

**February 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.

**The call to glory of Rev. Santiago Perez**

Shortly after we had our meeting down in Laredo we got word that Rev. Santiago Samuel Perez passed away. He had been a pastor in Mexico for 60 years. We



**Pastor Samuel Perez**

certainly join many people that mourn in with the of Mexico his death and rejoice in his victory at being called home to be with our LORD. It was my privilege to have met this man of God at the dedication of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo. Again, because of the help that you people have given to KIMA; we were able to give \$500 to Pastor Samuel Perez to help with the medical expenses and burial of his father, Rev. Santiago Perez. Mr. Mike Shaw was able to go down to Matamoros and express our sympathies as he participated in the funeral service and presented our gift to Pastor Samuel Perez.

**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 three other people, Santos, Reyes, and Sergio who are interested in becoming pastors and starting a new church.



**Pastor Isaac Garcia**

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, Mateo in Rio Colorado; Deaconess Esther Leon de la Cruz of Divino Emanuel in Guasave;



**Rev. Abiut Fajardo**

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



#### **Wartburg College - Waverly, Iowa**

A service group of 15 college students from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa is going to spend a week with Rev. Abiut Fajardo at San Pedro Lutheran Church in Mexico City. They have been working hard at getting ready. They will leave on February 23 and will be gone a week. They have raised \$1000 for the construction work that they are going to do, pouring a concrete floor. They have raised \$900 to pay for their food and transportation while they are in Mexico City. And top of all that they have

raised enough to pay for their plane tickets down and back. That is real dedication and a blessing from the Lord. Jacob Sorensen and Emily Sturbenl, the leaders of this group wish to thank all the members of KIMA for supporting KIMA so that we were able to help them put this trip together. Mike Shaw in connection with Rev. Abiut Fajardo have worked with them in setting up this trip. They, and we, ask for your prayers for those who are going on this trip and for the success of this trip as it relates to the Lord's plan that His kingdom work may be done.

#### **Inquiry from ALMA web site visitor**

Received this from Ron Scherch

Hello!

I have a disabled children's association in New York. I am doing a mission in India end of March for the hearing impaired children.

We need volunteers like nurses, ENT Surgeons, Audiologists and Speech Pathologists. Or any volunteers that are interested in traveling with us can please contact our office at 516-365-5935.

If you need more information please see our web site and email us at [anncharity@aol.com](mailto:anncharity@aol.com)

Thanking you, Sincerely,

Ann Moideen, President of Ann Foundation

#### **Mission Facilitator**

We have a request from Rev. Mike Wakeland, area director for World Missions of the LCMS and Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to provide a volunteer to work with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico in directing the missions projects for the churches in Mexico. We need about \$30,000 and we have a commitment for \$10,000. According to Proverbs 13:11, I think that little by little we can put this together. If each of you, and I'm thinking of all of you smaller congregations, could put together a hundred or two hundred dollars a month we could do it. I believe that if we commit ourselves the Lord will bless us in return. Doesn't He say in Malachi 3, "Test me in this?" What can you do?

### **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

