



January Newsletter 2015

Rev. Norman Finke

Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

109 Noel • Waxahachie, TX 75165-1333

Telephone: 972-935-8017 • nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net

www.kimamission.org

January 17, 2015



January 11, 2015 was a very special day in the life of San Mateo Lutheran Church located in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico and for representatives of KOINONEO INDEPENDENT MISSION AGENCY of Waxahachie, Texas. (For those of you who don't have any idea of where San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico is, it is about 1,219 miles away from Waxahachie, Texas and close to Yuma Arizona. It is strategically located right in the corner of the intersection of California, Arizona, Baja, and Sonora Mexico. The City of San Luis Rio Colorado boasts a population of over 160,000.)

Members of the National Assembly of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico as they listened to a presentation by Rev. Nilo Lutero Figur of the Lutheran Hour Ministries.



On January 11, 2015, San Mateo Lutheran Church concluded a week of meetings with the delegates to the National Assembly of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, planning, learning, and growing spiritually as they listened to and participated in presentations by the International Lutheran Hour Ministries (CPTLN Christ for all the Nations)¹, the Luther Academy², and the Rev. Arthur Rickman³.

(see footnote at bottom of Newsletter)

On Sunday morning, January 11, 2015, at eleven o'clock the service of rededicating the church sanctuary and dedication of the "kids" room, and additional second-story facilities began with a Processional led by President Rev. Isaac Garcia; Lay-pastor of San Mateo and Secretary of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico (SLM), Job Jimenez; Vice President of the SLM Rev. Samuel Perez Gaona; Rev. Norman Finke, Executive Director of KIMA; Rev. Dr. Nilo Figur of Lutheran Hour Ministries; Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera of Matamoros; and Lay-pastor José Reyes of Guasave.

Rev. Samuel Perez Gaona, Rev. Norman Finke, Rev. Nilo Figur, and Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera in the Processional for the Dedicatory Service of San Mateo.



Rev. Norman Finke, Executive Director of Koinoneo Independent Missionary Agency delivering the Sermon which was translated into Spanish by Omar Garza, Treasurer of the SLM.

Hymns were sung, a baby baptized, Holy Communion served, new students from Mexico preparing to go to Concordia Seminary Buenos Aires, Argentina were blessed, and a sermon based on 1 Kings 8:23-24, **"LORD [our] God, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below--you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way...with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it -- as it is today"** was presented by Rev. Norman Finke of KIMA.

After the Service, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico presented KIMA with a plaque. It read as follows:



THE LUTHERAN SYNOD OF MEXICO A.R.
Recognizes and thanks to:
KOINONEO INDEPENDENT MISSION AGENCY

For their valuable support and contribution to the edification and growth of the Lutheran Church in Mexico.

"So my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord always knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" 1 Corinthians 15:58

Rev. Isaac Garcia Guadalupe Castillo
President Del S.L.M.A.R.
San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico
January 11, 2015



Rev. Norman Finke, Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia Castillo, Rev. Samuel Perez Gaona

Rev. Norman Finke accepted the plaque on behalf of all who have participated in the ministry of KIMA. He thanked the Lutheran Synod of Mexico for the opportunity to work together with them as we join Jesus on His mission of reaching the lost.

Following this presentation

of the plaque, Rev. Norman Finke presented a check from KIMA in the amount of \$4,000 to be used to assist in the transportation of three of the students who will be attending Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod will be taking care of the travel expenses of the other students.



Representing KIMA, at this presentation to Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia Castillo, were **Bruce Neunaber** of Faith Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas; **Rev. Norman Finke**; **Lois Wolf**, member of the Board of Directors; **Marty Finke** of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Waxahachie, TX.

Bruce Neunaber, Rev. Finke, Lois Wolf, Marty Finke, Rev. Isaac Garcia



Seminary students -- Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera, Benjamin Quezada, Naphtali Garcia, Job Jiménez, Guillermo Leyva



It was truly refreshing and exciting to see and meet five young men who are willing to commit their lives to shepherding God's people and God's Church in Mexico. The plan of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico is to prepare some pastors with a good education and an advanced degree, so that in the future they could help prepare other pastors for the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. All five of these young men feel that they have been called by God to go to the Seminary in Argentina to be part of this plan, this program of studies, with the hope that in the future as they are ordained that they would continue working in Mexico in the service of the saints.

Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera is 33 years old and was ordained last year and is presently serving Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church in Matamoros. Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera intends to attend Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires beginning in February to pursue an advanced degree and later teach at Augsburg Seminary in Mexico City preparing pastors for the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. He takes with him his wife, Mayra, and his two sons, Samuel & Pablo. Omar Garza, who has a degree in Engineering and is an administrator at a factory in Matamoros, Mexico, is one of the main leaders of Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros and will serve that congregation as a Lay Pastor.

Benjamin Quezada is 30 years old and graduated from the University of Mexico with a degree in business, attended Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City, and is presently serving his vicarage year at San Pedro Lutheran Church in Mexico City. He is getting married in three weeks and will attend Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires next August.

Naphtali García, (Nefta Garcia Guevara) is 23 years old and recently graduated from Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas with an engineering degree. He has served Betania Lutheran Church of Rio Bravo as a musician and director of the youth and will be leaving for Buenos Aires in February.

Job Jimenez is 25 years old and graduated from the local University with a degree in Psychology and presently serves as Lay Pastor of San Mateo Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado. He also oversees the three nearby missions in the desert. Job also intends to go to the seminary in Buenos Aires in February. Job has an interesting story to tell about his decision to become a pastor. (see attachment). San Mateo will be served by Job's brother-in-law, Saul Silva, his sister, Sophia, his brother, Filiberto, and I'm sure his mother, Maria, will keep a sharp eye on things. Josafat Basto will be taking care of the three missions out in the desert.



Josafat Basto

Guillermo Leyva grew up in Mexicali, is 27 years old, has been taking pastoral training courses from Sola Fe Bible Institute, and has been helping Job with the youth and worship at the Lutheran Churches in and around San Luis Rio Colorado.

Five young men, with a passion and love for ministry, going off to Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4900 miles away, to study in a different country, in a different culture, away from family and friends, for maybe 3 to 5 years! That takes a love and commitment to the Lord that we all have to sit back and admire! Keep these young men and their families in your prayers. They are truly part of the future of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, Christ’s church in Mexico!

Last Monday, January 12, 2015, I received the following note from Guillermo Leyva: “Hello pastor, I send a greeting and a hug in Christ. Blessings! Thank you very much for the help to go to the seminary in Argentina. May the Lord bless you and the brothers who helped with this money. We did not count on so many blessings and I am very grateful.”



It won’t be long now and we will have to begin planning for Vacation Bible School in Mexico. Concordia Publishing House has announced a program called, *Underwater Quest*. In it kids explore an exciting underwater paradise--and discover that God is the Creator and Giver of all things. They’ll dive into five amazing Bible stories that point to God’s ultimate gift: salvation through Jesus Christ. The goal of the SLM last year was to reach one thousand children through the various VBS programs. Our cost last year was \$2,810 so it looks like we have another challenge before us. Together (God, you and me) we can do this!



As of Jan. 12, 2015, you have Choice Dollars® available to direct to enrolled nonprofit organizations. (KIMA is one of those enrolled nonprofit organizations.) **2014 Choice Dollars expire on 3/31/2015.** Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where some of Thrivent Financials charitable outreach funds are distributed.

We would ask that you consider directing your Choice Dollars to KIMA (Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency). The last time we did this, we received \$809 which would go a long way toward reaching our goals and assisting our brothers and sisters in Christ as they reach out through their VBS programs in Mexico.

Thanks for considering this!

¹(Lutheran Hour Ministries develops culturally relevant programs and projects that proclaim the Gospel to the unchurched, encouraging those people who are reached through these ministry efforts to respond by contacting staff or volunteers. Lutheran Hour Ministries then cultivates relationships with those who respond to ultimately facilitate a relationship between them and a congregation, thus helping grow the kingdom of God.)

²(Luther Academy promotes genuine, confessional Lutheran theology and research through conferences, scholarly exchanges, and publications that assist the church both to preserve and to proclaim to the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only saving faith.)

³Rev. Arthur Rickman serves as the area facilitator strengthening relationships with the LCMS' partners in Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and Belize. In addition, Arthur oversees theological education throughout the region and assists with training future pastors and deaconesses as he develops training programs, teaches courses and mentors the seminarians.

Gifts can be sent to:

KIMA or Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency
109 Noel • Waxahachie, TX 75165-1333

2015 Board of Directors

Rev Norman Finke, Executive Director
109 Noel Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165
Email: nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net
972-935-8017

Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Director, VP
515 Baltusrol, Garland, TX 75044
Email: gbrunworth@verison.net
972-496-0632

Ms. Lois Wolf, Director, Secretary
17920 Holderness Ln., Pflugerville, TX 78660
Email: loiswolf@sbcglobal.net
512-252-2584

Ms. Sylvia Bulot, Director, Treasurer
106 Short Putt Dr., Waxahachie, TX 75165
Email: nsbulot@sbcglobal.net
972-979-3403

Rev Gregory Finke, Director
400 Wickford Ct., League City, TX
Email: finkeonthemove@aol.com
281-844-7644

Mr. Ralph Genz, Director
20811 FM 685, Pflugerville, TX 78660
Email: lrgenz@sbcglobal.net
512-251-2006