

A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

FEBRUARY 2005

Rev. Abiut Fajardo, president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, is announcing that the Lutheran Synod of Mexico will host a conference or retreat on “Evangelism in Mexico” at El Sembrador Lutheran Church (The Sower) in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico from Tuesday noon till Thursday noon, April 12 -14, 2005. President Fajardo is inviting us to join them at this special conference. Monterrey is Mexico’s third largest city, with over 3 million people living in the metropolitan area. It is a modern, well-planned city that is easy to navigate and full of cultural offerings. The city on a per capita basis has more colleges, universities and institutes of technology, than any other Mexican city.

Monterrey is surrounded by the Sierra Madre Mountains at an elevation of 1,800 feet above sea level. Despite being nestled in such a rugged environment, there are many routes into and out of Monterrey, including excellent highways, railroads, and Monterrey’s international airport which offers daily flights to and from many cities in the United States. Monterrey is approximately one hundred twenty miles west-southwest of McAllen, Texas.

President Rev. Abiut Fajardo knows that they are fighting against what sometimes must seem like insurmountable odds. Since they are not Catholic, they are considered by many in Mexico to be outside the realm of Christianity. The Lutheran Synod of Mexico is not big and strong. They have about a dozen preaching stations with six pastors and two of them are ailing at the moment. Our prayers and support are definitely needed.

Pastor Abiut knows that they also have to be in prayer, find young men to commit to “on the job training” for the ministry, and they as a church must reach out to evangelize the people around them. That is why he decided on this Spiritual Retreat emphasizing Evangelism in Mexico.

Two of the goals for this Retreat are:

- ◆ 1. To inspire and motivate all to be evangelistic.
- ◆ 2. To give training in how to become evangelistic.

Dr. Hugo Contreras, once called "the Billy Graham of Central America" by people closest to him, is going to serve as our keynote speaker. Dr. Hugo is an evangelist who has started over two dozen churches throughout Central America in over sixty years of ministry. He was once the host of Central America's largest radio ministry, "New Testament Radio", which was broadcast throughout the region on many stations. Hugo’s love for Christ and his zeal to spread the gospel has not dimmed or slowed down. The Lord’s favor on his ministry has allowed him to be uncommonly blessed in many ways. Dr. Hugo will be there to inspire, encourage, and motivate all of us. He has been involved in church-planting his entire life in Central America. Dr. Hugo is delighted with this opportunity to motivate and encourage us to be bearers of the gospel to our communities.

Dimas Jimenez, of LINC Houston, will try to fulfill our second objective. If a pastor or someone else becomes motivated to be evangelistic, what is his/her next step? What should they do once returning to home? Are there materials they can use? How do small groups play a part?

These kinds of important matters are critical to the future of the Lutheran church in Mexico. The fruit from the efforts presented at this conference will be multiplied over and over in small churches across the country in ways that you and I may never see. Lives and eternities can change as a result. Congregations can change as a result. We pray that the group that will gather in Monterrey would be a catalyst to see God's Spirit awaken His people and "give them a new heart." Ezekiel 36:26.

Pastor Abiut feels that it is important for the members of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico as well

as the pastors and other mission-minded people from the United States to meet together face to face. It is his prayer that we would get to know each other, establish relationships, worship together, grow Spiritually, and ultimately work together extending our Lord's Kingdom.

Three items are needed to go to Monterrey:

1. A Photo I.D. (such as a Driver's License or a passport, starting at age 18 and above)
2. A Tourist Card or F.M.N.

This two part document is your "permission" from the Mexican government to visit Mexico. It is available free of charge. The airlines always have an ample supply upon check-in. Or, if all else fails, you can obtain one in Mexican Immigration upon arrival.

3. A Valid Proof Of Citizenship
U.S. Citizens may use one of the following:
 - *Valid Passport:* This is the most recommended document - secure and convenient.
 - *Certified Birth Certificate:* (hospital certificate is not acceptable).

You can check on Expedia.com for air flights to Monterrey. There is a possibility of meeting Pastor Isaac in Rio Bravo and driving down together with him. For anyone thinking about going and driving down you might check with www.go2mexico.com for what is necessary to drive into Mexico.

Pastor Abiut or Bill Atwood will be happy to make arrangements for you at a hotel near the church. People may save a little more money by sleeping in their sleeping bags on the floor at the church. Hotel rates will be forthcoming.

If any of you would like to be part of this, please, email Lois Wolf, secretary of the KIMA board, at nanaswolf@netzero.net. Questions may be directed to Rev. Norman Finke at nfinke_kima@vetec.com. Cc: to Rev. Abiut Fajardo afajardo@att.net.mx. Above all we ask that you would keep this meeting in your prayers.

HELP NEEDED

I would like to give a gift of several books to the pastors of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to help

expand spiritual insight. The first is by John Ortberg, "Si Quieres Caminar sobre las Aguas tiene que Salir de la Barca," "If You Want To Walk On Water You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat." 6 copies should cost us \$60 plus shipping.

The second book is by Max Lucado, "Aligere su equipaje," "Traveling Light." 6 of these will cost between \$54 and \$66 plus shipping.

We will be offering theological books and tracts, VBS and Sunday School material from CPH. CPH is sending samples and catalogs. We hope to get them set up for another year. Last year we spent almost \$2000 on this.

Many of us take these kind of books and materials for granted. For the men and women of the Lutheran Churches of Mexico these are gifts they never thought to be possible.

The people of San Pablo in Mexico City said they did not expect to have these kinds of materials because they do not have the economic resources for them.

The people at San Pedro in Mexico City said that with the support that you gave them for the material for the Vacation Bible School, you were also participants of this ministry that brought several new families into the Church.

Check out our web site at: www.kimamissions.org and include the pastors and their families in your prayers.

STEPPING UP TO THE LINE

If you want to be part of this ministry, we would ask for your prayers and contributions. Your prayers go to the Lord and your contributions to KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX, 75165.

May you, your prayers, and your contributions be blessed.

Rev. Norman R. Finke
Executive Director of KIMA