

February 29, 2004

I want to thank you on behalf of KIMA, the pastors and pastors' wives of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico for your most generous gifts. Your gift, along with the gifts of other supporters of the work that KIMA does, was used to sponsor a Spiritual Retreat that was held at Santisima Trinidad (Holy Trinity) in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico on February 18-19, 2004.



Participants in the Spiritual Retreat at Matamoros



Rev. Filiberto Jimenez praying for his wife



Group praying for Rev. Filiberto and Maria Jimenez and their ministry

President Rev. Abiut Fajardo has recently 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 people to pray for us and with us."

In order to bring people together for prayer and spiritual growth, Pastor Abiut Fajardo, along with KIMA, hosted a Spiritual Growth/Prayer Retreat. We had a total of twenty-four people attend. Of the eight pastors of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico five attended along with their wives. Two pastors were too sick to travel and one was not able to attend.

There were three sessions that followed this pattern:

- Opening devotion/Bible Study in the church led by one of the Mexican pastors
- A presentation in the parish hall led by Rev. Greg Finke on Spiritual Growth emphasizing our relationship to God, our spouse, our children, and then those around us.
- A time that a pastor from Mexico could share with the group his calling, his family, their needs, and the needs of their congregation.
- The pastor's wife was given opportunity to share her needs, both personal and as a pastor's wife. (It became obvious that these ladies were just as much a part of the ministry as their husbands.)
- We finished each session by having the pastor's wife sit on a chair in the center of the room, her husband stood behind her, the entire group gathered round, laying their hands on the husband and wife team, as the husband began praying for his wife. When he finished, members of the group prayed for these two and their ministry. All prayers were translated so all could understand.

Thursday afternoon we closed by joining together celebrating the Lord's Supper. Our Heavenly Father blessed the whole experience. The forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ was experienced by all. The Holy Spirit was certainly present to strengthen the faith and resolve of all to go out and

continue to be witnesses of all that God has done.



Thursday evening, after all of us had headed back to our homes in the United States of America, the pastors and their wives from the Lutheran Synod of Mexico once again gathered together in a circle and prayed intensively for each other. Pastor Abiut Fajardo said that the whole experience, culminating in that circle, praying for each other, was equal to any other spiritual experience that any of them had ever had. They felt it was a defining moment in their lives realizing the power of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

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, Monterrey, Mexicali, San Luis Rio Colorado, and San Pablo in Mexico City.
- Pray for the development of a Bible Institute at Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros.
- Pray for the tent ministry, a truck and camper top to transport the tent and the workers (missionaries) to the various sites.
- Pray for finances to support the four men who will accompany the tent ministry this summer in Matamoros and Rio Bravo.
- Pray for insight, finances, and guidance in the construction of the new mission church building at San Pedro near Guasave.
- 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
We thank you for sharing in this ministry. Please, pass this Newsletter along to someone else.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Norman Finke
Executive Director of KIMA

“Share with God’s people” Romans 12:13