



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
April 21, 2015

When I first got started in this ministry and we formed Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency, about the only thing I knew about these people in Mexico was that they needed assistance as they were attempting to be a vital part of God's plan of bringing all people into a loving relationship with Him. In order for that loving relationship to be restored and continue, the penalty for sin had to be paid, sin destroyed, and the love of God dwell in each of our hearts.

I may have been naïve, but I didn't know if they had Sunday School programs, how they celebrated Christmas, whether they used page 5 and 15, whether they used organs, pianos, or other instruments to accompany their services, or, if in fact, they even sang or used instruments in their services. In short, I wanted to find out more about their form of worship and the customs that they observed as they praised and honored God. I found a reverent Spirit-filled people who take great joy in praising God. I thank God for that experience.

I thought that maybe it would be good to share with you fine people some of the things that are actually going on down in Mexico. From time to time I receive a letter or a report from the men in Mexico informing me of the activities that are going on in their local parishes. I have decided to share some of these with you. The first one is a letter that was written by Omar Garza Martinez on April 10 of this year.

Several years ago the church in Matamoros, Santisima Trinidad, became vacant and Pastor Isaac Garcia for several years made the 90 mile round trip from Rio Bravo to Matamoros twice a week. After several years, Vicar Samuel Perez Herrera was assigned to work under Pastor Isaac and after several more years, and the completion of several more classes, was ordained in 2014 and took over the pastorate of Santisima Trinidad. A year later, Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera was asked to go back to the Seminary in Argentina to obtain an advanced degree and one day be a teacher of Pastors. At the end of February, he and his family left for Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santisima Trinidad was once again vacant. Vacant, that is, until the Lord called Omar Garza Martinez to expand his personal ministry.

So, over the last thirteen years or so, Santisima Trinidad has gone from a church fighting to survive to now reaching out to others as they are taking steps to join Jesus on His mission to redeem and restore human lives to the kingdom of His Father. The man who has been a constant factor in this whole process is Omar Garza Martinez.



Omar is a successful business man, administrator, and man of God. From the first time I met him in 2002, he has been a leader at Santisima Trinidad and has served that church faithfully. To improve his knowledge of Scriptures, he has taken numerous theological classes. He assisted Pastor Isaac and Pastor Samuel where needed. He has helped organize Santisima Trinidad and instill in it a desire to reach outside the four walls of the immediate church building. He helped to organize a plan whereby the congregation would become self-supporting in five years. He now serves as the treasurer of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico and, as if he did not have enough to do, has now agreed to serve as the Lay-pastor of Santisima Trinidad. Here is the letter I

received from him toward the beginning of this month.

Dear Pastor Finke:

It's great to hear from you and your KIMA letter and see how God is blessing your ministry. We would like to share with you some of the activities in the Matamoros Tamaulipas Church "Santisima Trinidad".

We continue with our previous ministries that Pastor Samuel Perez Herrera was doing before he left for Argentina to continue his studies at Concordia Seminary.

At the end of February, I began to serve as the Lay-pastor at Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros. It has been a great and blessed experience for me and my wife Leticia and my two sons Omar and Andrew, who play the guitar to accompany the worship services. Holy Week was especially meaningful. Through the preaching, we emphasized during these services that our sins have been forgiven, paid for by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Having the hope and faith for peace and eternal life that only Jesus Christ can provide, we recalled the fact that we have a mission. We are to share this great news with others.

Sunday Services.

We are maintaining our Bible Study at 11:00AM and the main service at 12:00 PM. There are some new members, coming from the BREAD project described below, that started to come to Sunday services. We had the Palm Sunday celebration, the preaching of the 7 words of our Lord Jesus Christ at the cross on Friday, and our Resurrection Service last Sunday.



BREAD Project

Currently we are sponsored by The Lutheran Hour Ministry in a project to provide dinner once a week, on Thursdays, to immigrants and people that normally live on the street. We have a group of volunteers (most of our church) preparing food every week and serving the people that attend.

We started this in November with Pastor Samuel. The first week there were 2 people, the second week there were 4 people. At the beginning we had to bring people in a pickup truck to come.

Currently we have an attendance of more than 50 people coming every Thursday, first to hear the word of God in a small service we have from 6:00 PM to 6:40 PM, and then we have dinner.

Also 8 to 12 people from this group have been starting to come to Sunday services and we ask for your prayers since most of these people are having difficult times on the streets not having family, food or a place to live.

Our sister church of El Calvario in Brownsville, TX and other donations from sisters from church provided a donation of 300 USD in total to buy some shoes for some of the people that are in the most critical need. And we appreciate this donation since it has been a great help to these people.

One of the people reached by this ministry already studied with Pastor Samuel and got confirmed last February. We expect more people to be reached and formally join the church. But in the meantime a group of more than 100 different people have been listening to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The biggest need we have for this people is to get some Bibles that include Martin Luther's explanations.



Kids at Mission Las Torres.

We are maintaining the Mission Las Torres that Pastor Samuel started at the house of his sister. There is a group of more than 15 kids attending every Friday where we share the word of God starting the teaching with the 10 commandments and the Lord's Prayer. Most of the kids are always very excited when we arrive to the mission and they are very receptive to the teaching.

With all the violence that there sometimes is for those who live in the city they have a space every week to hear something different, to hear about the love of God. We will have our VBS School at the mission and thanks in advance for the materials to support this ministry.



Evangelism Classes.

2 weeks ago we started the Internet classes with Pastor Richard Schlak on evangelism. This is a class for training members of the church to multiply healthy Hispanic ministries. The classes are offered through the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso which is an arm of the LCMS. Six people from the church have been attending and this has been a new breath to get us back to Jesus' mission. We are studying the book for this purpose from Pastor Greg Finke.

Pastor Finke, we appreciate your love, support and prayers to share the word of God with all people and also we pray that God keeps blessings yourself, your family, ministry and all the people that participate in God's Ministry of KIMA that you represent.

I pray that the love of the Father, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit always remain with you.

Thank you and Blessings.
Omar Garza Martinez.



Please keep Lay-pastor Omar and Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church in your prayers!