



**KOINONEO
Independent
Mission Agency**

*109 Noel
Waxahachie, Texas 75165*

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Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

I got a note the other day from one of my dear friends that, amongst other things, said **“The Will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you!”** Somehow, I don’t, not believe that, but I am not always sure what is the will of God either. I don’t think that He wants me to go walk across a busy freeway blindfolded in order to rescue someone, but He probably wants me to use whatever resources that are available to me to make that rescue possible. So what is God telling us about what we should be doing to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in Mexico?

Maybe we can’t walk or drive across that border into Mexico but we can use the resources that God is providing us. Some would say, “Where there is a will there is a way.” I’d like to change that to say, “Where the love of Jesus lives in your heart, there is a way.”

Maybe it would be better to say like we sing, **“I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart, Down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay! And it’s the greatest, grandest feeling, And it’s a feeling here to stay! And it’s a love that needs revealing, So I just want to (say)” Say what? Do What? Actions speak a whole lot louder than words!**

Let me tell you a story about what God has enabled us to be a part of in spite of the fact that we are not sure we can even physically go across the border into Mexico. This story is about a brand new mission, in the old border town of Rio Rico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, (that’s just south of Weslaco, Mercedes, and Progreso), by people who have fought through that queasy feeling in life where they step out of their comfort zone, and are now sharing the love of Jesus that’s down in their heart.



Isaac

The story begins with Isaac Guadalupe Garcia Castillo. He was born June 3, 1968 in the city of El Mante, Tamaulipas, Mexico. In 1985 at the age of 17 he moved to Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas to seek his fortune. In September of that year he went for the first time to a Lutheran Church, liked it, and continued going back. I have a feeling that part of the reason he kept going back had something to do with a young lady he met there whose name was Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo. The following year Isaac went to study at

the Bible Institute of the Lutheran Evangelical Church of Mexico in Saltillo, Coahuila. He returned to the city of Rio Bravo and on December 3, 1988 married



Yolanda

Yolanda.

From 1987 - 1994, he worked as a welder in a factory called Manimex. Isaac then served for four years in the mission "El Camino" (The Way) of the Lutheran Church of Mexico in the city of Rio Bravo, Tamps. He then branched off on his own and formed Betania Lutheran Church in 1998 and has been serving there ever since.

Trusting in the Lord to provide for their needs Isaac gave up his welding job and jumped in with both feet to help grow the Lord's Kingdom there in Rio Bravo. Yolanda supported them for a while doing her office job but soon she saw that there was just too much to be done with the women and children that God was leading their way. She quit her job and put it all in the Lord's hands. Yolanda started meeting every morning at the "church", which was a tool shed like you maybe have in your backyard. These



The praying ladies of Betania

ladies met together everyday and prayed to the Lord that He would make it



Betania Lutheran Church, Rio Bravo

possible for them to have a church building for them to worship in. And that was about the time the Lord started calling those of us who eventually became KIMA, Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency. Pastor Isaac Garcia and Yolanda have always been very mission minded. Not only have they now started three churches but they have also trained three of their members to serve as lay ministers.



Martina & José Reyes.

The first of these lay ministers was a man named José Reyes. José and his wife Martina serve one church and two missions in and around Guasave, Sinaloa in far central western Mexico. They have been serving there since August 12, 2002. They have three children Dalila, Israel, and Emmanuel.

Luis Moreno and his wife Rosario serve at the Mission Mesías, (Messiah Lutheran) in one of the subdivisions of Rio Bravo. They have two children Osiel and Elizabeth.



Luis, Rosario, Elizabeth, and Osiel



Gamaliel, Samuel Garcia, Alicia, Elizabeth, Jesica

Samuel Garcia (no relationship to Pastor Isaac Garcia) and his wife Alicia are now serving at the mission Bethel in the town of Rio Rica in Tamaulipas, Mexico which is about 25 kilometers from Rio Bravo. Samuel and Alicia have three children Gamaliel, Elizabeth, and Jesica.

For about 11 years, 1999 – 2010 KIMA had been able to go to Rio Bravo, Matamoros, Monterrey, Mexico City, Guadalajara, Guasave, and San Luis Rio Colorado to work along side our brothers and sisters in Christ. We helped build the church the ladies were praying for, we

conducted Vacation Bible classes, we helped build a few homes, and we helped start four new missions.

For some time now Pastor Isaac Garcia has had it in mind to start another new mission. Back toward the beginning of 2011 Pastor Isaac said that they had a chance to buy a piece of property that had a building on it. Originally, another religious group had started a church there in Rio Rica but were unable to keep it going. With the help of Bill Atwood and his family, the money was raised and the property was purchased.



Future Home of Bethel Lutheran Church in Rio Rica



Pastor Isaac giving the blessing at the dedication of Bethel



Lay pastor Samuel Garcia Marquez taking over the reins

I would like to share with you a video presentation that Samuel Garcia sent me.

God bless you Pastor Norman Finke.

Yours, Pastor Samuel García Márquez of Bethel, the Church of Rio Rico, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

We thank God for the work and support KIMA is giving us to work in God's Kingdom here in Mexico. I am sending you some pictures of work we are doing at Bethel Church in Rio Rico, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Renovation of the church - Previous condition



The opening service of Bethel in Rio Rica was held in conjunction with the members of Betania (Bethany) Lutheran church of Rio Bravo. There were only two people from Rio Rica that attended. Today we continue doing the work of God in order to bring the fruit of salvation to this new congregation in Rio Rica.



Worship and singing



Youth participating

The church continues to grow. Through the months that have followed that first service we have seen God touching the hearts of people and today we have 35 people in the church.

In the month of April we will be conducting a youth camp in Rio Rico, Tamaulipas. With God's help we will begin on April 2 and continue through the 4th of April. We are inviting the youth from the Lutheran churches in Matamoros, Betania, the mission Messias, and also local churches of Progreso, Mexico. We ask your prayers for God to help us in this project in Rio Rico.

We also want to thank you for providing the materials for the summer Bible School. We had about 60 children and adolescents in attendance. These pictures show some of the activities that we had with the children in the summer Bible School.



Adolescentes



The little ones



Piñata & Candy



Clowns

This is a part of the congregation. We ask God to continue to assist the growth of His work, and we give thanks to God first and then to KIMA for the \$400 monthly support that you are giving me and my family. God bless you. Thank you.

Maybe we can't walk or drive across that border into Mexico like we used to do, but we can use the resources that God is providing us. Where the love of Jesus lives in your heart, there is a way. God has been definitely active among these people in Mexico as they started a new mission in an old forgotten town, doing things they never thought they could do, reaching out through their VBS, music, and youth. God has also been active in the hearts of some of you as you have used resources that God has given you to make that mission and its work possible. Last January, 2011, we received \$3,321 for His Kingdom work and this year we received \$4,940. I wonder how He knew that these people in Mexico were going to do all this work and that you would respond to that need?

If you would like to continue being a part of this ongoing outreach ministry, please, lift your prayers up to our heavenly Father and send your gifts to:

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