

## A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

### *Random Thoughts*

I got the following letter from Ralph Genz of Pflugerville. He has gotten excited about being a part of KIMA and helping the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. He helped us with our booth at the Texas District Theological Convocation in Austin. He also housed Pastor Isaac Garcia and Rev. Roberto Simental at his home.

While Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the SLM and Pastor Isaac Garcia, treasurer of the SLM, were here helping with the KIMA booth, we discussed the need for training young men to be future pastors. This of course is an universal problem but it has become more acute for them with the passing of Rev. Juan Rosas. The SLM now has 10 congregations and 6 mission openings that are being served by 5 ordained pastors and 2 lay pastors.

During the discussion it was suggested that the SLM might try to develop a program whereby young men might be able to take preparatory classes for the pastoral ministry via the Internet. This would enable young men to stay at home, maintain a job, study as he had time, and work with his local pastor as he gets practical on the job training. After completing the prescribed courses and practical training he would then be illegible for being placed as a lay pastor in one of the vacancies.

Later additional courses would be offered at either a Bible Institute to be developed at Matamoros or possibly at the Seminario Luterano Augsburg in Mexico City that would lead to ordination. Pastor Fajardo and the SLM will determine the curriculum. We will help by supplying the equipment (whatever that may be), computers, and Internet connections. We could certainly use some advise from someone out there who knows about these kinds of things.

**Enough said. Ralph got going, contacted a pastor who we heard had a group of men who repaired and updated computers that they then donated to be used in the Lord’s Kingdom work. Here is the letter:**

May 12, 2004

Dear Pastor,

Thank you for offering to assist in locating computers for The Lutheran Synod of Mexico (SLM).

KIMA assists SLM in extending and strengthening the Lord’s Kingdom among Hispanics. Training lay ministers is a high priority for SLM. An economical way to train lay ministers is web-based training that allows training to take place over the internet so that students can take courses from their own homes. The DELTO (Distance Education Leading to Ordination) is presently being used by the AMC (Alaska Mission Committee) to train lay ministers to reach remote sites.

KIMA would like to give computers to SLM so that they could also train lay ministers via the Internet. KIMA is asking for donations of computers that are functional with a display and a modem that may be connected to a telephone line. A dial up connection is adequate. Because this program is just getting started, we have no other specific requirements at this time.

You may contact the Executive Director of KIMA, Rev. Norman Finke at 972-935-8017 ([nfinke\\_kima@vetec.com](mailto:nfinke_kima@vetec.com)) or Ralph Genz at 512-251-2006 ([rgez@compuserve.com](mailto:rgez@compuserve.com)). KIMA’s web site is [www.kimamissions.org](http://www.kimamissions.org).

Yours in Christ,  
Ralph Genz

**So if any of you have the expertise or connections to help us get this program rolling we ask for your help. You can contact us at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.**

(An aside to all of this-- the official name of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico in Spanish is -- Sinodo Luterano de Mexico -- thus we abbreviate it as SLM).