



## April Newsletter 2015

Rev. Norman Finke

**Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency**

109 Noel • Waxahachie, TX 75165-1333

Telephone: 972-935-8017 • [nfinke\\_kima@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net)

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

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Easter was last Sunday. Our God is not dead! Hallelujah, He is risen! He is risen indeed. So, what now? Well, we know that Jesus has risen from the dead. The angel made sure that we knew that. The angel did not roll away the stone so Jesus could get out of the tomb but so others could get in and see for themselves that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, just like He said. The penalty for sin was paid for. Our relationship with God was now able to be restored. Now Jesus wants us to join Him on His mission of bringing that Good News to everyone.

During the days after the resurrection Jesus met with His disciples and many others. He was preparing them for what was to come. God's Plan includes you. We see that Plan summarized in Ephesians 2:8-10 where God says, "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.*" We get that part. God has done it all for us. But, somehow, we forget the tenth verse, "*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" Did you hear that; "to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do"?

God loves all of us! God is working; God has been preparing you and me to become part of His Plan of bringing everyone into a relationship with Him. Ever since He rose on that first Easter Sunday, Jesus has been on the loose, messing with people, preparing people to be drawn back to the Father He loves. He is doing all the hard work and as soon as everything is ready He wants you and me to step in and seal the deal. You see, He is not giving you a mission to do *for* Him but He is inviting you to come on His mission *with* Him.

There is a lot of mystery in how Jesus works out His plan in each person's life. But this process of preparing people to receive what the Father would freely give them: forgiveness of sins and a new life with Him forever is what Jesus is up to every day with every person. Some people are resisting, some are ignoring, some don't have a clue, some are almost ready, and some are well past that point and are already living life with the Father. So where are you on this spectrum right now?



(Check out [www.dwelling114.org](http://www.dwelling114.org))

Are you an independent or a loner and want to step out there and do it all by yourself? Great, just take Jesus with you. If you are like most of us and find it easier to join together with others, we invite you to be a part of KIMA, which I firmly believe is part of Jesus' team, and join us in "*holding up the prophets' hands*" in Mexico. We are not out there on the "battlefield" like Joshua was but we can be like Aaron and Ur who assisted in this battle by holding up Moses' hands as he stood on the top of a

hill watching the battle and raising his hands to God asking for His help. (Exodus 17:8-13). I believe that together we can accomplish greater things than we can by ourselves.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

How many of us could come up with \$2,900 a month, each and every month, to assist God's Shepherds and their congregations in reaching out to those who Jesus has been preparing to be touched by God?

- How many of us could individually come up with or be willing to part with \$3,480.59 plus shipping Vacation Bible School material for nine different areas in Mexico?
- How many of us individually could give \$2,000 to buy a piece of property in Las Moras, Sinaloa, Mexico to put a small building on so the people and children could worship out of the hot sun or cold rain?
- How many of us could individually come up with the money that is necessary to finance a Mission Trip to Veracruz for the people of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo?
- Or -- float a loan to buy a used church van, pay four thousand dollars to send three students to the Lutheran Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, pay for two cataract surgeries for a Lay-pastor in Guasave?

Hey, if you can do all these things, then I say "God bless you!" But the truth of the matter is that at this moment not even KIMA can do all of that. With the Lord's blessing and His love flowing through some of you, KIMA has been able to do most of the things that are listed above. Our immediate dilemma is that we have about \$7,000 and we would need \$10,000 + to fill all the needs that the Lord is laying out before us at this time. We do not have money enough to cover all of the VBS material, the buying or helping to buy the property in Las Moras, or the funding of the summer mission trip to Veracruz.



**Connecting Faith and finances for good.** The Lord always seems to find ways to make sure His Kingdom work gets done. Yesterday KIMA received the following email from Thrivent: *We are pleased to let you know that we have made a deposit in your account on behalf of Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice(R) program. We hope this gift helps to further support your important work.*

*By directing Choice Dollars(R) through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. -- Amount of deposit: \$544.00. (Please allow 2-3 days for deposits to appear in your account). Thrivent Financial members who directed Choice Dollars to your organization last month are listed at the end of this email.*

So we are both grateful and thankful for Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice(R) program and to those Thrivent Financial members that were listed at the bottom of that email: Sylvia Bulot, Debra Hill, Carol Morton, Lawrence Morton, Kenneth Watson, and Marie Watson for designating to KIMA their Choice Dollars. Praise the Lord!

If you are interested in designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to KIMA here is the way:

**Online** -- Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice); In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, select the **"Get started now"** link; Log in and enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click **"Register for account access"** to do so.); Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct on the right side of the screen; Locate the organization you want to direct to: To direct to a previously chosen organization, click **"Find."**; On the Activity History page, scroll down and click the **name of the desired organization** or To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, city, state, etc. in the Search for Enrolled Organization section; Click **"Search."**; Click **"Direct All"** or **enter a specific number** and click **"Direct Now"**; Follow the prompts on the confirmation window to direct Choice Dollars.

**By phone** -- Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say **"Thrivent Choice."**; Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear ThriventChoice program terms and conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.) Note: Please have your nine-digit Member Identification Number or contract number available. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

We would like to thank Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waxahachie for donating a set of altar cloths, communion trays, and some candle lighters. They will be sent to Pastor Isaac Garcia who will see that they are distributed to congregations in need of these things.

It is exciting to hear that things are continuing to grow even though four young men who have been serving the Lord as Lay ministers or pastors have gone off to the seminary in Buenos Aires.



Recently I heard from Samuel Garcia and his wife, Alice, about things



that are happening in Rio Rico, Tamaulipas. Four years ago the people of Betania Lutheran in Rio Bravo started a new mission in Rio Rico called Bethel Lutheran. We helped them purchase a piece of property with a two room building on it that once belonged to another church group that had long since abandoned it. The people of Betania Lutheran in Rio Bravo set about remodeling the building and one of the members of Betania volunteered to serve it as its Lay pastor. Samuel Garcia and his wife still live in Rio Bravo but drive to Rio Rico, about a half an hour, to serve the people living in Rio Rico.

**Omar Garza, Samuel Garcia, Marty & Norm Finke**

Rio Rico is a city near the Rio Grande in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas; it, and the surrounding land were part of the U. S. state of Texas (in Hidalgo County) that was ceded by the United States to Mexico in 1970. This is the most recent cession of land by the U. S. from a state to a foreign country. Rio Rico is a little east of Nuevo Progreso.



**Bethel's "new" van**

About a year ago Samuel Garcia talked with Rev. Isaac Garcia about purchasing a used van to pick up people and bring them to church. Pastor

Isaac Garcia okayed it and KIMA lent them \$1,500 and they bought a used van. They have also paid \$900 of that \$1,500 back.

Now I heard from Lay pastor Samuel Garcia that they have undertaken an expansion of their building because so many people are coming that they did not have enough room. They are doing all the work themselves and up to this point have taken care of all the expenses. The wall is now built and, as soon as they are able to put a roof on the addition, they intend to remove the existing wall so as to expand the sanctuary. Here is now where they need some help. I don't know if you can see from the picture, on the right, what kind of roof they have but Lay-pastor Samuel Garcia told me that they need some help in getting bars and plates for the roof. I don't know anything about construction but maybe some of you understand what is needed.



New wall at Bethel in Rio Rico



Samuel and Pastor Isaac baptizing

Lay-pastor Samuel Garcia also said that they need a table for an altar, a cross to sit on it, and a baptismal font.

Last week they baptized three new members. They went over to Rio Bravo and baptized them in the river.

Another project that they have undertaken is a small group study of worship life in the home. One month ago they started with two families and now it has expanded with more families joining in. Another, "Praise

the Lord!"

Omar Garza is a businessman, executive, a man of God, member of Santisima Trinidad in Matamoras, and treasurer of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. He served his Lord well. His pastor was Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera. Well, Pastor Samuel Perez Herrera listened to the call of his Lord and the Synod and went to the Seminary in Buenos Aires to study for an advanced degree so he could serve the church by helping to train young men to become pastors. So suddenly, Santisima Trinidad is without a pastor and who would you guess steps up and says I will try and help out? Now Lay pastor Omar Garza has added the pastoral ministry to his repertoire of things to do for the Lord. He called and talked to me the other day and is all excited by how well things are working out. Worship continues, social ministry to the needy continues ( they feed needy people once a week and have Bible study with them) and they need more Bibles to give out to the people who come. Lay-pastor Omar Garza continues weekly worship, especially to children, at "Torre Fuerte." They are also offering to members of the congregation Internet Bible Studies offered by Rev. Richard Schlak of the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute out of El Paso, Texas. Omar is enjoying this type of Bi-vocational ministry. "Praise the Lord."



Omar Garza at Santisima Trinidad, Matamoras

**For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."**

Matthew 18:20

These people are our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. As we work together we join Jesus in His plan of bringing everyone into a relationship with Him. Ever since He rose on that first Easter Sunday, Jesus has been on the loose, messing with people, preparing people to be drawn back to the Father He loves. We invite you to get involved, ask questions, get to know these people, and then join in with them by finding a way that you can help “hold up the prophets’ hands.”



Pastor Isaac Garcia, president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico asked that you continue to pray for them and their ministry in Mexico.

- Pray for the four students at the Seminary in Argentina: Samuel Perez Herrera, his wife Mayra, and two sons, Samuel & Paul; Neftali Garcia Guevara; Job Jimenez; and Guillermo Leyva; their parents, brothers & sisters, and their home churches.
- Pray for San Juan Lutheran Church in Mexicali that the Lord would provide them with a leader and that they get excited and work together with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.
- Pray for wisdom, faith, and action as to what to do about buying a piece of land in Las Moras, Sinaloa, Mexico, (served by Lay-pastor José Reyes) and raising the \$2,000 necessary so that the people and especially the children of that community can be better served.
- Pray for continued blessings on the mission in Rio Rico, assistance with the problem of the roof, and the needed church furnishings.
- Pray for funding for Betania’s mission trip to Veracruz.

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**You can contact us at KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX 75165; 972-935-8017; nfinke\_kima@sbcglobal.net**

**Prayers to be directed to God -- Contributions sent to KIMA at the above address**

If you want more frequent information, you can become a friend of KIMA on Facebook. We try to add items of what’s happening in the different congregations as they are passed on to me via Facebook.

We are working on our website at [www.kimamission.org](http://www.kimamission.org), please check it out and let us know how we might make it a more informative instrument. Comments or contributions may be sent to: KIMA 109 Noel Waxahachie, Texas 75165.

Our Board of Directors consists of the following. Rev. Norman Finke, Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Lois Wolf, Sylvia Bulot, Mr. Ralph Genz, and Rev. Greg Finke

May God bless you, your families, and your ministries!

Rev. Norman R. Finke, Executive Director of KIMA