



## Happy Thanksgiving!

This morning my wife was cleaning out some of the things we had stored in a drawer. In doing so we ran into a "REPORTER" newsletter from 27 years ago dated November 29, 1982. Interestingly, in it we found an article about Todos Santos, the Lutheran mission in Guadalajara. What led us to keep this I have no idea. In 1982, I was principal of St. Matthew Lutheran School in Houston and didn't have any idea about what was going on in Guadalajara. I've tried to recreate a copy of that article below.

### Once Near Disbanding, Mexico Congregation Looks to Bright Future

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO—

Once near to closing its doors for good, All Saints Lutheran church this month opened new doors—to a worship facility, parsonage, and educational building. In a booklet prepared for the Nov. 7 dedication service, Pastor James Herzog referred to the congregation's turnaround as "a miracle."

All Saints Church grew out of work the Missouri Synod started with other Lutherans in 1968 among about 30,000 English-speaking residents of this second largest city in Mexico.

Worship attendance ranged from 15 to 35 for years. In the late 1970s, the other Lutherans stopped supporting the congregation and attendance dropped to an average of six per Sunday. When it seemed as though the congregation might have to disband, a handful of members and a Mexico City pastor appealed to the Missouri Synod for help.

After conducting a field survey which pointed to good potential for ministry in Guadalajara, the board declared it a new mission field and authorized a Forward in Remembrance grant of \$367,300 for construction and the pastor's salary.

Attendance at worship, confirmation, and Bible classes began to rise. Two All Saint's members, Erwin and Wera Kersten, donated land for the mission complex.

Sunday attendance at All Saints has recently averaged between 55 and 60, with Herzog and the members feeling the potential is greatly enhanced by the new facilities.



GUADALAJARA-The new building for All Saints Lutheran Church in Guadalajara, Mexico represents a turnabout from a near dead congregation to one that anticipates a bright future.

**Little did I know that one day my wife and I would worship in that church, sleep in their parsonage, see their Vacation Bible School in action, and become good friends with Rev. Abuit Fajardo and his wife Doris who presently serve at that activate vibrant church. Thanks to the Lord for blessing this ministry.**



**Did you ever see a Sunday School class pay \$450 for a cake? Or an individual pay \$150 for a quart of homemade barbeque sauce? I did! The men and women of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waxahachie decided to have some fun and get in the spirit of being a part of fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission through KIMA. On the first of November they had a freewill offering Oktoberfest noon dinner, sausage, German potato salad, red cabbage, sauerkraut, rolls and all the dessert you could**

want. This was followed by a live auction for homemade desserts and three bottles of homemade barbeque sauce. It took me awhile but I finally got a bottle of the barbeque sauce.

The South Dallas chapter of Thrivent got involved and gave some matching funds and on November 17<sup>th</sup> at our congregation meeting Pastor Robert Hemsath presented KIMA with a check for \$4633.



Pastor Robert Hemsath presenting a check

**Praise the Lord!**



**This is from Magdiel Fajardo who is going to the Seminary in Fort Wayne**

Hello Pastor Finke;  
How are you?

I finished with the Greek. I passed. The whole class passed so we were very happy. For the Winter quarter I will be taking:  
Old Testament Bible, Liturgics I, Dogmatics I, Gospels I, and New Testament Greek Readings.

Looks like a lot of reading. Its 15 credit hrs.

We played against St. Louis Seminary, but we lost. In January, I believe, we are going to St. Louis to play them again.

Blessings,  
Magdiel



**This is Job Jimenez from San Luis Rio Colorado**

Hola

I just write to let you know everything its going fine, I keep going to school, and to missions too.

Church is getting big, I hope you have a chance to visit and stay with us so you will see with your own eyes what we are doing.

And about my Pastoral studies I will be try to talk with Pastor Isaac. And we are going to let you know.

I just little sick, I have many weeks with a terrible toothache, but I pray to lord that He cures me.

How about you? How are things going all with you there?

God Blessings and we keep in touch.

Thanks for all your help and support.





## E-mail from Bill Atwood



I am in the process of gathering up gently used or new toys and clothes for the children in Mexico and will be taking every thing down the week of Christmas. If you know of any churches that would like to participate in this program please advise. This is the 6th year that I have done this and we have always run a little short as we take toys to Rio Bravo (both churches) and Matamoros. I would like to collect enough to include the very poor churches in Guasave and start to adding the churches in San Luis Rio Colorado. It is a very good program as this is the only toys that the Children will get for Christmas.

>>  
>> Your friend in Christ  
>> Bill Atwood

Bill can be reached at 281-798-0432 or at 281-351-5898

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**KIMA hopes to be sending some money in the form of Christmas gifts to the pastors. If anyone is interested in helping out send your gift to me at KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX 75165**



**If the Lord moves you to be a part of this ministry please send your contributions to:**

**KIMA  
109 Noel  
Waxahachie, TX 75165**

**You may contact us via phone or e-mail at:**

**Phone: 972-935-8017  
E-mail: nfinke\_kima@sbcglobal.net**

**Website: [www.kimamission.org](http://www.kimamission.org)**

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