

## A Step Forward in Faith



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

Romans 12:13

August 29, 2005

## **Visions/Challenges/Opportunities to partner with God through KIMA in helping the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to spread the Good News of what God Has done for all people**

Yesterday’s Epistle reading was found in Romans 12. In part it read as follows:  
(verses 4-8 New Living Translation)

**4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **5** so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

**6** God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. **7** If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. **8** If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take

**the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.**

I must admit that during the reading of those verses of the Epistle lesson for yesterday my mind began to wander a bit. How great it is to be a part of the body of Christ doing our small part and seeing how God can put it all together to spread the Good News of what He has done for all people. Through many ways we all can be part of that plan.

I believe that God is working through KIMA to extend His ministries in Mexico from Mexico City, to Guadalajara, Guasave, San Luis Rio Colorado, Rio Bravo, Matamoros, and Monterrey. That covers a whole lot of ground and many millions of people. Unfortunately, if we put together all those congregations we would probably only have about 500 people worshipping per week. But that is a start.

Each congregation has its own style of worshipping, the kind of style that they feel will best reach the people to whom they minister. Most services are conducted in Spanish although in Guadalajara they have a bilingual service (*The church in Guadalajara would like to find a retired Lutheran pastor from the United States that would be willing to come over there for a time and preach to the people in English*). Several congregations use the organ and others use guitars, tambourines, and drums. All preach Law and Gospel sharing with the people that God loves them, cares for them, and promises to be with them always.

Do you realize that if we did not send Pastor Reyes in Guasave the \$600 a month that is donated by people and congregations like you and yours that there would not be a Lutheran outreach in Guasave? It is a small congregation of about 30 to 40 people consisting mostly of women and their children. Now, they are enthusiastic and loving but they do not have the financial wherewithal to keep their building in repairs let alone support a pastor and his family. Even now they can’t finish stuccoing and painting the outside of their church which has

been there for many years. Water seeps through the concrete roof and ceilings making the inside of the church look unkempt.

The congregation is located in a middle class neighborhood of Guasave. When people come to worship there is no air conditioning. The members can't afford to install air conditioning. For about \$3500 - \$5000 the facilities could be fixed up to give visitors and the general public the idea that here is something special, a place where people honor God.

Because of your donations there is ministry going on in Guasave. We have Pastor Reyes and his wife, Martina and their three children. Not only is there ministry going on in Guasave but they have been able to reach out to two additional rural areas on the outskirts of Guasave. *(There is a new problem there in that the used van we bought them a few years ago keeps breaking down).*

Through the assistance of KIMA, and that always means through people like you, property has been purchased in San Pedro and a sanctuary is being built there for worship. In addition to this at a third site worship has begun. Mr. Bill Atwood and Mr. Kevin Pieper of Salem Tomball told me that when they showed the film, *The Passion of the Christ*, almost 500 people showed up to see it. Are not the fields ripe for the harvest?

- ◆ We need \$225 more a month in donations to meet the \$600 we send to Pastor Reyes.
- ◆ We need between \$3500 and \$5000 to finish El Divino Emanuel in Guasave (stuccoing, painting and air conditioning).
- ◆ We need about \$5000 to finish the sanctuary at San Pedro.
- ◆ We need money to help purchase a car for Pastor Reyes.
- ◆ We need additional prayers and contributions from you, the Body of Christ..

At El Sembrador in Monterrey there is a new challenge. They worship about a dozen a Sunday. They have a new sanctuary and an older parish hall and Sunday School rooms. They have called Pastor Samuel Perez to be their

new pastor. He has accepted the call. KIMA has paid \$1200 to move him, his family, and furniture to Monterrey. The congregation can only pay him \$200 a month. The Lutheran Synod of Mexico has asked us to supplement his income by \$400 a month. That is a new need.

- ◆ We need an additional \$400 a month.
- ◆ We need additional prayers and contributions from you, the Body of Christ.

Rev. Abiut Fajardo is married to his wife, Dori, and they have three children. All three children are now attending universities. Pastor Fajardo is the pastor of one of the three self-supporting congregations of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. In order to support his family, his wife Dori holds down three jobs. She sells Mary Kay cosmetics, sells shoes, and sews clothing for people. Pastor Fajardo's daughter, Damaris, earns some extra money by cleaning the church and parish hall and Pastor Fajardo earns extra by mowing and keeping up the church grounds. Pastor Fajardo is the president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico and does not get paid anything for that. We send him \$250 a month to help with his expenses of travel etc.

- ◆ We need \$250 a month to help Pastor Fajardo.
- ◆ We need additional prayers and contributions from you, the Body of Christ.

We have inherited a new problem. Two pastors from the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, Pastor Isaac Garcia and Pastor Filiberto Jiménez were receiving assistance from two separate congregations here in the United States. For some reason or another the two congregations have decided not to continue supporting these two pastors. When you suddenly get your income reduced by a third or in one case 5/8<sup>th</sup> there can be some serious repercussions.

Pastor Filiberto Jiménez from San Mateo Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado (*near Yuma, Arizona*) recently contacted me about needing some help. He serves three missions in addition to San Mateo. They have hopes of building a new structure out at Froterizo. He has an old car that takes quite a

beating as they drive the country roads to these mission sites each week. He always uses part of his salary to help people in the surrounding communities. His immediate concern when he contacted me was how to enroll his son, Job, in high school. The tuition is \$120 a month. Since the congregation in the United States stopped sending him \$500 a month back in February he was not able to pay up his son's school bill. Now that school was starting he needed to make up the \$200 from last year and have the \$120 per month this year. KIMA paid the \$320 to get his son in school.

- ◆ We need \$120 a month to send Job to school this year. He hopes to one day be a pastor.
- ◆ We need additional prayers and contributions from you, the Body of Christ.

Pastor Isaac Garcia, I'm happy to say, has recently recovered from his hernia surgery. He is presently serving Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo, Mesia Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo, and Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church in Matamoros as well as conducting the tent ministry as an evangelism outreach. They are in the middle of a building addition out at Mesia in the colonia. They are adding on bathrooms, a kitchen, and a meeting room. Presently, Isaac's truck that he uses for the tent ministry needs a new transmission and a new radiator. We send him \$200 a month.

- ◆ We need \$200 a month for Pastor Isaac Garcia.
- ◆ We need to get his truck running.
- ◆ We need additional prayers and contributions from you, the Body of Christ.

So do you see why I was distracted during the reading of the Epistle reading yesterday morning? On the one hand I was thrilled at seeing how the Body of Christ has been working through KIMA in helping with the ministry down in Mexico. On the other hand, I guess, my faith or trust was a little weak. As I looked at the additional needs I couldn't help but think, "Where is it going to come from?"

The answer is obvious! The Body of Christ!  
What part of the Body of Christ are you? Are

you an arm or a leg? Are you a tongue or an eye? What part do you play?

I know that the pastors and their wives are dedicated committed people. I know that the members of their congregations want to serve the Lord. I know that they will continue to do so. But how much time is left? How many people out there still need to be touched by the Gospel message? If we get involved with our prayers and sharing the gifts that the Lord has given to us can we speed up the process?

We need your help. KIMA consists of 7 congregations, 4 LWML groups, 1 Men's Club, 1 Thrivent group, and 28 individual donors. I believe that the Lord has called us to help in this ministry. We have gone to Mexico. We have visited the congregations there and met with the pastors and congregational leaders. We have made the contacts. We have found out the needs. And now we need people and congregations to come on board by making a commitment to get involved.

Please, consider the information above, make a personal commitment, that's a whole lot easier than trying to get a whole congregation to move. Then, after you have made your commitment to get involved in this ministry, pass this information on to those in your congregations that are responsible for the vision and direction your congregation will take in the coming months to carry out God's Great Commission.

Please contact, Rev. Norman Finke at [nfinke\\_kima@vetec.com](mailto:nfinke_kima@vetec.com) or 972-935-8017 for any further information.

Prayers need to be addressed to God and donations may be sent to:

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We have begun work on our Website once again. Check it out at [www.kimamissions.org](http://www.kimamissions.org)