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CHURCH'S SUMMER FIESTA ATTRACTS GUESTS



BNM Photo: Seth Powers

People from Las Cruces gather in the parking lot at Calvary Baptist Church, Las Cruces, for Summer Fiesta, July 21. Food trucks provided by Las Cruces Food Truck Fiesta offered a variety of food.

The Mission New Mexico State Missions Offering special edition is coming next month. Information and promotional material is online at bcnm.com/MissionNewMexico.

By Karen Pilgreen

LAS CRUCES (BNM) – A Las Cruces church planned outdoor activities and food trucks for an event aimed at reaching its community.

Seth Powers, the creative media director at Calvary Baptist Church, Las Cruces, explained the reason for the church's Summer Fiesta, July 21. He said, "We want to show the Gospel by loving our community and being ready and available for them, even if they don't go to church or know Jesus yet."

Originally planned as a Cinco de Mayo event, the fiesta sought to partner with and benefit the Las Cruces community. However, Calvary decided to schedule it in July to avoid other activities on Cinco de Mayo.

It partnered with Las Cruces Food Truck Fiesta, a group of local food trucks that schedules trucks on summer Wednesday evenings at local movie theaters and farmers markets. According to Powers, "The

food trucks offer a variety of food to satisfy even picky eaters."

Janet Beatty-Payne is the organizer for FTF. She and her husband, Patrick, run the Green Chili Paddy Wagon truck. "All of the seven food trucks participating [in the event] did well in ... sales. And, this event provided all of us an opportunity to vend to a different customer base than just our typical Food Truck Fiesta attendees," she said.

The church staged the event in its north parking lot. The seven food trucks, an inflatable water slide, lawn games, and live music provided by the church's student band filled the lot. Calvary's children's ministry made treat bags and handed out water balloons and bubbles.

The event's atmosphere was relaxed and casual, "which is the Las Cruces vibe," Powers said. "Adding in the music and the water slide, along with our tables, chairs and food, really provided the families a fun



BNM Photo: Michael Lujan

The children's ministry of Calvary Baptist Church, Las Cruces, hand out treat bags, water balloons and bubbles to attendees at the church's Summer Fiesta. The event was held in the church's parking lot and lawn.

evening out, especially after the strange times we have all been through recently with COVID-19," Beatty-Payne reflected.

Calvary promoted the partnership between Calvary and FTF through social media and flyers distributed at coffee shops, bars and restaurant event boards throughout the city. A banner on the church property also drew people to the event. Calvary is

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