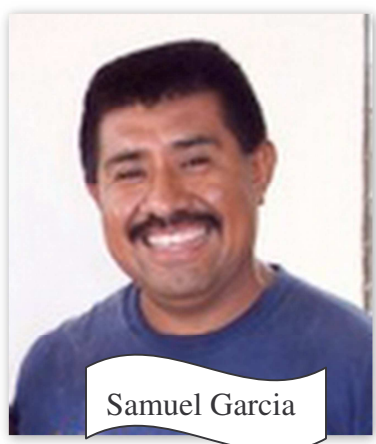




"Share with God's people who are in need."
Romans 12:13



Martin



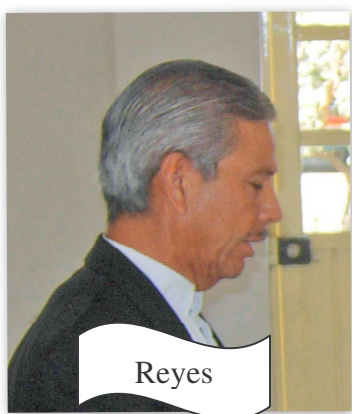
Samuel Garcia



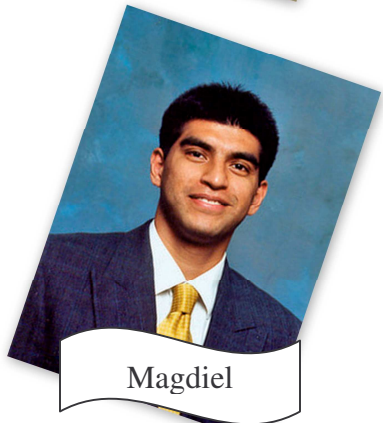
Job



Luis



Reyes



Magdiel



Samuel Perez

Matthew 9:37-38 (English Standard Version)

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."



The National Assembly of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico

The Lutheran Synod of Mexico has eleven churches and eight missions. There are six ordained pastors, four of which have wives that are helping, and there is one deaconess. Seven other men are serving the above nineteen preaching stations in one capacity or another. Some lead music, some lead worship, some preach, some teach Bible study classes, Sunday School classes, all feel that they have a calling from the Lord.

When Jesus sent out the disciples He told them to preach, heal, cast out demons etc. and He also said in Matthew 10, “**Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.**” Matthew 10:9-10 (English Standard Version). I don’t think Jesus was saying that they were to take a vow of poverty. No, they were to go out putting their trust in God to provide while they told the Good News of God’s plan of salvation. What a joy it is to be part of God’s plan! And you are part of that overall plan. Some are called to preach, some to sing, some to pray, some to provide financial support, some to give moral support, some to help organize. When we are called by God to be His own we discover His plan for us and then we find joy, joy, joy down in our heart.

That’s what has happened to:

- **Martin Hernandez** who lives in the desert near San Luis Rio Colorado, about 30 miles from Yuma, Arizona. He works in the fields for five dollars a day planting or harvesting vegetables. He also preaches, leads worship, studies and has a few more classes to take before he will be ordained.
- **Samuel Garcia** lives in Rio Bravo, works as a carpenter, sings in a Praise Band, and assists Rev. Isaac Garcia at Betania in Rio Bravo, and Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros.
- **Job Jimenez** lives in San Luis Rio Colorado. He is nineteen years old and is attending the university in San Luis Rio Colorado. He will graduate next year with a degree in psychology. He then intends to continue his studies in theology and become an ordained pastor. Besides being a full time student he leads the music at San Mateo Lutheran Church in San Luis, and helps conduct services at Independencia, Fronterizo, and Santo Tomas Apostol.

- **Luis Moreno** also lives in Rio Bravo. He is a carpenter by trade but works full time helping at Mesias, the mission near Rio Bravo. There he leads worship, preaches, teaches Sunday School, catechism classes and whenever possible takes theology classes from Rev. Steve Morfitt. He also helps with the music at Betania.
- **Jose Reyes** was a member of Betania in Rio Bravo. He received some formal training under Rev. Abiut Fajardo and has been serving in Guasave for the last six and a half years as a lay-pastor. He has a wife Martina and three children ranging in age from fourteen to twenty. It is hoped that soon he will be able to take some more courses to better prepare him for the pastoral ministry
- **Magdiel Fajardo** is the son of Rev. Abiut Fajardo from Guadalajara. Magdiel attended Lutheran High North in Houston for one year and then enrolled at the University of Texas Pan Am in Edinburg, Texas and recently graduated from there with an engineering degree. He had intended to go back to Mexico and serve as a worker/priest. He now has been accepted into Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and will begin his studies this Fall. Because he is here on a student visa he is not able to have an off-campus job. So he must rely on grants from the seminary, work at the seminary, gifts from congregations, and KIMA.
- **Samuel Perez Herrera** had been training under Rev. Steve Morfitt and another Lutheran Seminary in Mexico. He has applied to the SLM to be an ordained pastor. He presently is serving his vicarage under Rev. Isaac Garcia at Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros. He has a few more classes to take and then will be eligible for ordination.

Jesus said, **“night is coming, when no one can work.”** John 9:4. The time could be short or it could take awhile. That could be for all of us or for each individual. All I know is that God has given us a challenge but not without giving us blessing. He promises to be with us always and He will give us what we need. He gives us not only what we need but He also gives us His blessings to use and we do our part to “go and teach” and “make disciples.”

I write you this not because I like writing letters or articles. I write this so that you will understand how simple it is to reach out to people who do not yet know of Jesus and His love. I write this to you to inform you of the need that these students have, the pastors of these “impoverished” congregations have, and since God has laid this in our lap, the need that we now have, the opportunity that we now have, the promise of blessings that we always have.

Last month I told many of you about the need for the funding of Vacation Bible Schools. I had one gift for four hundred dollars and received a request for almost sixteen hundred dollars worth of materials. I was shaken. I was tempted to say we can’t do this (and almost did). But I kept running across Bible passages where God challenges us, promises us, and then fulfills His promises. Since the original order for VBS material we have received a request for evangelism outreach materials and Sunday School material (about five hundred dollars worth). This time I did balk but now I have to eat my own words. As of last Sunday night I have received enough gifts to cover the twelve hundred dollar deficit and have five hundred six dollars left over to cover the last request. God is good. All the time.

So here is the deal. This is God’s challenge. Here is what He has placed on our table. We need eleven hundred thirty dollars per month to assist pastors in small-impoverished congregations; we need two hundred dollars a month to assist the youth of Betania in Rio Bravo to reach out to the Spanish speaking youth along the border near Reynosa; and we need three thousand dollars a month to help out the men who are preparing for full time ministry. To meet this challenge we need four thousand three hundred thirty dollars a month. So far this year, for everything including VBS material, we have been averaging two thousand eight hundred twenty-seven dollars a month. So we thank those of you, individuals, congregations, and LWML’s, who have been cheerful, unselfish givers trusting in God’s promises. It does feel so good to be part of His team!

So we need to find ways, people, and God's grateful children who can help us accomplish the task He has laid before us. We need prayers. We need people to get the word out about this challenge. We need people to financially undertake this opportunity. We need another one thousand five hundred three dollars per month. How can you help?

My prayer as a pastor each time I received the people's gift to God was "Multiply the gifts and bless the givers!" That is now my prayer for you.

If God is laying this challenge upon your heart, please, send your gifts, large or small, to KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX 75165 and earmark your gift for either the overall KIMA ministry or for one of the above special programs: students, pastors, or radio ministry.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman R. Finke".

Rev. Norman R. Finke
Executive Director of KIMA

P.S.
Please, pass this information on to others. Post it on a bulletin board or make copies of it and give it to someone who may help in one way or another.