

EMBUDO PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL  
DIXON, NEW MEXICO



Mission work has been carried on in Dixon for the past sixty years. The desire for a church school was created by the evangelistic services and home visitation of Miss Susan Thresher, a non-commissioned Baptist Christian worker who lived in Rinconada. During this period also, a series of evangelistic meetings was held in Dixon by Vincenti F. Romero from El Prado, Juan Manuel Martinez of Rodarte, and Jose Mondragon and Miss Alice Hyson of Ranchos de Taos. At that time the public school was open only three months out of every year and instruction was very poor. There was no Catholic school.

Lucas Martinez of Rodarte, an early convert of the Rincones church, served as the first teacher. School was held in a room of the private home of Hermengildo Salazar. During the following years, other interested people took turns in having a part of their home used for the school. After about ten years, it was moved to the church where classes were held for seven years. By that time the enrollment had reached sixty or more. The present school building was constructed in 1910. At first there were only two classrooms. Later a third school room was built, and a new room added to the living quarters to accommodate a third teacher.

Many Christian leaders received their early training in Embudo Presbyterian School. Among them are Rev. Tomas Atencio, Rev. Eluid Valdez, Rev. Enoch Ortega, Rev. Julian Duran, Rev. Elias Atencio, Rev. Tomas Atencio, a pupil the year the school was opened. Rev. Atencio came back to Dixon and gave the last of 43 years in the ministry to the Embudo Presbyterian Church at Dixon. In all he gave 19 years to the church at Dixon. All of the men on the session of the church this year have been pupils in the mission school.

At present, our school enrollment is ninety. All the regular subjects prescribed by the state are taught to grades from pre-first through the sixth. In addition we have daily classes in Christian education. Many other activities have been introduced for the enrichment of life. 4-H club work has been carried on almost continuously since 1933. A community library has been open to the public one night each week since 1934. Visual education is used extensively in the classroom and occasionally educational movies and slides are shown for the public. While Embudo Presbyterian Hospital carries the burden of the responsibility for the medical care of our community, the school has a concern for health, and does what it can through class instruction, health inspection in the classrooms, suggestion to parents, and preventive measures.

With the cooperation of the alumni and the church at large, and the blessing of God, this school and community center can go forward to do much greater things in the years to come.

