



February 20, 2008

I thought I would share with you some of the things that I have recently received. Below is an e-mail that I received from Rev. Isaac Garcia this last Monday.



February 18, 2008

Pastor Finke:

Good afternoon, I hope you are doing fine as well as your family, enjoying the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have been working with the tent. Last week we were in a community in the state of Veracruz conducting an evangelistic campaign (revival). It was a very beautiful experience. Our group consisted of Samuel and his family, Luis and his family, my family and I, and some members of Betania (Julio Castillo, Julio Cesar, and Guillermo). The three days that we had the campaign we had

good attendance and every night there were more than 200 people. We sang hymns, preached and showed Christian movies. And the most beautiful thing is that there were people there who had never heard the gospel before and we had a chance to share. Those were very beautiful experiences. Since we did not have enough money for the trip we saw how God provides a way to preach His word. Everyone who went gave a little bit for the gas. It took us 12 hours. A brother from there allowed us to stay in his home and helped us with the food. They were very happy serving. The last day they killed a pig, cooked it and we ate. And every one was very happy for the results of the campaign and we hope that God continues opening doors to keep this beautiful ministry going. I give thanks to God because this work is growing and we are seeing results. In Betania, we have good attendance. On Sundays the benches are packed. We have new people coming to the services. Last Sunday we had 70 people. In Matamoros we are seeing good results as well since the people are getting involved in God's work. On Sunday we have a Communion Service and right after it we have Sunday School teaching about prayer. On Tuesdays we have a prayer service, and on Saturday the study "Jesus of Nazareth, my Lord". And at the Mesias mission on Thursdays there is a devotional service. Brother Luis Moreno is in charge. On Saturday there is bible school in which there are several groups. Yolanda and Luis are in charge.

Luis and Samuel are helping with the Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. at Betania. Bersabeth Jasso is with the children. She is a young lady who has been with us from the beginning. She is getting married on March 15 to a young man from the congregation.

We will have a special ceremony.

I was talking with Reyes and they are fine, working in the missions of San Pedro and Las Moras. I told him about the money that you have for the church of San Pedro and he said that as soon as he gets it he will do the projects he has.

We as a church are praying and planning an evangelistic missionary trip to Guasave. We will work on what we can. We want to work as a church for the trip. There are many brothers interested in going and helping. We have set the date for the first week of August 2008.

I also want to let you know that I received a letter from the Mexican Lutheran Synod, where they say that the Church of Betania and I as a Pastor are not recognized as part of the Synod before the Government, and if I want to belong to the Synod I have to send documents from Betania and ask to belong to the Synod.

About the missionary trip that you would like to make, we are in the best position to welcome you. You are always welcome and any of the projects are great.

Blessings, greetings.
Pastor Isaac Garcia.



Can you imagine taking off on a twelve hour trip with around a dozen people and not knowing if you have enough money to buy supplies? It kind of reminds me of some disciples who were sent out. (Luke 9)

The thankful father of the lost son killed the fattened calf and celebrated his son's return. (Luke 15). But here we have the fattened pig being killed to celebrate the successful proclamation of the Gospel.

Pastor Isaac said that this is the way they sell chickens in Veracruz. Pretty good sized chickens!

I wonder how long they hang there before someone takes one home to cook.



Pastor Isaac told me that last week Kevin Pieper of Tomball, TX came with two young leaders of their church and invited us to participate in a Youth Congress that they want to hold this coming July in Rio Bravo. Youth of Rio Bravo, Matamoros, Monterrey and Salem Lutheran Church of Tomball will participate in the project.

Pastor Isaac said, "I believe that that would motivate more of the youth. Here in Rio Bravo we already have a group of 25 youth."

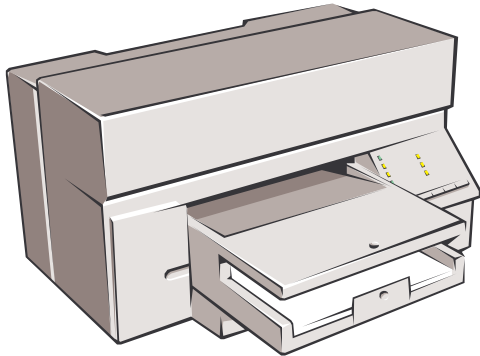


Isaac Garcia and his wife, Yolanda

Rev.

We are going to have the privilege of having Pastor Isaac and his wife, Yolanda, join us at the 2008 Texas District Theological Convocation in Austin on March 31 and April 1. We want to give them a

chance to get better acquainted with the church here in Texas and we want to give you a chance to meet with them. If you are worried about your Spanish you need have no fear. We are bringing Rev. Roberto Simental our Spanish/English speaking friend and pastor of Buen Pastor/Beautiful Shepherd Lutheran Church in McAllen to interpret for you.



Several months ago we gave Pastor Isaac and Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo four computers and whatever it takes to hook them all up to the Internet. He wanted to use these computers to attract youth and help them with their school work. He has put them into good use but now finds that they need a printer. Does anyone have a printer that is in good shape? Or would someone be willing to give us the money so that Pastor Isaac can go and buy one?



We are still looking for a way to help support Luis Moreno and possibly Samuel Garcia. Luis is working full time with Pastor Isaac. Samuel has a job but wants to help out whenever he can. It's really not a matter of helping to support these men but rather finding a way to extend the ministry that is going on in Rio Bravo and Matamoros.



Luis & Samuel

Luis's complete name is Jose Luis Moreno Alvarado. He is married to Maria del Rosario Corona Hernández. He was born on May 4, 1970 in the city of Rio Bravo, Tamps. His wife was born on August 21, 1969 in the city of Rio Bravo, Tamps. They have 3 children. The oldest son is named Luis Daniel, 18 yrs old, the second son is named Eliud Osiel, 13 yrs old, second year in high school, and their daughter named Rosario Elizabeth, 7 yrs old, second year of elementary school.

Luis and his family have assisted at Betania for more than 6 years.

He (Luis) has felt the call of God to preach and has taken the following courses: *The Family in the Bible, Hermeneutics, Jesus of Nazareth, My Lord, The Lutheran Faith, Lutheran Confessions*, and right now is studying with Pastor Simental, *Persons and Events of the Old Testament*, and will continue to take the required studies necessary to be a pastor.

His secular education is: Elementary, high school and one semester of college.

He lives on Camino Real #126, colonia Manuel Ramirez, in Rio Bravo, Tamps. They have their own house.

He is currently working at the mission El Mesias, every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. conducting a devotional service for the adults. On Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. he has a Bible class.

At Betania he is helping with the youth group, having gatherings at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with the youth studying the Catechism. At the service on Sunday at 6:00 pm. he participates with the music group for worship.

His plans are to serve and prepare himself to be a pastor.



We would ask you to pray about these things and if the Lord moves you to be a part of this ministry 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**