

A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

As we enter this Lenten season we thank God for the many blessings He has given us, chief of which is the gift of His Son coming to be with us, even though He had to die on the cross for us. It is this thankfulness for what God has done and is doing for us that causes us to seek ways to share this Good News with others.

I picture our brothers and sisters in Mexico as being like a foal of a racehorse. It has been born; it has life, and now it needs to get up on its legs and begin the process of getting stronger so that one day it can meet its potential of running like the wind. Our goal as KIMA along with the Texas District is to help them get up and get running.

Mexico is a land of more than 100 million people. In order to reach out more effectively the Lutheran Synod of Mexico has set three goals:

1. To develop an evangelism program that will encourage mission starts.

Right now that would include starts in:

- San Luis Rio Colorado (near the California -- Arizona border),
- Guasave in western Mexico near the Gulf of California,
- Rio Bravo near McAllen.

This would also include reactivating ministries in:

- Juarez
- Monterrey
- Matamoros

Since January we have been able to send the Lutheran Synod of Mexico:

- \$1200 for Guasave;
- \$400 Juarez
- \$1133 for Rio Bravo;
- \$6168 for rebuilding homes in San Luis Rio Colorado.
- \$900 for Matamoros
- \$5500 in special gifts for the ministries at Betania & Mesías (Bethany & Messiah) churches in Rio Bravo, and Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros.

Immediate needs:

- \$8000 for a Van for Pastor Reyes in Guasave. He has a new mission start in San Pedro and has no way to get back and forth except by bus. Rev. Abiut Fajardo said this project is of the utmost importance.
- \$2000 to purchase a lot in San Pedro to have a site for the mission start.

2. To create a discipleship program based on the Bible and Small Catechism that prepares people to live Christian lives by serving God and their neighbor in love.

On February 23-24 we met with Rev. Abiut Fajardo, Pastor Isaac Garcia, Rev. Art Boone and family, Rev, Steve Morfitt, Rev. Bill Reagan, Mr. Mike Shaw, and Rev. Norman Finke in Harlingen, Texas at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Rev. Arthur Boone who is presently serving the LCMS Board for Mission Service in Venezuela teaching lay people to become better leaders in their local congregations and to train lay-pastors. The Lutheran Synod has it in mind to start a Bible Institute in northern Mexico that will do this

very thing. Rev. Boone was home due to the unrest in Venezuela so we decided to get some expert advise. Rev. Abiut Fajardo is in the process of defining the position for setting up and administrating a Bible Institute in Mexico. A proposal will then be presented to the LCMS Mission Board. To this point we have paid out approximately \$2500 to help get this Bible Institute up and running.

3. To preparing people to be missionaries and leaders.

This goal is presently being met by Pastors like Abiut Fajardo, Filiberto Jiménez, and Isaac Garcia training their own people. The goal of the Bile Institute would be to coordinate this all under one program and one leader.

In addition to the above we have sent:

- \$2198 to help out individual congregations and the Synod
- \$327 for brochures (The printer Mike Gleason in turn donated the money to help rebuild the homes that burnt down in San Luis Rio Colorado.)
- \$750 to assist the President of the Synod

We are in the process of purchasing and sending new Sunday School material to San Pablo and San Pedro churches in Mexico City.

- Rev. Jaziel Lopez of San Pablo in Mexico City
- Rev. Juan Rosas of San Juan in Mexicali

We were informed at the meeting in Harlingen that the church building in Matamoros is not structurally sound and will have to be replaced. This may very well tie in with plans to start the Bible Institute.

All in all we have spent over \$21,000 this year and I believe that the Lord is blessing the plans and work that is being done in Mexico.

Pray for:

- Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the Synod and pastor of Todos Santos in Guadalajara
- Pastor Isaac Garcia, of Betania & Mesías in Rio Bravo, and Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros
- Rev. Filiberto Jiménez, pastor of San Mateo and three missions in and around San Luis Rio Colorado
- Pastor Reyes of El Divino Emanuel in Guasave
- Rev. Samuel Perez of San Pedro in Mexico City
- Rev. Alvaro Lopez of El Buen Pastor in Mexico City