

April 19, 2002

My dear fellow workers in Christ,

I got back from Rio Bravo Wednesday night. I met with the WMPAC, the World Mission Partnership Advisory Council, and with President Rev. Abiut Fajardo and Pastor Isaac Garcia.

I don't know if you people even know about WMPAC. Our District has been assigned by the Synod to be in Partnership with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. In order to do the best job we as a District can, our Texas District has appointed a special committee to advise the District on what we can do to work brother to brother, shoulder to shoulder with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to carry out their mission to reach the lost in Mexico. In order to be better informed we all traveled to Rio Bravo, Mexico to meet with some of the people of the Synod of Mexico. So you see you people are on the cutting edge. Everything that KIMA does is directly related to and asked for by the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

There are about a dozen churches in the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. We are trying to find churches that are willing to adopt or partner with the individual churches in Mexico. These congregations don't have to do everything by themselves but they kind of become a mini mission agency working with other congregations that they can interest in getting involved in their particular sister congregation's work.

I am delighted to say that we have a number of churches that have already started this program. There is Faith Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village who is partnering with San Mateo Lutheran Church and its three mission sites in San Luis Rio Colorado. They have gone down there to visit them, viewed all their missions and are now working with them to carry on the mission. They work directly with San Mateo. They only come to KIMA for advise. Our Savior Lutheran Church in McKinney, Texas is partnering with Betania Lutheran church in Rio Bravo. They are helping to give support to Pastor Isaac Garcia both in his daily living and in their continuing theological education. Again, they can use help in completing many projects in Rio Bravo as that church is also opening up another mission. Christ the King Lutheran church in Waxahachie is partnering with El Divinio Emanuel Lutheran Church in Guasave. They are supporting Esther the Deaconess and we are excited that there is a possibility that when Señor Reyes from Rio Bravo finishes his training under Rev. Abiut Fajardo that he will become the lay-pastor in Guasave. We need to come up with \$500 a month for the next few months to support Reyes and his family while he undergoes his final training. The parsonage is being built right now.

We need help with congregations in Juarez, Mexicali, and Mexico City.

We are also thankful for the congregations that support the Synod through KIMA. There is much to be done. We just delivered the VBS material to Mexico. The Lutheran Synod of Mexico is in the middle of litigation to keep land that someone is trying to take away from them. That took a \$5000 retainer fee that they don't have and that we have not yet collected. It got paid but we had to rob Peter to pay Paul (you know how that goes.) If the litigation works out our way the money will be repaid.

Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo has a chance to buy a house right down the block from the church that they could turn into a separate Sunday School building. The asking cost is \$6000. By the way Betania had 150 children and 34 adults show up out at the mission site in the colonia.

Pastor Isaac needs about \$6000 to finish up his home. The walls are getting to be about five foot high. He, his wife and two children presently live in two rooms.

Messiah Lutheran from Bullock Creek, Midland, Michigan along with people from Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas went to Mexico City and built and paid for pews for two of the churches down there.

We thank God for our regulars that give every month: Ascension Lutheran Men's Club from Cleburne, The Medenwaldt's from Waxahachie, Christ the King of Waxahachie who gives above their partnership agreement, St. Luke's in Olney, Texas, St. Paul in Plainview, Texas, Trinity Lutheran LWML in Weatherford, Texas. These groups keep the Lutheran Synod of Mexico going.

We couldn't get along without Rob Krotzer and Messiah Lutheran in Bullock Creek, Michigan our biggest supporters.

May God bless each of you.

Rev. Norman R. Finke
Acting Director of KIMA