



May 5, 2006 Cinco de Mayo



The 5th of May is not Mexican Independence Day. Mexico declared its independence from Spain on midnight, the 15th of September, 1810.

So, why Cinco de Mayo? Because 4,000 Mexican soldiers smashed the French and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 at Puebla, Mexico, 100 miles east of Mexico City on the morning of May 5, 1862.

The French had landed in Mexico (along with Spanish and English troops) five months earlier on the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the newly elected government of democratic President (and Indian) Benito Juárez. The English and Spanish quickly made deals and left. The French, however, had different ideas.

Under Emperor Napoleon III, who detested the United States, the French came to stay. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States was entangled in its own Civil War.

The French Army left the port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City to the west. Confident of a quick victory, the French soldiers marched on to Mexico City to seize the capital before the Mexicans could muster a viable defense. The invasion was temporarily stopped and crushed. The Mexicans had won the battle but then lost the war. The French Emperor, upon learning of the failed invasion, immediately dispatched another force, this time numbering 30,000 soldiers. By 1864, they succeeded in defeating the Mexican army and occupying Mexico City. Archduke Maximilian became Emperor of Mexico.

Maximilian's rule was short-lived, and limited to areas near French garrisons. Mexican rebels opposed to his rule resisted throughout most of the rest of Mexico. He also quickly lost the support of Mexican conservatives when he turned out to be more liberal than they had expected. Once the American Civil War was over, the U.S. military began supplying Mexicans with weapons and ammunition, and by 1867, the rebels finally defeated the French and deposed their puppet Emperor. The Mexican people then re-elected Juárez as president.

Although the celebration of this holiday has historically been limited to Latin-American communities, particularly in the southwest, it has become increasingly popular across the country and among all ethnic groups in the last 10 years. In recent years, it has been celebrated widely and in a similar style as St. Patrick's Day — namely a

celebration and identification with Mexicans, their culture, food, and music by Anglos and other unrelated ethnic groups.

The LWML of Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waxahachie are sponsoring a Cinco de Mayo celebration. They are putting on a dinner selling tickets to it and then are auctioning off baskets that the ladies have put together. All the proceeds from this are going to be used to help with the ministries that KIMA is supporting.

Many Americans have only a cursory awareness of the significance of this day. We share this with you as a way of celebrating the spirit of freedom, not freedom from oppression but freedom to meet the challenges that our dear Lord has given us.

We, in this country, are being blessed by the Lord. We have so much affluence and, for the most part, we do not even realize it. We take it for granted: fresh water 24 hours a day, unlimited electrical power, telephones that work, paved roads, indoor bathrooms, showers, refrigerators, fresh produce, and meat.

Why is the Lord blessing us? Because we are so good? Because we are so special? Or maybe because He has something in mind for us? Isn't there a passage that says, **"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked?"** (Luke 12:48 NIV).

How does Matthew 28:19-20 fit into your life? The life of your congregation? **"Go and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."**

Are our spiritual values misplaced? Have we absorbed the same humanistic and materialistic values that dominate the secular culture?

I think we are beyond the days when we need to be sending out blue-eyed, blond, German heritage missionaries to our Hispanic friends to our south. They have a whole different culture than we have. They have a different language, different music, and

we need to let them do it their way. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit's blessings on their worship, their preaching, and their ministry.

As they are faithful to the Word, God will bless them and will raise up more home-grown workers.

But do you know what the problem is? These men have to provide for their families. They have to have a shelter over their heads, feed their children, put clothes and shoes on their bodies, send their children to school, have beds to sleep on, tables to eat off of, and a car to travel in.

For the most part, God is sending them out to the poor, the downtrodden, to grass roots Mexico. The average daily wage in Mexico is currently MX \$45.24 a day. That converts to \$4.12 a day American. There are 3 earning 'zones'; Provincial, Mexico City and Tourist Areas. I think in the factories near the U.S. border the pay is between \$7 - \$8 a day. Do you sense a problem in making ends meet and still supporting a pastor? I have a feeling that some of these congregations never will be able to support a pastor.

There are people who want to study to become new workers in the church like Luis and Samuel, Yolanda, José and Josías. They have the love of Christ in their hearts. They want to share that love. There are people all over Mexico who are crying to hear about that love of Christ.

I think our calling, the reason we are being blessed, is so that we can provide the means by which these laborers can go out to reap the harvest. Several years ago I was told that the average professional in Mexico City earned around \$1200 a month. The Lutheran Synod of Mexico asked if we could help each pastor to have \$900 a month. We have been sending down only enough to get them near the \$600 level. We want to do more. How many gifts of what size would it take to have another \$500 a month to help these pastors and lay-pastors?

God said "Therefore, go and make disciples...**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**" Does that mean that if we don't go and make disciples, He might withdraw His cup of blessings from us?

Pastor Filiberto Jimenez



I just got a letter from the Neunabers in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. Their church is partnering with San Mateo in San Luis Rio Colorado. They said: "We just talked to Pastor's daughter, Martha, and they have the results of his tests.

The good news is that it is not cancer. The bad news is that they do not seem to think that it is curable. He apparently has lymphomatosis, or tumors of the lymph glands. We do not know why this cannot be cured, but that is what we understand.

He went to Los Angeles to see the doctor there and get the results. He is back in San Luis now and seeing a doctor there for treatment.

Make a personal commitment.

God has called to you and He is blessing you. These men and women need our help. After you have made your commitment to get involved in this ministry, keep it in your prayers and share this information with your congregational leaders 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@sbeglobal.net or 972-935-8017 or www.kimamission.org for any further information.

**Prayers need to be addressed to God.
Donations for this ministry may be sent to:**

**KIMA
109 Noel
Waxahachie, TX 75165**

Installation of Rev. Samuel Perez at El Sembrador in Monterrey

