

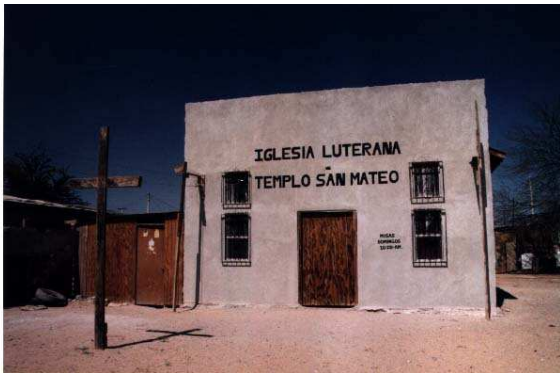
A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

One of the goals of KIMA is to assist congregations to become “partner or sister congregations” with one of the congregations of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. A good example of this is Faith Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. If you ever go on a visit to Hot Springs Village make sure you include a visit to this congregation while you are there.



For a while they sent money to KIMA for San Mateo in San Luis Rio Colorado. Later, a few members went down to San Luis to help on a project or two. Now Faith Lutheran has included the ministry of Pastor Jimenez and San Mateo in their budget. Each month they send them \$200 plus any special gifts that come in. They send their gifts and communicate directly with Pastor Jimenez and the congregations. A group of about ten people just returned from a trip to San Luis. I am pleased to share with you a letter that two of them sent to me.

Pastor Finke,

We arrived home Wednesday evening from our trip to San Luis, Mexico. What a rewarding experience seeing the Lord work through this group of people. As we knew before we left Hot Springs, we would

not have help from KIMA or Can-Do. We arrived New Year's Day in Yuma, AZ.

Friday Jan.2, Bruce, Jim Cunningham and Larry Smith went to search out the cost of supplies in Yuma at Lowe's and Home Depot. Sat. Jan 3. We went to Mexico to see what was needed to be done. We took a member of Christ Lutheran in Yuma. He spoke both English and Spanish very well. He was so helpful and said he was willing to help any time. He grew up in San Luis, Mexico so was very familiar with the city. However, he had not been back for many years as his grandparents and aunts and uncles had all passed away.

We met with Pastor Jiménez and Deacon Jesus Jiménez (no relation) who is helping Pastor at the Mesa Rica church. He is fluent in both Spanish and English. Pastor Jiménez is also giving instructions to 2 lay people on Saturday. They would like to someday become ministers, but that is a long way off.

Monday January 5th we went to work. By this time we had 2 more couples, the Gallers and the Breeches with us.

We were able to get a great amount of the material in San Luis, MX. We were also surprised to see 14 students from Wisconsin there. They were staying in the church. They said someone met them and got vans for them to come to San Luis, MX. They had a small amount of money for materials but didn't know what they should do. They helped Martha's husband with a roof on their house on Monday and some of the students then came to help us on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We had their help at the church. We bought the materials and they helped with the work. God's hand was surely in this. The church needed a new roof and they were very willing to put the roof on with a little guidance from Larry.

Bruce, Don, Wayne Jim and Larry did the measuring and put up a drop ceiling, complete with 4 fluorescent lights.

The ladies did the painting inside. The youth cleaned and painted the wrought iron on the windows outside. The youth also laid tiles in the

Sunday School room. They laid block for a walk way from the church to the kitchen.

The youth left San Luis on Friday, but we were grateful for their help. They were a great witness to all they came in contact.

We finished at the church in the first week. We did contract to have concrete work done and stucco for the interior of the Sunday School and kitchen. It really looked good.

We went to Mexico to church on Sunday. The surprised look on the members' faces. Pastor had a very emotional service of Thanksgiving. What a joy to see the young children and have them sing for us. We also built three bookcases for them.

We started the next week at Carmen's house. What a challenge. Our daughter came from Springfield, IL to help for a week. Being an engineer and having built a number of projects (and young) she was a great asset. By this time, Gallers were on their way home and Smith's were leaving to go to TX for the birth of a grandchild, Breeches had spent their two weeks; our crew was cut to just Neunabers and Cunninghams. We finished the job. Larry and Jim put in a new toilet and flooring for her.

Tar was put on the bedroom roof as it leaked. We built a 10 x 24 kitchen, complete with sink, counter top and we bought cabinets, vinyl floor, and 2 windows. We painted the exterior of the house including the room that Mike Shaw built for her a few years ago. We bought paint for her bedroom and she was going to paint it. She was so grateful. We got some help from Job, Fili (Pastor's sons) and Raphael (Martha's husband) Job and Elizabeth are still in school.

We also went to Fronterizo to see the new church site that LWML (Arizona District) bought for them. We did not see the church interior. The plot was probably about an acre.

We did ask about the government owning the churches. If they are not in a Pastor's name or owned by an individual the government can use the facility or sell it to someone else if not being used. The Fronterizo property is in Pastor Jiménez name and the San Mateo church also.

Pastor Jiménez home was vacated by someone so he was able to get possession of it some years ago. He is working on getting it in his and Martha's name. If the church is in someone's name, upon their death it can go to the next pastor or party but the government doesn't possess it.

This is our understanding of how the system works. Everything is in Pastor's name, so all checks are sent to Pastor Jiménez for his distribution. The church does not have an account. He certainly doesn't keep much for himself. He feeds many people, spiritually as well as physically.

This is a long letter but wanted to let you know how we did in San Luis.

We also took almost a hundred bags of clothing, health kits and blankets.

Hope to hear from you.

God's Blessings,
Bruce and Dot Neunaber

What a blessing the people from Faith Lutheran in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, the students from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point, and the people from San Mateo were to each other.

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT
February 18-19, 2004
Matamoros

Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros



Please pray for the Spiritual Retreat. In response to The Lutheran Synod of Mexico's request for us to help them in their quest for greater spiritual growth, the following will join them at Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico:

- Pastor Bill Reagan from St. Paul's in Harlingen
- Pastor Steve Morfitt from El Calvario in Brownsville
- Pastor Norm Finke and his wife, Marty from KIMA in Waxahachie
- Mr. Mike Shaw from Christ the King in Waxahachie
- Dr. Jerry Brunworth from Our Redeemer in Dallas
- Pastor Brian Bibler Immanuel in Temple
- Pastor Greg Finke from Messiah in Bullock Creek, Michigan
- Rob Krotzer head of World Missions at Messiah in Bullock Creek, Michigan
- Sherlyn Carter and Duane Carter working with KIMA from Point of Grace Pflugerville
- Dr. Robert Preece from Zion Dallas and Area B Vice President of Texas District LCMS
- Christopher Holder youth minister from Our Savior in McKinney
- Lois Wolf KIMA Board member from Redeemer in Austin
- Kevin Pieper DCE, youth and missions from Salem in Tomball
- Bill Atwood mission leader from Salem in Tomball
- Pastor Don Kasper from Trinity in Navasota
- Mike Wood mission trip leader from Trinity in Navasota
- Sally Kloppe from El Calvario in Brownsville studying for her Masters in English Second Language

The pastors that will attend of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico are:

- Filiberto and his wife
- José Reyes and his wife, Martina
- Samuel Pérez and his wife
- Isaac García and his wife, Yolanda
- Alvaro López
- Abiut Fajardo and his wife, Dori

- Jaziel Lopez won't come because he is in Radiotherapy treatment.
- Juan Roses can't come because of the dialysis twice per day.

It is our prayer that this retreat will be used by the Holy Spirit to strengthen those who are leading the fight against Satan and his forces. We all are involved in this battle and need to be strengthened so that we may persevere and be successful instruments being used by the Holy Spirit to win the lost. We need the prayers of each congregation. Ask your pastors to include this retreat in their Prayers for the Church next Sunday.

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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 for enlightenment and spiritual growth through the Spiritual Retreat in February 18-19.
- 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.

Web Site

We are in the process of constructing a web site. The address is: www.kimamissions.org

Sherlyn Carter is doing all the work. We have wanted something like this for a long time. We are grateful certainly to Sherlyn for all her hard work and generosity.

If you do not wish to get this Newsletter from KIMA, please send an email to the above stating that.

If any of you have any pictures of your mission trips that you would like to share, please send them to me at nfinke_kima@vetec.com or to Sherlyn at scart4@austin.rr.com

We would appreciate any comments on how to improve the web site.

In the future we may send out the Newsletter on the new Web site.

STEPPING UP TO THE LINE

KIMA has picked up all of the expenses for this spiritual retreat. We have paid for the transportation, lodging, and food for all of the Pastors and wives from Mexico. We are covering the cost of our meals. Obviously anything we put out for these expenses takes away from other needs that the Lutheran Synod of Mexico may have. Any donations to defray these costs will be set aside to help out the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Put my name on your email list:

I will pray for this ministry weekly:

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
nfinke_kima@vetec.com