



March 10, 2014

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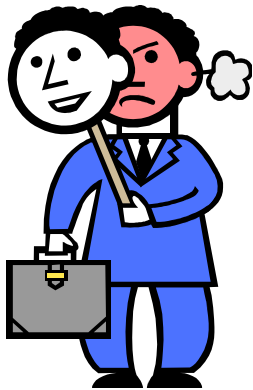
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Is seven some kind of a special number?

- The Bible uses 7 to indicate perfection.
- When Jesus feeds the 4,000, his Disciples pick up 7 basketfuls afterward. He feeds this multitude with 7 loaves of bread, plus some fish.
- He feeds the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish.
- Jesus teaches with a total of 37 parables.
- The first sentence of the first verse of the Old Testament, in the original Hebrew, has 7 words.
- The first sentence of the first verse of the Gospel of Mark, which was the first to be written, has 7 words.
- There are 7,957 verses in the New Testament. 7 plus 9 plus 5 plus 7 equals 28, or four 7s.



I just finished sending out 7 “thank you” notes to all the people who joined us at KIMA with their gifts of love; Enabling us to be an instrument of love; Making it possible for our brothers and sisters in Christ, out of love, to be a part of helping to fulfil Jesus’ Great Commission which He commanded out of His love.



I was really feeling quite good about writing those “thank you” notes when reality began to seep in. Wait a minute! Out of the 145 names we have contacted (no combination of 7 I can find there) or received gifts from in the last several years, only 7 “thank you” notes? I must be missing something! So I checked to see how much we spent this last month. We spent a total of \$3,300 supporting two ordained pastors, one vicar, one seminary student, and three Lay-pastors along with all their ministries. We spent \$60 on speakers, camcorder, etc. to add to a donated refurbished computer and flat screen monitor to help Lay-pastor José Reyes continue his theological education as he works towards his ordination. So that is \$3,360 that we spent and that doesn’t count the computer and monitor that Dave DeVore of Redeemer, Austin donated. So I checked the individual contributions. They ran somewhere between \$100 and \$836 each, all good, generous gifts. The total contributions came to \$2,111.56. That means that we operated at a deficit of \$1,248.44 last month (not a number of perfection).

**“For God so loved the world that He gave...”**

Except for the \$60 for the computer, that figure will soon be due again by the end of this month. Maybe “due again” is the wrong term for that. Nobody is forcing any of us to do anything. God is asking for us to join together with Jesus on His mission of redeeming the world. He’s already out there doing the hard work. He’s working in people preparing their hearts to receive the Good News that He wants them back. Not only has He been working on these people to turn back to Him but He has been blessing us so that we can be a part of that process.

I think that one of the biggest challenges that most of us have is to realize that all the gifts that we have come from the Lord. **“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”** (James 1:17).



We came into this world with nothing and everything we have is a gift from God. The greatest gift of all is God sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to bring us back into the loving arms of our heavenly Father. That’s the Good News that we all have come to know. God has given us our parents, our children, our education, the house we live in, the food we eat, the sunrise and the sunset, and the money we earn. By the grace of God we join Jesus on His mission. So, when we give, we simply offer Him a very small portion of all the abundance He has already given to us. Giving is basically an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship.

God’s work is not going to end -- until He comes again. The disciples who were walking home to Emmaus on that first Easter were in no hurry. There was only disappointment, frustration, and maybe anger. Until -- their eyes were opened and they had good news to share. That’s why we always say that this ministry that God has given us is not just a casual walk through life but a rushing forth with a sense of urgency sharing the Good News with all those who do not yet know or feel like they are a part of God’s plan. They are lost and don’t even know it.

- The good news for us is that our brothers and sisters in Christ, few may they be, haven’t given up. Vicar Samuel Perez Herrera will be ordained on the 23rd of this month and will become the pastor of Holy Trinity in Matamoros. We surely would like to be able to raise his subsidy to enable him to concentrate on his ministry.



- We are quickly coming into April and it is time for these churches that we help to support to get started on their plans for Vacation Bible School. Their VBS programs are a big outreach into their communities to acquaint people with the Lord through their churches. Betania, in Rio Bravo, even does a two week mission trip down to Veracruz each year conducting VBS during the day and Evangelism services in the evening.



[VBS in Veracruz and Rio Bravo](#)

Vacation Bible School Rev. Isaac Garcia  
Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo --  
Facebook



[Iglesia Evangélica Luterana San Mateo](#) -- Facebook

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado led by Lay-Associate Pastor Job Jimenez and Lay-pastor Josafat.



Santisma Trinidad -- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Matamoros -- Facebook

Marriage Enrichment workshop being led by Omar Garza.



**To learn more about KIMA, please feel free to contact one of the board members nearest you.**

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If you would like to be part of this ongoing outreach ministry, please, include the ministry in your prayers and send any questions or gifts to:

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**or your communications to:**

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