

A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

Web Site

www.kimamissions.org

Random Thoughts *Lay Minister Training*

On Monday May 3 through Wednesday May 5 KIMA had a booth at the Texas District Theological Convocation in Austin. We were thankful that Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the SLM and Pastor Isaac Garcia, treasurer of the SLM, were able to be with us sharing the needs of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

Wednesday evening, May 5, KIMA board members Rev. Brian Bibler, Lois Wolf, Sherlyn Carter, and Rev. Norman Finke joined together with Ralph Genz & his wife Louise, Ele Lozoya from Temple, Duane Carter, Lorraine Finke, Rev. Roberto Simental, Rev. Abiut Fajardo and Pastor Isaac in discussing the need for developing some type of program for training young men to be future pastors. This of course is an universal problem but it has become more acute for the SLM 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 eligible 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 Augsburgiano in Mexico City that would lead to ordination.

Pastor Fajardo and the SLM would of course determine the curriculum. This program could also be expanded to

include online courses for other congregational leaders. Our part in it, other than praying for the program, would be to supply the equipment (whatever that may be), computers, and paying for Internet connections. We could certainly use some advise from someone out there who knows about these kinds of things.

Enough said. Ralph Genz talked with some software and computer system people about putting some minimum specifications on donated computers. We do not want to collect a lot of old computers that are not useable. We want computers that can be used for training future leaders of the church by either using them at home for online training or at the Bible Institute.

While talking with one of the gentlemen, he told Ralph that he had two computers that he would donate. He said that he would probably give them to Ralph Sunday (Praise the LORD!). I hope that I am not getting over optimistic. Getting these computers would give us an excellent opportunity to do some preliminary work.

Here is Ralph’s note:

KIMA (Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency) assists SLM (Sinodo Luterano de Mexico) 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. Basic requirements include: a 14inch display VGA 640 x 480 pixels, a modem that may be connected to a telephone line (A dial up connection is adequate), a Pentium CPU or equivalent processor, 128MB Memory, a 5GB hard disc drive, a CD ROM 12X drive, keyboard, mouse and Windows 98 or later. If anyone repairs computers and would like to assist in this endeavor, your help would be greatly appreciated.

You may contact the Executive Director of KIMA, Rev. Norman Finke at 972-935-8017 (nfinke_kima@vetec.com) or Ralph Genz at 512-251-2006 (rgenz@compuserve.com).

KIMA’s web site is www.kimamissions.org.

May the Lord Bless You in spreading the Good News of our Lord and Savior. Ralph Genz

+++ (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).

Tent Ministry

The tent ministry of the SLM has gotten off to a good start. On April 29, 30, and May 1 at the Rancho la Coma at Hidalgo, Tamaulipas, the first tent crusade to be held in the interior of Mexico was initiated. The musical group was "Vencedor" which means victor. The presenters were Raul Galindo, Samuel Garcia, and Pastor Isaac Garcia. The first night they had 80 people show up, the second night they had 120, and the third night was cold and they only had 80. They plan to go back about every other month.

On June 7 they will leave for Guasave, Sinaloa. They will meet a group from Messiah Lutheran Church of Bullock Creek, Michigan who is going to help start the building of a church building at San Pedro outside of Guasave. Hopefully the tent ministry, June 9-18, should draw some attention to this new church.

+++ Another aside: The day to day work of El Divino Emanuel (The Divine Emanuel) at Guasave is currently being supported by Christ the King of Waxahachie, St. Luke of Olney, the LWML of Trinity Weatherford, and the Men's Club of Ascension in Cleburne. We need an additional \$225 in contributions to meet the monthly needs of this congregation. Here is an opportunity for a church, or an individual, or organization to get on board and make a difference.

The tent ministry will start up again from June 28 to July 17 in Matamoros and again on July 26 to August 6 in Rio Bravo. These are the dates I was given by Pastor Isaac in April. Again, it is an opportunity for groups or individuals to get involved. Check with Pastor Isaac at Isaac_gpe@hotmail.com or by phone at 011-52-8999347720. You will need a translator.

We have a special need. We are in need of \$1850 to pay for the truck, registration, and licensing of the truck and trailer for the tent ministry.

Guasave/San Pedro/Guadalajara/Mexico City

These are all congregations that don't often have people come down on mission trips from the United States. Their need is just as great as many of the border congregations. The problem is that they are all further away, it takes longer to get there, and it usually costs more money. I would suggest that some groups might investigate the possibility of joining up with CAN-DO to

make one of these trips. Otherwise if you really want to do your own thing you might contact Pastor Abiut Fajardo. He can be contacted via email at: afajardo@att.net.mx or by phone at 011-52-3331216741.

Think of it this way. A longer trip takes more time and planning but it could also give you time for mission orientated Bible study, educational programs about where you are going, cultural sensitivity awareness training, planning, and working in preparation for an adventure with God and His people. Build a team, get support from others, develop prayer partners, make it a congregational thing.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for healing for:

- Rev. Jaziel Lopez, San Pablo, Mexico city –lung cancer
- 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 or a computer based training program.
- Pray for the tent ministry.
- 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.

STEPPING UP TO THE LINE

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 by mail to:
KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX, 75165