

# Newsletter 2013

Rev. Norman Finke

**Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency**

**501 (c) (3) Public Charities (exempt from Federal Income Tax)**

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Exciting News! If all plans continue to go as expected Vicar Samuel Perez Herrera will finish his course work



Myra and **Samuel** Perez  
Herrera

and will accept the call to be the pastor at Santísima Trinidad in Matamoros. The plans are that he will be ordained at the end of the Synodical Assembly that will be held there in Matamoros in February. I'm sure that Samuel and Myra are looking forward to continuing their ministry in Matamoros. One of their big needs still is to obtain some kind of a car.

More good news! The people at San Mateo Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado have called Señor Job Jimenez Tejeda to be their Associate - Lay Pastor. The Synodical Council

agreed to this. Job says things are coming along just fine other than that his mother is losing sight in her one eye. He asks for your prayers for her. He said things are going well at the church. Last night he had a catechism class with two new families who are coming to church. Two Sundays ago they received another new family. The Lord is blessing them!!



Job Jimenez & Rev. Don Smidt

Some time ago Job reported to us that there had been a storm that went through San Luis Rio Colorado and did considerable damage to their church. Well, plans are coming together to replace the church roof with a whole new 2<sup>nd</sup> story with a small residence and classroom. Pastor Filiberto Jimenez, it turns out, designed and built the first story foundations and walls with the expressed intention of a 2<sup>nd</sup> story and it seems to check out with the engineers in the crowd! Job said that he intends to live there at the church and use the extra room for social work, for example guitar classes and an art class in order to keep in touch with the community.

So, on Nov 20-24 there will be a work weekend of Border Concerns, Connecting Generations, and locals to put up a 2<sup>nd</sup> story...God willing. The costs are being finalized and funds gathered so materials will already be on hand. If you or some of yours would like to join in, you're surely welcome to a "Church Raising" and Fiesta. Contact Rev. Don Smidt at [gnerations@cox.net](mailto:gnerations@cox.net) or at 602-799-2957.



**KIMA is a 501 (c) (3) agency of like-minded, Spirit-led, individuals and congregations seeking and seizing opportunities to assist other individuals, congregations, and the Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod in extending and**

**strengthening the Lord's Kingdom among Hispanics and Mexicans, locally, along our southern border, and into Mexico.**

All funds received by KIMA are tax deductible and will be dispersed as designated by the givers. KIMA is to be an agency to funnel God's love and resources to help fulfill Jesus' Great Commission of going and making disciples by baptizing and teaching. This is not to be just a casual walk but a rushing forth with a sense of urgency. Jesus says in Matthew 25:13, "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return."

There is nothing we can do about the violence in Mexico. I know that my friends and co-workers don't want me to go down there. But the people we claim to want to help are living in the midst of that every day.

It has changed the way that we do ministry. We used to go over there, stay in their homes, work together, pray and worship together. It was fun to be able to "communicate" through smiles and "sign language."

Now all we can do is listen to their needs, their problems, help evaluate the possible solutions they can come up with, and then rejoice when we hear of the people at Mesias conducting an Internet radio show each week, Pastor Isaac's children attending the university for engineering and nursing, Naftali thanking us for our old church van that he uses every Saturday to cover the town of Rio Bravo picking up eighteen youth for their youth group at Betania, and then hearing how Samuel Perez Herrera and Job Jimenez Tejada are stepping in the leadership roles in Matamoros and San Luis Rio Colorado. At Betania in Rio Bravo and Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros eight to twelve people get together every week at the church to participate as students in special interactive Internet classes that are being taught at the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso.

The Lord is still working. He is just doing it in another way. I guess that means that we don't give up and get discouraged because we can't go down there and have fun or be inspired by their enthusiasm. They still have it. We just have to work a little harder at catching it "long distance."

Did you realize that the last time we went down to El Calvario Lutheran Church in Brownsville we bit off more than we could handle? There was more work to be done than we could possibly get done in two days. Some of you remember how we used to go and work in Mexico, building churches, houses, fixing up Carmelita's home. Well, some good lessons were learned. On Saturday, thirteen people from Rio Bravo and Matamoros showed up with smiles on their faces, warm hearts, wanting to be part of the greater Body of Christ helping their Christian brothers and sisters. I don't even know if they asked what there was to do. It seemed to me that they just looked around, gave everyone a hug and went to work.

The Lord hasn't forgotten His people!

To learn more about KIMA, please feel free to contact one of the board members nearest you.

### Board of Directors

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## God's Gifts of Love

The following persons and organizations provided gifts to KIMA in January - September 2013. The KIMA Board of Directors and the "ministers" in Mexico are grateful for all these gifts, your prayers, and the use of your talents to help fulfill Jesus' Great Commission of making disciples.



Rev. Donald & Judy Berg  
Garland, TX  
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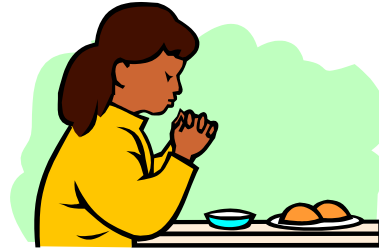
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Christ the King Lutheran Church VBS Waxahachie, TX  
Faith Lutheran Women's Missionary League Grand Prairie, TX

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Redeemer Lutheran LWML Austin, TX  
St. Paul Lutheran Church Plainview, TX  
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Trinity Lutheran Church Weatherford, TX



**The ministry goes on. Pulpits need to filled, families fed, pastors trained. At the moment we send subsidy to Mexico in the amount of \$3650 a month. That doesn't count the needs of Josafat in San Luis Rio Colorado. He drives a taxi during the day and tries to be husband, preacher, and student at night. That \$3650 doesn't count anything being done for two of the missions in the desert near San Luis Rio Colorado. At the moment there is no one to serve them because of a lack of transportation.**

**Yes, the ministry goes on but not without our help, not without your help. The people there are eager to help but they need to strengthen their understanding of the Scriptures. They need educational material, Vacation Bible School material, they need to take theology classes. We can't go down there but we can help pay for the Bible classes that the members are taking. We can help pay for the theology classes the men are taking. We can supply VBS material. And that does not include any transportation, hospital bills, funeral expenses, repairing church buildings etc. Yes, those are some of the "other" things that we help with.**

**New Living Translation**

**If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you." Proverbs 3:28**

If you would like to be part of this ongoing outreach ministry, please, include the ministry in your prayers and send any questions or gifts to:

**Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency  
109 Noel  
Waxahachie, TX 75165**

**or your communications to:**

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Website: [www.kimamission.org](http://www.kimamission.org)**