



January 29, 2008

Can you believe that it is almost February? The first month of this “New Year” is almost history. It is exciting because as time passes things are happening. Some of what happens is perplexing and other things are uplifting. Job Jiménez, our eighteen year old budding evangelist, has completed his first quarter at the Centro Universitario de Sonora Campus at San Luis. He took five classes and on a ten point scale averaged 9.0.



The classes that he took were: Prevention and Community Intervention; Theory Of The Personality; Statistics; Workshop Of Expression; Psychological Theories 1. At the same time he was taking these five classes he was taking a theology course at home and serving as a lay minister at one of the mission sites. When he finishes his University training he plans on finishing his seminary education so he can be a pastor.



In Guadalajara they are making plans to build a Lutheran Center that can be used by visiting groups to the city and by other church groups. They need to find financial backing for the project. The estimated cost of the project is \$200,000. The proposal is for two buildings, a multi-purpose room, a two floor housing unit containing 6 rooms for 4 people with a bathroom in each room. One of these rooms will have wheelchair access and accommodations for handicapped.



Todos Santos continues to grow by means of confirmations and baptisms. They are also reaching out to people in a resort/retirement community at Chapala.





Pastor Isaac Garcia, after two years of instruction, confirmed five people at the church in Matamoros. They were: Armando Cota, Isabel Espinoza, Roberto Alvarez, Aracely Alvarez and Alejandra Alvarez.

I think if it took us two years for adult confirmation we would not have too many. Pastor Isaac just ordered twenty-five Luther's Small Catechisms for more adults and twenty-five for youth. He is on a roll.



A New Challenge

Luis Moreno and his wife Maria.



Luis and Samuel have been working with Pastor Isaac Garcia. Both have been trained in the art of building. Over the past two years they have been helping Pastor Isaac in his ministries. They have also been studying along with Pastor Isaac and his wife Yolanda. They have been taking

courses from the Hispanic Institute of Theology.

<http://www.etehit.org/>

Rev. Steve Morfitt and Rev. Roberto Simental of the Texas District have been teaching these courses.

The Hispanic Institute of Theology is part of Concordia Seminary, one of the two seminaries of the Lutheran Church-Missouri

Synod. Concordia Seminary has been providing educational supervision, institutional and fiscal support to the Institute's programs since 1987, as it has endeavored to form Hispanic pastors for the Synod. The Hispanic Institute conducts its programs for pastoral and deaconess certification at two levels: the Entrance (Diaconal) Level and the Seminary (Certification) Level. These functions have fit perfectly within the Seminary's mission which is to serve the Church and the world by providing theological education and leadership



centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with the purpose of forming pastors, missionaries and leaders in the name of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. You may ask what were Isaac, Yolanda, Luis, and Samuel doing there? The problem at this time is that the Lutheran Synod of Mexico does not have a formal program that is designated to be followed on the path to the pastoral ministry or even to be a lay-minister, deacon or deaconess. So these people have turned to us and the above program of the Hispanic Institute of Theology to get what theological education that they could.

For the past two years Sammy and Brenda Sorsby of Tomball Texas have been supporting these two men (Samuel and Luis) as they worked and studied. This was necessary because the three churches or missions that they served along with Pastor Isaac and Yolanda are financially unable to support them. The Sorsby's made a two year commitment which has now been fulfilled. I got a nice letter from them thanking us for the opportunity to be a part of Samuel's and Luis' seminary education.

In order to financially support his family Samuel has gone back into the construction business but will continue to help as he is able. Samuel will be continuing his studies. He is not abandoning the idea of being involved in ministry.

Luis, on the other hand, is much more drawn towards the pastoral ministry and is going to continue his work under Pastor Isaac putting his trust in God to find a way to support him and his family; pretty trusting; pretty courageous; maybe just a lot of faith in God to provide. Think about this. Is God placing this servant ministry on your heart to be an enabler for Luis to continue his studies and his ministry in God's kingdom?

At the rate of \$600 a month, KIMA will be able to support him through April. Here is where we need help. At the moment KIMA supports Lay-pastor Jose Reyes, Rev. Samuel Perez, Rev. Isaac Garcia, Magdiel Fajardo, and Job Jimenez. Now no one person or congregation fully supports any one of these men. It is the joint effort of four congregations, 5 LWML groups, 2 service organizations (the South Dallas Chapter of Thrivent, and Connecting Generations of Phoenix), and 26 individuals or families. Together we have been able to keep the ministries going in these seven churches and for these two young men who are preparing for the ministry.

Obviously, if we are adding the support of another worker, we need more and new help. (By the way, Job Jimenez had been receiving \$300 a month to help him in his work among the missions near San Luis Rio Colorado. He just received word that this year he will only receive \$150 a month. He relayed this news to us yesterday and asks for our prayers.)

Do you feel called when Jesus says, "Go and make disciples"? Do you as an individual or a congregation want to be a part of supporting a "missionary" to

the lost of Mexico? Mission work does not have to be way off somewhere far away. This is the country right to the south of the greatest nation in the world. These people are not immigrating to the U.S. or sneaking in. They are trying to eke out a living, raise their children, and we would like to help them to know Jesus as their loving Savior, the one who has forgiven them all their sins, and promised to be with them always. We want to help them to be able to raise their children in “the nurture and admonition of the Lord”. Although many times these parents first hear the story from the mouth of babes as their children learn the story from these “missionaries” who share the message through song, coloring books, and VBS/Sunday School programs.



We would ask you to pray about these things and if the Lord moves you to be a part of this ministry and be an active part in helping to hold up the prophets' hands please contact us at:

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Blessings to each of you and to whatever ministries you are involved in.

**Rev. Norman R. Finke
Executive Director of KIMA**

