

A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

December Newsletter



Pictured from left are Reyes, Perez, Garcia and Jiménez

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Thanksgiving is just over with. Advent is upon us and Christmas is coming faster than most of us care to think. Giving thanks, repenting, forgiving, and sharing the Love of God is part of our very being as Christians. During the coming season we will be finding ways to show people how much we love and appreciate them. I would like you to join us in reaching out to eight very special men and their families, the shepherds of the flock in the Lutheran Synod of Mexico: Alvaro, Samuel, Jaziel, Reyes, Abiut, Juan, Filiberto, and Isaac. These men struggle against the prejudices of being Lutheran in a Catholic country, Mexican in a German church, poor in a rich world. We all know how refreshing it is to find ourselves loved. I want to invite you personally to do something to help us show our love, our appreciation for what these men are doing. Personal gifts, door offerings, etc. can make this showing of gratitude possible. If I can have these gifts in hand by the 18th of December, I can have them in Pastor Isaac Garcia’s hands so that he can have them distributed before Christmas.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Rev. Abiut Fajardo is announcing that the Lutheran Synod of Mexico is going to host a retreat at Mexicali or San Luis Rio Colorado on Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 & 19. President Abiut felt that such a retreat would be a blessing to their pastors and also to others who might attend. President Abiut also felt that it is important for pastors and leaders of congregations that have helped them out through KIMA, CAN-DO, and the District to meet with them face to face and grow together. Both Mexican and U.S. pastors will lead Bible studies, essays, and prayers. KIMA agreed to help out

financially the pastors of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to gather at this retreat. Mexicali or San Luis Rio Colorado are both located right along the border near Southern California and Arizona. It is possible to drive there. If you are interested in participating in this retreat, learning, growing, getting to know, and sharing God’s love and encouragement contact Rev. Abiut Fajardo at afajardo@att.net.mx or Lois Wolf at nanaswolf@netzero.net

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On November 14-16 the Lutheran Synod of Mexico had their National Assembly. All the pastors, except for Rev. Juan Rosas who is on dialysis and a representative of each congregation were present for the meetings. We are happy to say that Rev. Jaziel who has been fighting lung cancer was able to attend. KIMA, because of generous donations from people like you, was able to help out financially in providing for the transportation and needs of the pastors that attended. Some of these people had to travel by bus for over 16 hours to get there. Due to the fact that the government owns the churches and the Lutheran Synod of Mexico civil association owns most of the parsonages much discussion was centered on reports, taxes etc.

There are going to be some reforms in the Constitution of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. On December 4-5 five pastors will get together in Mexico City to talk about the reforms. The five pastors are the three pastors from Mexico City, Rev. Samuel Perez of San Pedro, Rev. Jaziel Lopez of San Pablo, Rev. Alvaro Lopez of El Buen Pastor, and Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the Synod and pastor of Todos Santos in Guadalajara, and Pastor Isaac Garcia, treasurer of the Synod and pastor of Betania and Mesias in Rio Bravo and Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros.

BIBLICAL INSTITUTE

They still have a desire, and obviously a need, to prepare men to be future pastors. It seems that there will be some initial training, classes in Introduction to the Old & New Testament, homiletics, hermeneutics, evangelism, Lutheran doctrine, confessions, and history of the Reformation. Having successfully completed these studies the men would be assigned to a congregation where they would serve as lay-pastors. They would then, over the course of time, receive additional classes that would help to give them additional skills to serve as pastors. President Abiut Fajardo and Pastor Isaac Garcia where hoping to meet with Rev. Steve Morfitt and Rev.

Bill Reagan to make further plans for raising up and training future pastors

SPIRITUAL MENTOR

Rev. Abiut Fajardo expressed heartfelt gratitude for all that KIMA has done. He said that they now have materials, necessities, and support, but he wanted to ask for something more. He said, sometimes as officials of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico we have problems, anxieties, worries and we need someone to go to for guidance and prayer. We need spiritual strength to move into the future. We need to find someone to pray for us and with us. He then asked Rev. Norman Finke to be their spiritual mentor. He said Pastor Norm Finke should surround himself with others that can help him to fulfill this special calling for spiritual guidance and prayer.

Needless to say, Pastor Norman Finke felt extremely honored to have been asked to serve in such a loving and trusted relationship with these men of God from the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. He accepts this challenge with humbleness, a little bit of fear, excitement, and great anticipation of what the Lord will do through the leadership of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

OBSERVATIONS

By Lorraine Finke, 88 years old, 66 years a pastor's wife, 1st time to the mission field in Mexico

It was a privilege to be able to make a trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico November 17th & 18th with my son Rev. Norman Finke. The joy of meeting President Abiut Fajardo, Pastor Isaac Garcia and his family will long be remembered. They are filled with the love of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Their zeal is contagious and excites one to do what one can to encourage them in their mission work in Mexico and to help where and when possible. The time is now. Let's all be filled with that same love and devotion of our dear Lord and pray for their spiritual growth and zeal and assist them spiritually and otherwise.

I could not help but offer some of the Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. materials for their use in braille and large print in the Spanish language as their needs arise. The Lutheran Braille Workers has provided materials to the vision impaired for over 50 years and sends it free to those able to use it.

I thank God for the opportunity to make the trip to Mexico November 17-18, 2003. It was an eye opener and presents a real mission opportunity.

Lorraine Finke

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for healing for:

Rev. Jaziel Lopez, San Pablo, Mexico city – lung cancer
Rev. Juan Rosas, San Juan, Mexicali – Kidney problems, dialysis

- Pray that young men may be raised up to serve as pastors at Matamoros, Mexicali, San Luis Rio Colorado, and San Pablo in Mexico City.
- Pray for the tent ministry and a truck, trailer, and camper top to transport the tent and the workers (missionaries) to the various sites.
- Pray that people will come and for enlightenment and spiritual growth through the Spiritual Retreat in February.
- Pray that the Lord would guide Pastor Norman Finke to be the type of spiritual mentor that the leaders of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico need and to surround him with the people to make it possible.
- Pray for continued support by congregations, organizations, and people to supply necessities, materials, and financial support.
- Pray that these men who are filled with God's love and have the zeal for ministry may be blessed with health and wisdom.

PRAISING GOD

I think we have rounded a corner. What is next? Where do we go from here? Only the good Lord knows. The path will not be without bumps but the Lord does say something about making straight the way. If any of you are waiting for a special invitation to get involved in the Lord's Kingdom work in Mexico, you are here and now encouraged to step in anywhere, because help is needed all along the line.

STEPPING UP TO THE LINE

I want to be part of this ministry to the people of Mexico.

I will pray for this ministry weekly on:

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday
 Thursday Friday Saturday

I will give a one time gift of \$ _____

I will make a monthly contribution for one year in the amount of: \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$ _____

Please send this either by mail or email to:
KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX, 75165

or

pastor@christtheking.net