world that can use (reuse) the materials. It is all done by volunteers and everything is paid for by faithful people who desire to spread the Good News about Jesus.

The material we received from ICLD was a donation from the Billy Graham Association. This included thousands of tracts, all in Spanish, Gospels of John, children's booklets titled "Jesus te Ama" as well as numerous other books and study books on evangelizing— everything in Spanish! What a blessing that will be to the pastors in Mexico. Many have already seen the items and are saying, "Do you have more?" Let us join together to pray for a great harvest, pray that people will find Jesus and desire to live for Him because of this great gift. Our sincere thanks to all those at ICLD who give of your time and gifts and finances to spread the gospel to the whole world! May the Lord bless this work with a great harvest!



Holy Week Youth Congress

During Holy Week, the Lutheran young people of Mexico met for their Youth Congress. This year they gathered together in Matehuala. They rented a salon (hall) to meet in as the church there is not large enough to hold everyone. There were around 60 youth and pastors. Several of the Mexican Lutheran churches have praise teams and they all shared during the conference. The young people shared the Seven Last words on Good Friday. A blessed time was had by all.





Gifts of Love



The following persons and organizations provided gifts, donations, or bequests to the Latin American Lutheran Mission in May through June of 2004. The LALM Board of Directors and staff are grateful for all these gifts as well as those gifts of time and talents. (If you do not want to be recognized by the Clarion for your gift, please send a note along with your contribution to the Treasurer/Financial Secretary stating your desire for anonymity.) We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Individuals:

Aarsvold, Wallace and Lorraine ~ Kasson, MN
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The Gospel Bookstore ~ Laredo, TX

Lake Madison Lutheran Church ~ Madison, SD
 Trinity Lutheran Church of Mhaha Falls, Minneapolis, MN
 Pontoppidan Lutheran Church ~ Fargo, ND
 South Zumbro Luth Church ~ Kasson, MN
 Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Yankton, SD
 Zion Lutheran Church of Bone Lake ~ Frederic, WI
 Fertile Lutheran ~ Fertile, IA
 Legander LCW ~ White, SD
 West Prairie WELCA ~ West Fargo, ND

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 Lorraine Haller
 Lanny Hanson
 Mrs Talona Nelson
 Irene Njus
 Gary and Carol Olson
 Bea Pope
 Hobart Home Remodeling

Estates

Emma Lorentson

The Banquet and Annual Conference of LALM is Monday, September 20th at Trinity Lutheran Church, Minnehaha Falls 5212 - 41st Avenue South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Our theme this year is:

*“Lord of the Past,
 Lord of the Future”*

We will be installing Pastor Richard Erickson as the new director of LALM. We will also be honoring Gary and Carol Olson for their years of service with the mission.

Please Note:

We have a new PO Box address for contributions.
We also have a new e-mail address.

New mailing address:
Latin American Lutheran Mission
PO Box 17385
Minneapolis, MN 55417-7385

New e-mail address:
lalmelcm@aol.com

LALM
Prayer Warriors

August 2004

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

How many times do we pause and thank God? We receive so much each day and I do not take time to say thank you Lord. My prayer is, teach me Lord to be more thankful. Thanks again for your faithfulness. God is working in Mexico and on the border. Thanks again for your support of Carol and me during these 14 years.

Items of Praise

- God's blessing on the youth congress in July
- The 26 Summer teams who ministered in Mexico.
- Dick and Barb Erickson are settled in as directors at the Laredo Border Station.
- Dedication of the new church in Atongo
- Good fellowship at the May conference of ELCM pastors.
- Thanks for Becky Liebenow our Summer intern.
- The joy of fellowship with Lutherans from across the spectrum : Lutheran Brethen, ELCA, AFLC, and Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

On-going Prayer Concerns

- Gary and Carol Olson's relocation to Lockhart, TX.
- Healing prayer for Gary's physical needs.
- Healing for Rev. Jesus Velasquez' wife.
- Healing for Rev. Cruz Herrera.
- Dick and Barb Erickson's challenges learning the administration of the LALM.
- The preparations for the September 20, 2004 LALM Annual meeting.
- Safe travel for the pastors and directors to Minnesota in September.
- Opportunities for the Mexican pastors to share in churches in the Twin Cities area.
- For wisdom and for the leadership of the ELCM.
- For the literature ministry of the Gospel Bookstore in Laredo.
- For Rev. Bulmaro Velasquez' ministry in the prison.
- For unity and revival in the mission and in the church of Mexico.
- For the new ministry center in Monterrey.
- For Rev. Carlos de Leon's radio ministry.
- For the new work in Nuevo Laredo.
- For Ricardo Dominguez' ministry in Bethel Lutheran and with the mission.

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