

A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

August 16, 2005

It is wonderful seeing more and more churches and individuals starting to get involved in the ministries of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. Messiah Lutheran from Bullock Creek, Michigan sent two different groups down to El Divino in Guasave. They did VBS and helped put the footings down for the church at San Pedro.

I got a letter from one of the participants. This is in part what she wrote:

Last week was one of the best experiences of my life. It was awesome! I became really good friends with some of the people down there. We stayed with Pastor Reyes and his family. I had known them from when I had gone to Rio Bravo in 2000. It was great to see some of those guys again, so not only did I get new friends, but also the old friendships grew stronger. I miss all of them so much now. It was a lot of fun to talk, laugh, and joke around with them – even though I knew limited Spanish. Everyone understands laughter and we did a lot of that.

While we were down there we did a lot of work on the mission church in San Pedro. When we got to the worksite on Saturday morning it was a bunch of hills of dirt and by the end of the week it was all stamped down, spread out, and rebar was secured around the outer concrete blocks, and across the firm dirt. We worked really hard and after every workday we were sweaty, dusty, and gross, but it was worth it! We laid the foundation of the church building.

Every morning and night we had devotions held by different people in our group every time. At night we would tell all of the ways that we saw God working that day, and there were always a lot of stories. That was my favorite part of the devotions. We also each got to pick a book of the Bible to read during the week. Those times when I was just reading with God were very cool and brought me close to Him. I always read a chapter in the morning, so that I got filled up with the Holy Spirit early

in the day and kept getting refills throughout the rest of the day seeing God at work.

Salem Lutheran from Tomball also sent groups to Rio Bravo and Guasave. Kevin Pieper from Salem wrote:

This past mission helped us to finally cross the line in our desire to have our missions be more ministry and evangelism focused. We have enjoyed doing the construction and the VBS, but just always felt more could and should be done in the area of real evangelism, helping these men to grow their churches. For this past mission, June 12-18 (and hopefully every one from now on), we added a ministry team that had these elements:

1. The Passion of the Christ movie – we showed it on Tuesday and Thursday night to crowds of 300 and 250, respectively. We showed the films outdoors on the side of a building and then gave away free hot dogs at the end of the movie. All in all, I think we grilled around 1000 hot dogs. Isaac said that several people talked to him after the movies about wanting to join his church.
2. Manicure Mission – we gave manicures to the women in the area and Yolanda gave the corresponding Bible verses for each step of the manicure. The Bible verses tied in with each step, and basically gave the salvation message. At the end of these group manicure sessions, she would lead them in a prayer.

Isaac was excited about this and we want to do the same thing in Guasave when we go there July 9-16. He will be bringing his tent and the praise band. Each evening we will have some kind of presentation similar to what we did in Rio Bravo.

Later Bill Atwood wrote: I don't know if I told you but we had 27 people at our outreach program come forward and answer the call of Jesus. Man it was a fantastic night.

Pastor Isaac Garcia wrote: Thank you for your prayers. It was a very beautiful experience to be once again in Guasave so we could be helping with the tent ministry. We were in three places, in the Templo Emanuel, San Pedro, and Las Moras. We presented a movie “The Passion of the Christ.” In a place that our brother Reyes is now visiting that is called Las Moras it gave us pleasure to be able to see so many people gathered in that place since there were approximately 500 people. All were very attentive to the music and the movie that was presented. All was well in San Pedro. We put the tent in a field that was nearby where they are building the Temple. There were also around 250 to 300 people. We were enjoying seeing all these people that came to receive the message of God. It was a very beautiful

experience. We were working together with our siblings of Tomball, TX. They built 16 benches for the Temple The Divine Emanuel. There are other projects that are still needed like finishing the outside plastering of the temple and also painting it.

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I went to McAllen last week and met with Pastor Abiut Fajardo. We talked about the needs of the Synod and what needs to be done. One of the immediate needs is to help Pastor Samuel Perez move his family and belongings to Monterrey. He received a call from El Sembrador (The Sower) in Monterrey and has accepted it. His wife was having health problems in Mexico City. The cost of the move for family and furniture is approximately \$1200. There are only about a dozen regular members at Monterrey. They have agreed to pay Samuel \$200 a month. Pastor Abiut has asked if we could help with an additional \$400 a month. We don't have any extra money but if all of you could encourage others to get involved I'm sure the Lord will bless.

Pastor Abiut Fajardo needs to go to Mexicali to meet with the members of San Juan Lutheran Church. There are problems that need to be worked out that will affect getting a new pastor. As you may know Pastor Juan Rosas died about a year and a half ago. His widow needs to move out of the parsonage into her own home. I believe CAN-DO fixed up her new home but there are still some things that need to be worked out. We need an additional \$500 for air fare and expenses for Pastor Abiut and Pastor Samuel to make the trip.

I just got an email from Pastor Filiberto Jimenez. He had been receiving \$500 a month from a church in Yuma, Arizona. As of last February the funds stopped coming. It costs Pastor Filiberto \$120 a month to send his son, Job, to a special high school. He owes \$200 for last year and needs additional money to enroll for this year. It will cost him \$120 a month to send Job to school this year. We are praying that Job might be the next pastor for San Luis Rio Colorado.

Pastor Isaac is doing well. He has recovered from his hernia operation. He and Yolanda celebrated the Quinceanero of Sarahi, their daughter last weekend.

The tent ministry has been put on hold because the pickup truck broke down. The radiator and transmission went out. We need between \$1500 and \$2500 to fix it.

The devil is causing troubles. When I went down for the Quinceanero I found out that Pastor Reyes' van also broke down. We will have to find out if it can be fixed or if we will have to replace it.

One of the churches that had been helping us support Pastor Isaac stopped sending their \$200 a month support. It makes it tough when people and/ or churches drop out.

God is the God of love. He sent His Son into this world to make it possible for all of us to spend eternity with Him in heaven. He has given some the gifts to go and share the message with the people out there who don't yet know the story. Others He has blessed with the gift of being able to make money. Others He has blessed with the gift of generosity, compassion, and hospitality. If we can put it all together we have the means to help our brothers and sisters south of the border to share the good news that there is a God out there who cares and is saying, "Come unto me!"

We need your prayers, your gifts, and your willingness to get involved. Send your prayers to our heavenly Father and He will bless. Send your gifts to KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie TX, 75165 and we will share them with those in need. Share your willingness to help with Bill Atwood, wildmexicobill@earthlink.net, and he will hook you up with Pastor Abiut or one of the congregations that need your help.

May God bless each of you and your ministries.

Rev. Norman Finke
Director of KIMA