

Newsletter 2001

A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

My dear friends in Christ,

I would like to share with you some of the things that we at KIMA have been doing this past month.

Church Planter's Institute in Mexico City

The Texas District, on the advise of it's World Mission Partnership Advisory Council (WMPAC), has helped to arrange, in cooperation with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico (SLM), a Church Planter's Institute in Mexico City. At our meeting in Laredo we, KIMA, agreed to help with the expenses of those pastors, deaconesses, and leaders that needed financial assistance in order to attend this institute. When we heard about this we were thinking that this would cost about \$1500. Well, the LORD has blessed and there are now about ten people that want to attend and could use our help. Pastor Isaac Garcia and his wife Yolanda are going with several other people, Santos, and Reyes who are interested in becoming pastors and starting a new church.

In addition to this good news we also heard from Rev. Abiut Fajardo that there were five others that wanted to attend. They were, according to the information that I could gather, Pastor Samuel Perez and his wife, pastor of San Mateo in Rio Colorado; Deaconess Esther Leon de la Cruz of Divino Emanuel in Guasave; and I think a pastor from Tijuana. I'm not sure about all these names, but the LORD seems to be blessing the effort by all these people wanting to attend the institute. We have sent down \$2600 for

this institute. I know that the LORD will bless the institute and the people that are attending. We took a step of faith in this in that we have designated \$1460 more than we had intended for this project. We ask for your prayers so that we may be able to continue to provide for the needs of these dearly loved people of God.

Rob Krotzer and a group from **Messiah Lutheran Church in Midland, Michigan** are thinking of going down to Mexico City sometime soon. They are going to be constructing pews for San Pablo Lutheran Church. The church is in need of about 30 pews at a cost of \$85.00 each. They are financing their own way down there but I'm sure they could use some help on paying for the material for those pews. Total cost - \$2550.00



Church Planters Institute

I received the following letter from Rev. Mike Wakeland after he attended the Church Planters Institute in Mexico City. The picture is of the participants in that Institute.

Dear Brother in Christ,
I want to take this opportunity to thank you and KIMA for the support that you gave to the members of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, which enabled them to attend the recent Church Planters Institute workshop in Mexico City. The event was a real blessing to the church in Mexico, and I believe an important step in enabling the LSM to have a unified vision of their mission. Dr. Robert Scudieri, from the LCMS World Missions; Rev. Bill Reagan, from San Antonio; and Rev. Benito Perez, from Miami, Florida; as well as Rev. Abiut Fajardo, all did an excellent job in assisting the 6 pastors and 12 laypeople who attended the workshop in discussing and developing their mission, vision and value statements. I believe that this work will certainly unite the LSM in their service to God, and will help in moving the mission of the church forward here in

Mexico. The two basic purposes of the workshop were to 1) Assist the LSM in developing and refining their vision of the church, as well as their mission, 2) Training and empowering the members of the LSM in leading their congregations in developing their mission. I believe that both of these goals were accomplished, and feel that this will have a major impact on the work of the church here. Pastor Abiut and another person from the SLM have been invited to a meeting in Irvine, CA in April, to help evaluate the effectiveness of this workshop and to continue to plan for the future. I will also be attending this meeting, to continue to work with the LSM in seeking God's will for their church and its mission. Another meeting, to set some very specific goals for the church, is also going to be held in May, in conjunction with the Prayer Retreat that the Texas District will be hosting in Mexico City. I feel that this will be a great opportunity for the LSM to continue to move forward in its outreach to the people of Mexico.

One of the major focuses that the SLM has at the moment is the training and preparation of new leaders for the church. I think that one of the new areas of vision that the SLM has for its congregations is that each and every one of its churches should be a seminary, preparing its members for service to the Lord. While the details of this vision still need to be worked out, I believe that this is an important step for the church, and will, by the grace of God, lead to the training of many new pastors and leaders for the church. I would ask for your prayers, and those of the other members of KIMA, that God will guide and provide for this need.

Again, I want to thank KIMA for its support for the CPI workshop, because I saw how resources can be used to better equip and prepare the leaders of the SLM for the challenging ministry that God has given them. It was a clear example of teaching how to fish, rather than giving a fish, and I believe that the SLM is stronger and better equipped to serve as a result. Please continue to pray for all of our churches here, and especially for Pastor Abiut and the other leaders of the SLM.

God's richest blessings and His peace be yours,

Mike Wakeland
LCMS World Mission
Area Director for Mexico, Central America and Panama

