

September 21, 2010

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

Blankets and Quilts



Do you remember what happened on Thursday, February 11th of this year? Probably not, unless something special happened to mark the day. I think on that Thursday the Dallas area received about fourteen inches of snow. Remember it now? This is what my backyard looked like when I got home on that Saturday.

I missed all but the aftermath of that because on February 11, 2010 my sister, Lois Wolf, and I took a load of our sainted mother's clothes down to El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church in McAllen, Texas.

We took the clothes down there to help the people of Mexico. There we met Rev. Isaac Garcia and his wife Yolanda from Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. After loading all the things we had brought to McAllen into their van they invited us to come across the border for the evening and stay the night with them in their home. They wanted us to meet with some of the leaders from the churches in Rio Bravo and Matamoros. Señor Omar Garza from Matamoros joined us and served as translator for all. It was a wonderful evening of good food, loving fellowship, and interesting conversations.





Dennis Norum

There are many fond memories of the evening but like many things they get crowded out of our minds because of the "busyness" of the lives that we all live. That evening was a thing of the past until one afternoon in July, I think it was the thirteenth, I was once again down in south Texas. This time it was in Weslaco, Texas. Mr. Dennis Norum and I had had gone down to the Valley to once again meet Rev. Isaac Garcia and his wife, Yolanda. This time Dennis had collected, donated or purchased wheelchairs, canes, walkers, Blood Glucose

Meters, Automatic Blood Pressure Monitors, an Electric Wheelchair, a combination air conditioner/heater, and an electric grinder. Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waxahachie joined us in this endeavor by covering the cost of the trip.

After we had unloaded everything, had supper together and bought a couple of batteries for Pastor Isaac's van and truck, Dennis Norum asked him what was the next thing that we should begin working on that would help him in his ministry to these people in Mexico. Instead of me telling you what happened I am going to let Dennis tell you...September in Texas is a time when not every day has a high temperature of 100 degrees. The thoughts of cool fall days of only 80 or 90 degrees will be here soon and the holidays are just around the corner (check out Wal-Mart ... Christmas is creeping in the corners of the store, Christmas can't be that far away). Ah yes, those wonderful months of August, September and October where we experience the tropical weather excitement called Hurricane season, with the additional sideshow of tornados. Just hold that thought we will come back to this later.

I know in other parts of the US, temperatures are hovering around the freezing mark in the evenings. But you are comforted to know the furnace will kick in and a heavier blanket is close by. Well, that's what this message is all about....On our last trip to the border, Pastor Finke and I were talking to Isaac and Yolanda about their future needs. The one emphasis that both had was blankets and quilts for the up-coming winter. Now you would think this would not be a major problem but, as families grow within the congregation, new missions in the poorer regions are developed, and as weather developed disasters continue, there is a great need, annually for something to keep them warm on those chilly nights (and maybe during the day). Yes, I know Mexico, that country south of the border, is closer to the equator than we are. What kind of cold do they have? It ain't "tirty b'lo wit a win out da nort". A majority of homes in Mexico do not have HVAC. Well let's go a step further. Most homes do not have central heat and some times no heat at all. South of the border, nights can get to the freezing mark at times. We are talking just making it comfortable enough to sleep. There is a story that goes with this last statement that only Pastor Finke and Lois can tell to confirm this.

[Note from Pastor Norman Finke: Yes, the trip we took on February 11th... It was a wonderful evening there in Rio Bravo but if you look closely below at this picture you will see we are all

sitting there with our jackets on. It was in the mid thirty's outside and not much warmer on the inside. When it came time to go to bed Pastor Isaac and Yolanda gave my sister Lois their room and I was given their son Neftali's room. Yolanda took us into one of the bedrooms and told us to pick out a blanket. I thought this would be an additional blanket to what was probably already on the bed. So I took one and she immediately responded by telling me, "Hace mucho frío. Tome otra manta." (It is very cold. Take another blanket.) I did and when I went into the room I was to sleep in I saw that there were no blankets on the bed. I took off my shoes and left everything else on, including my jacket. I doubled up the two blankets I had and crawled underneath them and did not move for fear something might stick out from under the covers and freeze. I thought Lois looked a little frosty the next morning. Needless to say we skipped our showers in the morning but that hot coffee and scrambled eggs that Yolanda made sure were good.]



Dennis continues:

Hurricanes crashing into the coast of Mexico have caused dramatic flooding, many times washing away or destroying a family's belongings. There are many organizations that aid the relief effort but there always seems to be a need for blankets and quilts. You notice that I keep sticking in ... the need for quilts not just blankets. Isaac specifically expressed the need for quilts; they are heavier and much more durable. Practical yes, but aren't quilts a lot more expensive than blankets?

That's what I thought, but God placed a lady in my path that showed me the possibilities. I met her at Canton Trade Days, advertised as the largest monthly flea market in the US. Now I do not want to get in to a discussion about who is bigger or what has been around longer, let's just say I met her at a flea market. Her name is Lynda Saxton and she sells vintage linens. This woman sells THOUSANDS of used quilts a year. I told her what we were trying to do and she came up with an offer to fill the need. She handles hand sewn and machine sewn quilts, most are used. Her items are washed and inspected for rips and tears and priced accordingly.

We would be given quilts of varying sizes (Full, Queen and King), both hand sewn and machine sewn, of many different patterns, free from rips and tears, washed and ready to use for \$7.50 each. The only condition is that we take 100 at a time. As someone that doesn't know anything about quilts I thought this was a fair deal.

We are starting a blanket and quilt drive. We are accepting all good, clean usable blankets and quilts and asking for donations for buying the first 100 quilts. A goal of November 1, 2010 is the date for delivery to Isaac and Yolanda.

If you are thinking of making a quilt, call me and let me know. If you have any questions about this project give Pastor Finke or me a call.

God places each one of us in the path of one another, to join together to form the body of Christ to feed and clothe his children. I am glad that you are walking with me in this glorious endeavor.

Dennis Norum
Cell 214-687-2141

We ask for your prayers for these people who are using their gifts that God has given to them. If you would like to be part of this ongoing outreach ministry, please, send your gifts to:

**Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency
109 Noel
Waxahachie, TX 75165**

**or your communications to:
Phone Number: 972-935-8017
E-mail: nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.kimamission.org**



Blankets and Quilts



Joshua, Dennis, Sarahi, Isaac, Neftali, Yolanda