

August Newsletter 2002 A Step Forward in Faith



“Share with God’s people
who are in need.”
Romans 12:13

Guasave, Sinaloa: Guasave is about 400 miles south of the New Mexico/Arizona border and about 20 miles from the Gulf of California. Rev. Brian Cummings of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington, Texas returned recently from a CAN-DO trip to Guasave. He said that the people down there are all excited about welcoming candidate Reyes as their new spiritual leader. At the same time they will be saddened by losing Deaconess Esther as she now will move to Nuevo Laredo to be with her family. Señor Reyes and his wife and three children should have arrived or are coming soon. Rev. Cummings said that on the days when they went out to the San Pedro mission, just outside of Guasave, they would have up to 140 people come to be part of the VBS type program that they shared. These people at the mission are too poor to take a bus into town so the people from El Divino Emanuel go out there. (I think it would be great if some day they could build a church out there.) You people have made the move for Señor Reyes and his family possible. You have paid for the last three months of his training and for their move to Guasave.

The parsonage consisting of two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, a bathroom, and a front porch/patio is all but done.



Since Señor Reyes has three children, including a daughter who will soon be celebrating her quinceañera (fifteenth birthday) they may have to enclose the patio area (the right side of the picture above) to make a third bedroom. There is still a need to put in the windows and some of the doors.

I think about \$3500 would enclose the patio and install the windows and doors. They have a contractor who could see to it that the work gets done but they do not have the money to pay for it. Include this project in your prayers.

Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas: Rio Bravo is just several miles south and east of Mc Allen, Texas. Pastor Isaac Garcia is the pastor there at Betania (Bethany) Lutheran Church. Pastor Isaac and his church have decided that it is time to expand. They cannot expand their present building but they can reach out into the new colonials that are being opened up. These tracks of land are just barren land with no utilities. These undeveloped lots are being sold to people who have little or nothing. Betania, Pastor Isaac, and CAN-DO have decided to build a church first so when the people came there would be a church right there in the middle of everything. Then they decided to seed the area with some of their own members. So homes were built for them. Before the church was really finished it was discovered that it was too small and so a new church is being built with a home for a lay pastor right next door.



In this picture the small church is in the background, the lay pastor’s house is on the right, and the bigger church will be on the left. Below the people from Our Savior in McKinney, Texas are erecting the walls for the new church.



Magdiel Fajardo (nineteen year old son of Rev. Abuit Fajardo): Magdiel (Mac) was blessed last year to attend Lutheran High School North in Houston, Texas. The people of Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston and the Houston Lutheran High School

Association gave Mac something he will never forget. I'm not talking about the broken leg that kept him out of soccer



but an appreciation for the love and kindness of the Americans he met. He also learned to appreciate what he would be able to do back home in Mexico if he had the kind of education that he could receive in the United States. I, just last Sunday, got an email from him, as he wanted to share his excitement with me about the fact that he had just gotten a letter from Concordia Austin stating that he has been accepted. The next step for him is to send a deposit of one half a year's tuition so he can then apply for a student visa. Tuition for a full time student at Concordia is \$14,410. I heard from one man who met Magdiel when he was here at Christ the King in Waxahachie who said, "Let's start a fund!" and he wrote out a check for \$100. The men's group gave \$300. So we only have only

????????? to go. Do you know any benevolent people who would like to help out a young man prepare for life as a Christian?

Carmalita: A charter member of Betania in Rio Bravo. I have one more story I would like to share with you. A number of years ago a group of ladies in Rio Bravo started praying about having a church. The Lord has blessed them with a beautiful building, Betania Lutheran Church. But the Lord has really made them the church. I want to share with you an email I got from a lady in Round Rock, Texas. Carmalita is the third lady from the left in the picture below.



Pastor Finke:

What a joy Carmalita was to our group, and we also learned that she does prison ministry! Praise God for little short-haired ladies who wear house dresses and witness to criminals in prison.

Our days in Rio Bravo involved a lot of hard work and sweat, however, God took very good care of us. There were 18 from Point of Grace who made the trip, 12 women and 6 men, ranging in age from 17 to

I'd guess 60. What a wonderful experience. I'm attaching several pictures of Carmalita's house, before and after.

We are all looking forward to going back again.



Pray for these people and their ministries!

The Lord has blessed all of us in ways that are beyond what many people in Mexico could even imagine for themselves. The projects and ministries that I have told you about in this Newsletter are real. They are exciting because they are real. They effect real lives, real people with souls that Jesus really died for on the cross.

I don't know what your ministry is, what God has called you to do. There certainly are a multitude of people, schools, groups who are asking for your help. I know! I get calls and letters every day. But I want you to know that this need is real because it affects the eternal welfare of people. We need people to pray for these people and their ministries. We need people to go down to Mexico and work and pray with these blood bought brothers and sisters in Christ. We need your help! We need your financial support. If you don't have time or interest in this ministry would you do them and us a big favor? Will you at least pass this Newsletter along to someone else to see if the Lord might move him or her to get involved?

We pray that the Lord would continue to bless you as you serve in His Kingdom.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help in God's ministry. We certainly thank you for your continued support and we ask that you would keep these people and these projects in your prayers. You are a vital part of our ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Norman R. Finke
Acting Director of KIMA