

## A Step Forward in Faith



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

**Romans 12:13**

August 12, 2003

### **Rev. Jaziel Lopez**

Rev. Lopez is pastor of San Pablo Lutheran Church in Mexico City. He has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer that is in stage IV. We trust the power and mercy of God. Please, keep Jaziel and his wife in your prayers.

### **El Divino Emanuel Guasave, Sinaloa, Mexico**

I got a chance last week to go down to Guasave, Sinaloa, Mexico. This is where El Divino Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Pastor Reyes and his family live. They are lovely people who are on a mission. Guasave is a town that someone estimated to have a population of about 100,000 people. It seems to be a more modern city than say Rio Bravo. The streets were pretty much all paved and there was a lot more business establishments. In five days we conducted VBS classes at four different sites, three of them out in the country with a total of about 100 children coming, and also ministered to some elderly people at a special home in Guasave. In an area just out of town called San Pedro Pastor Reyes has been doing ministry, meeting at three different homes where people come together to pray, worship, and learn.

Pastor Reyes keeps up a busy schedule with Sunday worship at 6:00p.m. He conducts prayer services on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m. On Wednesday the service is at 7:00 p.m. They go out to San Pedro on Wednesday and Thursday from 1:00 - 5:30 and on Saturday they are out there from 9:30 a.m. till 1:00. On Tuesday from 1:30-5:30 they go to the Home

for the aged and also go to visit in two other houses. On Monday at 4:00 he visits two older ladies who have been visiting the church. He plans to have Sunday School classes for the children and Bible study for the adults on Sunday morning as soon as they get some new material.

His immediate goal is to buy a piece of property out at San Pedro. He has a lot all picked out that is near all the sites, about a quarter of a mile from where he has been conducting his ministry. After the lot is purchased, a well needs to be dug and then plans for some type of building needs to be completed so that they will have a structure where they can gather for fellowship, learning, and worship. The lot will come near \$2000, the well somewhere in the area of \$350 and the building is anybody’s guess at this point. The parsonage that we built last year came to somewhere around twelve thousand dollars. I think they would like to put up some type of brick structure since most of the homes in that area are made of that type of construction.

The people in that area are hard working people. They do not have much financially. Out in the country I did not see any indoor plumbing. The yards were swept and clean. Gardens had been planted and a few pigs and chickens were being raised.

The church and Sunday School building need to have some type of covering put on the roofs, tar paper maybe, to protect the ceilings from becoming wet when it rains.

These people do not have enough financially to support their pastor. We were asked by the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to give Pastor Reyes \$400 a month. I saw his expenses and saw the way they live and \$400 is not enough. They sleep in one room to save electricity. They didn’t even have a toilet seat on the toilet because they needed the money for other things like buying shoes for the kids. I think that they need more like \$600 a month to get by. Christ the King in Waxahachie sends me \$200 a month for Reyes, and I get \$25 a month from the Men’s Club at Ascension in Cleburne, \$50 a month from Trinity LWML in Weatherford. So I get \$275, I send \$400, and we need \$600. It doesn’t take a great mathematician to see that the figures don’t add up. We need some more churches, groups, or individuals to commit themselves to helping out this ministry. Here is a going place with committed workers making the most of what they have. We can help harvest what the Lord is

planting. Pray about it. If we could find one church who could commit for \$325 a month for one year we would be at least temporarily set. Or maybe we could find three churches who could commit for \$100 a month, or 6 groups for \$50 a month, or 12 people for \$25 a month, or 32 people for \$10 a month. I know the Lord has something in mind and He will bless you for your effort.

**Pastor Isaac Garcia  
Rio Bravo/Matamoros**

Around the end of July Pastor Isaac Garcia found out that he could not take the big bus outside of the frontier. They were told that there is not a permit for that class of passenger vehicle. They were planning to expand their tent ministry and need the bus to transport people and supplies. Pastor Isaac Garcia asks for your prayers so that they can continue with the plans that they have.

He thanks KIMA for all the support that has been given to the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

He says we are praying for you, your family and your ministry.

Pastor Isaac Garcia is also concerned about the four men that help him in the tent ministry. These four men are the musicians and pastoral assistants to Pastor Isaac Garcia. They do everything from setting up the tent to making and handing out brochures etc Whenever the tent ministry is in operation these four men are unable to work. Pastor Isaac Garcia feels that \$10 a day per person would be appropriate.

**Needs and Requests**

- **Monetary commitments to cover the extra \$325 we need to support Pastor Reyes and his family**
- **Approximately \$350 to dig a well on the new property at San Pedro near Guasave**
- **Start a fund to build a structure on the new property to aid in worship, learning, and fellowship**

- **Funding for a new covering on the church and Sunday School building in Guasave**
- **Prayers for the tent ministry**
- **Pray for an answer to the bus problem**
- **Funding for the men who assist in the tent ministry**
- **Prayers for Rev. Jaziel Lopez who has lung cancer**
- **Prayers for Rev. Juan Rosas who is on dialysis**
- **Prayers for the spiritual uplifting of the Pastors and workers of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico**

**Send donations and/or questions to  
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