



Latin American Lutheran Mission

CLARION

Vol. 70, No. 4

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

August 2005

“From Sowing to Reaping”

“...in due season we shall reap...” —Galatians 6:9

LALM Annual Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2005

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls

5212 - 41st Avenue South • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Office: 612-724-3691

12:30 pm	Lunch	6:00 pm	Banquet and Program
1:30 pm	Singspiration, Devotions		Welcome - Pastor Mike Hanson,
2:00 pm	Sharing by groups or individuals that have been to the border		Trinity of Minnehaha Falls
3:00 pm	Break and Fellowship Time		Short Business Meeting
5:30 pm	Registration		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, Violet



Violet Anderson was a distinguished missionary who worked with the Latin American Lutheran mission as manager of our Gospel Bookstore after retiring from the World Mission Prayer League. She passed into the presence of Jesus her Lord on July 13, 2005 at the glorious age of 91. We honor her ministry with the LALM.

Violet was born in Edinburg, South Dakota and graduated from the Edinburg High School in 1932. From 1941 until 1945 she worked at the Plymouth Gospel Mission in Minneapolis. She attended Seattle Lutheran Bible Institute from 1945 thru 1947. During those years she worked at Parkland Children's Home in Everett, Washington with her sister, Lydia.

In 1947 Violet went to Bolivia as a missionary with the World Mission Prayer League where she served for 18 years until 1965. At that time she was asked to be the Business Manager at the WMPL Home Office in Minneapolis. There she served faithfully for 13 years until her retirement in 1978, making a total of 31 years with WMPL.

Violet's ministry in Bolivia included managing the book store and working with a large youth group in La Paz, living/working at the country station at Chuma, and also at the orphanage on Coaba Farm. Her home was always open.

During the years she was in charge of the youth work in La Paz, every Saturday she made DOZENS of doughnuts which the young people thoroughly enjoyed, after which she shared God's Word with them. She also opened her home to people who were convalescing after an illness or surgery

Violet had a great love for good books, especially her Bible, and also authors like Martyn Lloyd-Jones. She was well read, a deep thinker, knew her Bible well, and wherever she lived, she enjoyed teaching Bible classes and often played the piano (or folding organ).

After retiring from World Mission Prayer League, Violet came to Laredo, Texas to work with the Latin American Lutheran Mission, where she managed the Gospel Book Store from 1984-89. After her health began to fail, she moved back to Minneapolis where she lived in an Ebenezer apartment and also worked part-time for several years in their business office. One day her boss remarked to Violet, "YOUR ATTITUDE AND FAITH SHINE ALL OVER THIS PLACE!"

About three years ago Violet moved to Augustana Home. Lately she mentioned to her visitors her deep desire to go Home to be with Jesus. She knew she belonged to Him and that He was preparing a Home in heaven for her.

Violet's life and witness touched the hearts of many people for the Lord! Blessed be her memory!

— Marge Erickson

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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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 9, 2005.

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

“Faith Alone” Celebrates 2nd Anniversary and Installs New Pastor

Two years ago there was no Faith Alone Lutheran Church in Nuevo Laredo, but on Wednesday, July 27, 2005 they celebrated in their simple house of worship their second anniversary. Faith Alone is one of the two satellite missions of Calvary



2nd Anniversary service of Faith Alone Congregation

Lutheran in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. (The other is “Grace Alone” Lutheran which is pastored by Aureliano Ortega, who recently married.) Last winter I was able to get better acquainted with Sola Fe (“Faith Alone”) helping two different short term mission groups who came to the border to work



with the our Lutheran churches. Teams are a tremendous blessing to the nucleus of believers and they impact the neighborhood around the church, too. Sola Fe is located in a new area of Nuevo Laredo on the outskirts. The church does not have either electricity or plumbing yet, though the groups have nearly completed the outdoor toilet. Even as Pastor Antonio Tirado, Pastor of Calvary Lutheran, preached his message congratulating Faith Alone on this important day, he announced the intention to open a third mission, Word Alone Lutheran, in yet another area of this growing border city.



Installation of Saul Uriostegui

This was a special day for another reason, as well. Pastor Saul Uriostegui was installed as the new pastor of Sola Fe. He and two other families will together form a ministry team. Pastor Tirado formally commissioned them and their ministry was celebrated by a full church of well wishers. Pastor Saul has a special motivation for evangelism (like his Apostolic namesake). Because he was led to Christ while “doing time” for drug offenses, he understands those who are in that life style and knows how to reach them. He enjoys ministering in the local prison where several gave their hearts to Christ recently.

Mission Team Collage



SAMS ND Group to Saltillo



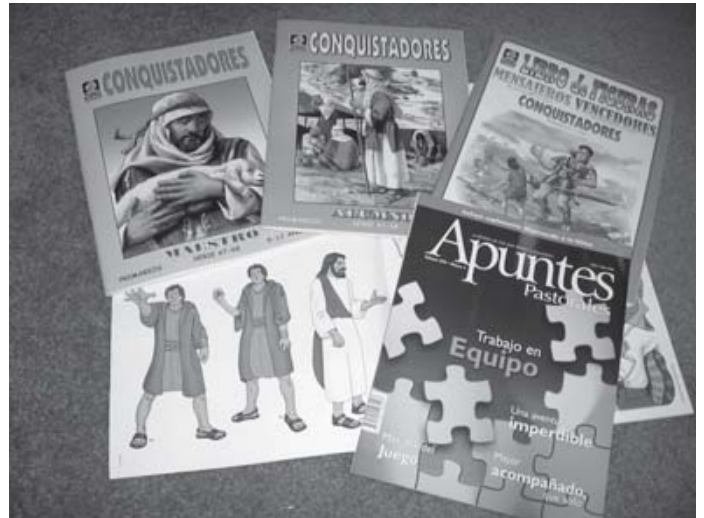
Grace Lutheran - Parker, SD to Bethany-Apodaca

Teach and Train

What is our main purpose as a mission? We have been blessed with 26 teams coming through Laredo this summer to bless the people and churches of Mexico. They have given heart and soul to improving both the churches and parsonages of the ELCM. Some years down the way these tasks will be completed. Before that time comes we would like to see more teams coming with increased ministry skills. VBS, and kid's clubs have been a part of most teams. This is the core purpose of our mission. To reach and to teach. The church in Mexico is reaching out to those who need the Lord. How can we help them teach and train? We help them through the Literature Fund and the Bible School movement.

The Literature Fund includes the providing of Bibles, tracts and teaching materials. Pastors and their wives, receive a quarterly magazine called "Apuntes", rich in helps for the ministry. The Sunday School Sponsorship program is something many have been interested in. Many churches that have the greatest needs have a link now with a congregation in the states that will help them be better prepared to teach. The women in Matehuala are asking for a dozen Bible study guides for this fall. We can order these material through the bookstore here on our border station, but it is paid for by the mission. If you or your church is not apart of this sponsorship program, there is still great need for the literature fund. The fund is always running dry and often in the hole.

Two video cabinets with 9 videos for children are now in circulation in Mexico. The problem is most of the churches don't have the equipment to show these videos. Elizabeth, our summer intern, along with her some of her friends, bought a TV/VCR combination for one video cabinet/archive. When asked this summer what the team should leave behind as a team gift to the church they worked with, we often responded with "give them a TV/VCR combo". Music tapes are another item that can be a great blessing



and benefit for the children and adults in the churches. But again cassette/CD players is another item that many churches don't have. This fall, we will be visiting the churches again and making an updated list of each churches needs for teaching and training. Contact us at the mission office if you want a list of this update.

How can you help teach and train? We are looking into Spanish resources for skits and plays, for puppets and people. We will be offering some of these resources at the September annual conference for teams to work on. Puppet patterns to be sewn, will also be available at the Annual meeting on September 19th. If you like to sew, this may be a way of helping the church teach. The women at the pastors conferences are asking for puppets. Do you know how to teach puppetry? Clowning? Mime? Is there a ministry skill you could help teach? We are looking for people with skills like these to pass on to others at a Short Term Mission workshop next year. Please call us if you can help.

Mission Team Collage Continued



New Hope Lutheran – Osian, Indiana



CAN-DO – Dallas, Texas to El Calvario – Nuevo Laredo



Messiah – Boerne, Texas to Border Station in Laredo, Texas



Lands Lutheran – Zumbrota, Minnesota to Aposento Alto – La Boca



St. Andrews Mission Society (group at left and two workers at right)



Continued on last page

Bible Institute Update



On Saturday, July 9, 2005 the “Inspiration” Bible Institute currently located in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico had it’s graduation. The Bible Institute director, Pastor Rogelio Balvantin presented the graduating class to the assembled guests. Four students completed the year of studies and were present to receive their well deserved diplomas. The President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico gave the commencement address. Professors, parents, family, and friends were also present to celebrate this milestone. Other students were present who had completed selected courses or been part time. Many more students continue their studies in Nuevo



Laredo by extension. In 2005-2006 we expect the numbers of students pursuing personal growth and leadership development through extension to grow. Most emerging leaders have significant local responsibilities and on-going work and vocational commitments that prevent them from traveling to another city to be full-time students, so the church is planning to offer various “intensives,” three day concentrated workshops. Continue to pray for us as we give additional shape to theological education for leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico.

Summer of Blessings

Elizabeth Paschka

This summer I had the opportunity to work as an intern for the Latin American Lutheran Missions in Laredo, Texas. In my six weeks as intern, I was able to see God working in a variety of ways and was blessed by the people I met and the lessons I learned. I am now back home, looking over the 500 some pictures I took during my trip and counting my blessings.

Blessing number one: the outpouring of love in prayers and financial donations that made my internship possible. I was supported by churches and individuals who have a passion for God and His people in Mexico. I can't even begin to say thank you to them for the gift they have given me.

Blessing number two: Barb and Dick Erickson. These two are the driving force behind LALM; they work long and hard to determine the needs of the churches in Mexico and find ways to meet these needs while also reaching out to the groups that come down. I was with the Ericksons when Barb talked to a few of the pastors wives about what toys were needed for the church and when they brought a microwave to Veronica, an older woman who has played and still plays a very important role in the church in Mexico. I got to see them teach Microwave 101 in Spanish; it was a blessing. It wasn't the microwave that made it so important but the fact that these two people cared enough about the needs of their friend to bring the necessary tools, explain how to use it, and have fun and laughter in the process. I was able to see how important relationships are to Barb and Dick. Personally I have experienced a wonderful parent/daughter relationship with Barb and Dick; one filled with laughter, prayer, advice, and love. It is because of these relationships, with God, the people in the teams that come down, and the people of Mexico, that this awesome couple has a passion to do God's work.

Blessing number three: Ricardo Dominguez. Ricardo and I worked together for two weeks with groups in Saltillo and Huachichil. He is a jack of many trades—translator, sandcrete mixer, problem solver, jokester, pastor...the list could go on. In between making sure the group was taken care of and directing the work projects, Ricardo made time for the people we were serving. Whether it was handing out soccer balls to the youth of Huachichil or talking to one of the guys hired to help lay cement, he made relationships a priority. He also brought the gift of laughter as he cracked joke after joke during meals and work time. What a blessing! Through working with Ricardo, God taught me to put 100% minimum into my relationships with my family, my friends, people at church, my classmates, and people I just met.

Blessing number four: relationships with team members. I traveled with two groups this summer and in the short time we had working side by side, God brought us together and formed special friendships. Some time during the painting, mixing and hauling sandcrete, singing praises to God in English and Spanish, eating, talking to people we met in Mexico, and interacting with the kids, we were blessed with a bond that no man could break. God had brought us together to work as one in service and even now, when we have returned to our homes in different states, we are still connected.

Blessing number five: smiles and laughter. I was able to work with children in Saltillo, Huachichil, and Rio Bravo. Though they have very little and are already facing struggles at



their young age, they were quick to laugh and smile at what was going on. I can't imagine a more beautiful sound than laughter. These precious blessings reminded me that I need to be joyful and I need to show that joy.

Blessing number six: seeing God's work continue. Last year I had chaperoned a trip to Rio Bravo and this summer I was able to return for two weeks to teach a kids club with the help of women from the church. While I was there I could see what God had been doing in the area since the team left last summer. The church had continued, and almost completed, the construction project we had started on. Rooms that we had helped paint now housed medical exam rooms and medications. The kids had grown, but were just as endearing as ever. By the end of my second week there, I was attached to the people I had been worshiping with, the women I had been working with, and the children I had been teaching. It was hard to think about leaving. The Wednesday before I left I attended a prayer service for the women and God got my attention: As much as I loved these people, didn't He love them more? Sure I gave up a few weeks up of my summer, He gave His life. Hadn't I seen His faithfulness to Rio Bravo? What could I do for them that He couldn't? I cried, knowing that I would have to leave my friends, but rejoiced in knowing that God was going to be right there with them. The day I left Rio Bravo, another team was arriving. And so the work continues, teams will visit the churches in Mexico, build relationships, work with the churches, and take a piece of Mexico with them when they return to the United States. In between groups, the congregations continue the work God has for them as they reach out to their communities. Through it all, God is faithful.

This summer was incredible. I really have no other word for what I saw and experienced. The testimonies of the teams that I talked to made me so excited; God is moving in Mexico! There are giants of faith—pastors, students, teachers, mothers, fathers, and kids—who are taking a stand for Christ in their churches and communities and it is overwhelming. Thank you for your support of this wonderful mission. Your prayers, time, financial commitments, and love have been a blessing to the mission and to me as I have been able to participate in the work of the mission.



Gifts of Love



The following persons and organizations provided gifts, donations, or bequests to the Latin American Lutheran Mission in May through June of 2005. 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.

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 In memory of Ben Bungum
 In memory of Leni Evenson
 In memory of Jeanette Porter
 In memory of Merlaine Samuelson
 In memory of Ethel Sunnerlet
 In honor of Verda Akland

In honor of Harold Anderson's Birthday

In honor of:

The ministry of Sanford Haugen

Estates

Carl Pearson

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 North Heights Lutheran Church ~ Roseville, MN
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Special Note:

Our e-mail address is:
lalmelcm@sbcglobal.net

The PO Box address
 for contributions is:

**Latin American
 Lutheran Mission
 PO Box 17385
 Minneapolis, MN 55417-7385**



Roseni of Beresford, South Dakota at Nazareth – Matchualal

LALM – Prayer Warriors August 2005

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord...”

Praise and Thanksgiving:

1. Thanks be to God for the 100 youth present for July 13-15 Youth Camp held at La Boca del Refugio. The Lord showed up to bless in a marvelous way.
2. Thanks be to God for the 25 teams that have completed a week of service to the mission and to the church of Mexico this summer.
3. Thank you Lord for our border intern Elizabeth Paschka who completed her ministry July 19th.
4. Thank you Lord for sparing our churches and people in Mexico of serious injury during the onslaught of hurricane Emily.
5. Thank you God for the four graduates of the Bible Institute “Inspiration” who finished their studies and are now on internships.
6. Thank you Lord for local friends and volunteers that you have supplied to help with maintenance at our border station.
7. Thank you Lord for the Stateside churches you have raised up to sponsor Sunday Schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the ELCM pastors and LALM staff as they prepare to share with churches in the Upper Midwest in September.
2. Pray for wisdom and vision to be given to the LALM board as they meet September 19, 2005 and for the annual LALM dinner and association which meets that day at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity of Minnehaha Falls.
3. Pray for safe travel to Minnesota and open doors to share the challenges and opportunities in Mexico.
4. Pray for the continued outpouring of evangelistic motivation upon the pastors and new leaders in the ELCM.
5. Pray for additional staff for enlarging the partnerships with Stateside churches, and improving the mission’s service to the ELCM.
6. Pray for the empowerment and growth of the graduates of the ELCM Bible Institute as they complete their internship and prepare for active ministry.
7. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to bring forth new students for the fall quarter at the Bible Institute and for those developing the plan for the continued education of the current pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico.



Redeemer – Ft. Worth, Texas to Good Samaritan – Saltillo

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