Spiritual nurture and formation is fundamental at Lydia Patterson Institute. Bible classes, daily devotionals, weekly chapel services, spiritual retreats, community outreach, student lay ministry, and numerous other activities are an integral part of forming disciples of Jesus Christ at Lydia Patterson. COVID-19 hindered the process, but nothing deterred the staff from bringing the Scriptures and worship to the students from a distance. Chapel services resumed as the new semester began online. God's word is essential for spiritual growth, especially during the period of the pandemic, when students need hope and encouragement. Lydia Patterson brings God into their homes via Zoom.
We gathered our problems, prayed over them, and went to work. We called on friends, churches and all supporters for help with the scholarship fund to assist the students. This challenge will continue throughout the year.

Returning to campus has been a day to day decision, keeping the safety and health of our students on the forefront. As I write, we are still awaiting the recommendations of the district as to when we should bring students back on campus. When we do, it will be with the utmost safety measures and on hybrid schedules to avoid contamination.

Lydia Patterson has overcome many challenges in the past, and I am certain that it will overcome this one. This is a ministry of God and with God in our midst, we will survive. Pray for us!

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The past six months have been hard and arduous, but with an inspiring message. We have come to realize the real meaning of intimacy and devotion to one another. We miss our students and teachers. We miss our church friends that travel all the way to El Paso on mission trips to either work or simply learn more about our ministry. How we used to take those privileges for granted!

After five months of distance learning and a very short summer, we prepared to bring our students back only to be faced with the realization that things were a lot tougher in the lives of the students than we imagined. Families were being affected by COVID and many had lost loved ones. Entire families were out of a job or temporarily laid off. The border was closed and parents were not allowed to cross. Enrollment was slow, because the US Consulate closed and student visas were delayed.

DISTANCE LEARNING IS EFFECTIVE BUT LONELY

If you have visited Lydia Patterson in the past, you will remember the mirth and merriment that emanates from the halls, classrooms and its campus in general. Students greet each other with hugs and kisses, even after having spent 2-3 hours at the border and a longer time traveling from their homes to the school. Teachers and staff blend in with the same God-given smiles and a commitment to the ministry that is evident. COVID-19 and remote teaching is bringing the best of Lydia Patterson's programs to the homes of its students, but the halls and classrooms are in need of the joy and excitement that makes La Lydia unique.
Lydia Patterson offers a basic Spanish Conversational Course to serve a need of the church. The class meets twice a week for two hours and runs for six weeks. The need for communicating in Spanish is essential for reaching out and interacting with the ever growing Hispanic communities in this country.

For information contact Mr. Hillhouse at b.hillhouse@lpi-elpaso.org

The "Voices of La Lydia" The History of Lydia Patterson Institute, by First Lady of El Paso, Adair Margo, will be included in this year's virtual Texas Book Fair Festival October 31-November 15. It will be broadcast through Crowdcast. The book is an attractive coffee table book with the history of Lydia Patterson and the journey of the United Methodist Church on the US-Mexico border at the turn of the century. The rich history is told in the first person account by those that made "La Lydia" one of the greatest ministries on the border through a unification of Christianity and Philanthropy. The first chapter features former First Lady Laura Bush and her appreciation of Lydia Patterson Institute.

Purchases can be made at https://lpi-elpaso.org/voices-of-la-lydia

"If you enjoy discovering hidden gems in the world of education, this book is for you" -Grace E. Goodell, Professor Emeritus John Hopkins

Lydia Patterson received CARES Act funds to purchase PPE items such as plexiglass dividers for the classrooms, masks for students and staff, thermometers, signage for distancing, hand sanitizer stations, face shields for teachers, Germblast treatments and a kiosk as one enters the campus that checks for temperatures. The CARES Act also provided materials and devices for distance learning such as laptops, Zoom licenses for teachers, cameras, speakers and microphones for the classrooms for use with Zoom online classes. Support from the CARES Act will enable students to return to a safe campus and resume some type of normalcy, both academically and social-emotionally, as well as keep faculty, staff, and family members safe and healthy.
Staying in touch with our friends, alumni, and supporters is very important to us. Under the circumstances, the internet is our best vehicle. Please submit email corrections or add yourself to the mail list by emailing Bryce Hillhouse, Development Coordinator, at b.hillhouse@lpi-elpaso.org.