

January Newsletter 2001
A Step Forward in Faith



Email – pastor@christtheking.net

**“Share with God’s people
who are in need.”**

Romans 12:13

The Lord has truly been good to us. On December 11, 2000 I was able to wire \$4015 down to Señor Leoncio Hernandez, treasurer of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. We would like to also give special thanks to Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waxahachie for their gift of \$940 which we forwarded down to Leoncio to distribute to the workers of the Synod as Christmas gifts. I pray that these funds will help them to be able to enjoy the holidays and make bigger and better plans to carry out the Lord’s Kingdom work.

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I share with you a letter I got from Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.



Rev. Abiut Fajardo

Hello, Pastor Finke. I’m back here now and want to share with you my own comments

regarding the annual Synod Convention that we had in Guasave from Nov. 3-6, 2000.

May this season of Advent be one of much reflection and blessing for you, your family, your congregation and all the pastors and congregations that make up KIMA.

All of the pastors of the Synod attended our Convention, except for two who had to miss it: Juan Rosas who is in Mexicali, B. C. and Pablo Domínguez who is in Monterrey, N.L.

This meeting was one of great blessing because we were able to discuss many subjects having to do with the future of the Synod, and the projects that we hope to carry out, in the short-, medium- and long-term future.

In the immediate future, we hope to finish the projects that we have already begun, such as the construction of the church buildings of San Pedro and El Sembrador. (I believe San Pedro is in Mexico City and El Sembrador is a nearby mission.)

In the medium-term future, our plan is to build the parsonage in Guasave, and the kitchen, pews and social room for San Pablo congregation. (San Pablo is in Mexico City. We want to work together with CAN-

DO of the Texas District on this project.)

There is a project that we consider to be medium- to long-range, and that is the preparation of pastors, with a program of Theological Education that can be accessible and flexible, that is adjusted to the possibilities of the prospective pastors. We already have one but need to improve it and carry it out in a more effective way.

We also had the opportunity to visit a mission called San Pedro which is three-quarters of an hour from Guasave, and to see the work that our sister Esther León is doing there. There are many needy people, both in a material and a spiritual sense, and so there they are.

We were able to give our sister Esther 700 dollars which we received in order to pay the property tax, and also help Pastor Filiberto Jiménez from San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora with 300 dollars; he is an elderly pastor. Also there in Guasave Pastor Rosalío Osuna lives. He was pastor of that congregation and is now retired and blind. He asked us for financial assistance and we are providing him \$50 per month for 6 months, which is \$300. We also covered some of the expenses of our meeting. We used about 700 dollars for this and gave some of the pastors a little help. We gave Isaac \$300, Jaziel \$300, Samuel \$300, and also \$300 for me.

On Dec. 2 we had a Retreat for the women here in Mexico City

at my church. A total of 43 women attended from four different congregations and it was a great experience. We're going to have another in March, God-willing.

From Dec. 16-20 we are going to have our Youth Gathering in Guasave, and hope that many attend. Four young women from St. Louis, Missouri are going to go to the Gathering in Guasave and we are pleased about that. We ask for your prayers so that all may go well and it may be a blessing for all.

Brother Finke, we have a very special and large project here in Mexico City. It has to do with a property that was used as a school for many years but now is no longer being used, and it was left virtually in ruins and with a debt of 25,000 dollars. This debt is the Property Tax and Water Bill, and it is really very large. On Dec. 1 Bill Reagan, Ron Scherch, and Ken Hennings came and saw this place and know how large this project is. Mike Shaw also knows this place and when he first saw it, it was functioning as a school with few students, but now it is left all alone. I would like you and others to come to Mexico and to see this place, and we could talk personally more about this project that we have, which for us is very important.. (We are thinking of joining the Texas District in a prayer retreat with the pastors of Mexico. Possibly the prayer retreat will be held in Mexico City May 16-18. You congregations might consider sending your pastor

down there to participate. While we are having prayer time we will also be shown the need, for this particular long-term mission project.)

Pastor Finke, thank you so much for all your support and the love you have been showing us, for the financial assistance you have given us. May the Lord continue to bless you and multiply greatly all that you share with us. As far as the 4,000 dollars that you mentioned that you have, I would appreciate it if you would send them during the second week of January of 2001 so that we can carry out some of the visits we need to do. Thank you. (I sent this money down before I got this letter.)

Receive greetings and an expression of gratitude from all the pastors of the Synod and their families, and may the peace of the Christ child overflow in you this Christmas.
Abiut

I believe it sounds like some exciting things are happening. It is happening because the Holy Spirit is working amongst them and you people as we strive to work together in God's Kingdom.

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We got a report from Rob Krotzer on the pews for the Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo. (Pictured at the



left is Pastor Isaac Garcia of Rio Bravo.) It looks like maybe something can be done about the

pews for San Pablo in Mexico City.

Hello Pastor Finke,

This is Rob Krotzer from Messiah in Midland, MI. Greg (Pastor Finke) passed on your e-mail re. KIMA, and asked if I would respond.

The pews went great!! God put together the right team at the right time to get the job done! We were able to build 18 pews in just over 12 hours...praise God! Each pew costs about 80- 85 dollars for the material only. We bought the wood in Rio Bravo, Mexico. So the cost is probably the same in Mexico City. Yes we have plans and a template. We were also planning on sending a team to Mexico City also, when the opportunity came up. We took all tools and basically every thing but the wood with us into Rio Bravo. Mexico City may not be the same way. It depends on the government. Are there two churches in the city or just one that need pews? Depending on the group... we could make a week out of the

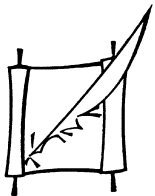
trip and build the pews for both churches really easily. I will send you some pictures so you have an idea what they look like. If you have any more questions or input let me know. I will be more than willing to do what I can!!!

Happy Thanksgiving and I hope to hear from you soon!!

In His service,
R.K.

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We also thank Christ the King of Waxahachie for the Christmas gift they sent to the Tovars. Here is a letter from Rev. Misael Tovar



Pastor Finke,
We are grateful to you for the attention that you have with us. I was not able to e-

mail you news before this because I had problems with my computer but it is OK now.

We are telling you that we have gone to the mountains to take food that has been donated and some clothes and other things of immediate necessity. The big path is worn up but it is being repaired now. We are going to receive some other gifts for the mountains and we are going to take them, also.

As for San Lorenzo, we are preparing a get together with some children who we are going to invite to a Christmas party to give to them the message of Jesus. We are going to get some toys to give to them.

Also, I am informing you that the Bible studies are going well and the family receives from us a great deal of attention and interest. I invited them already for next year to get together with us at the mission not just at home.

They have told me that they are going to invite some other people. This is a big step in the work of God in that place.

My father wants to tell you that in the mountains there are some places where they would like some people to go and teach them some things like carpentry, first aid and mechanic. The intention is to learn things that will serve them so they can build their house better and so they can better their health. If you know people who can, write us with more information.

We gratefully return to you your patience and attention that you have with for us here in Mexico.

Your brother in Christ,
Misael Tovar

Here is a second letter from Martin and Misael Tovar.

Pastor Finke,
We greet you on the eve of the Good Night, and we wish to you that God would bless you and your family with many blessings.

We also thank you for all the things that you and the group of people from those

congregations have made for the ministry of the gospel in Mexico. We give our greetings and good desires for this Christmas.

On the other hand we inform you that brothers of the church in Denver Colorado have given a contribution to be able to give toys and some other articles to children and youth to the church in Chihuahua, the missions in the mountain Tarahumara, and San Lorenzo. This way it is possible to sum up the plans that we had to give them some gifts for Christmas. We ask that you would continue praying for the Missions of Mexico and the whole world. We thank you for the economic help that you are offering us and all your attentions toward us.

When you have some news about Pastor Samuel Perez's father, please let us know. He is a very good person and a Pastor here in Mexico for many years.

God bless you,
Martin and Misael Tovar

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New Delhi

Here is a picture of the members of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Mission in New Delhi.



On December the 12 we ordered and sent 25 Catechisms and 25 Lutheran Hymnals to New Delhi. We learned that it takes quite a bit to just send the materials to a place like that. I think the cost for shipping was somewhere around \$120. We are now waiting to find out if they got there or not. I'm sure the Lord will bless. We are still working on trying to get enough money together to supply a pastor for this new mission. The man in the brown suit toward the right side of the above picture is a former Methodist pastor. He speaks English and is able to conduct services for them. Paying him anything is very difficult. Christ the King of Waxahachie has just given us a gift of \$2900 to be used in supplying pastoral leadership. The people of this mission in New Delhi have need of another person who can lead the worship in some of the local dialects. They feel that if they can minister to both groups that they will be able to grow in size that they will be able to become self-supporting.

We would welcome your assistance in spreading the joyous news of the work that is being done through KIMA. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any of

friends, families or fellow church members.

“Mission Facilitator”

Mr. Mike Shaw

“Board Members”

Rev. Norman R. Finke, Acting Executive Director of KIMA;

Rev. Gregory A. Finke of Midland Michigan;

Rev. Delton Weiser of Pflugerville, Texas;

Mr. James Gass of Waxahachie, Texas;

Ms. Lois Wolf of Austin, Texas;

Rev. Tim Morris of McKinney, Texas.