



KIMA June Newsletter 2015

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Did you ever feel like yelling out loud so everyone could hear, “Hey, everybody, look at what we have done?”

That’s the way I was feeling last week! It was a good feeling! But then reality set in and I realized that it was so much more than that. It wasn’t what we had done, but it was about what God **is** doing!



How often have you felt like you were out there by yourself trying to accomplish something? It was probably kind of frustrating feeling a bit overwhelmed and not getting done what you wanted to be done. How great it is when something happens to remind us that we are

not in this alone. God is our partner walking right along our side, clearing the path, getting the obstacles out of the way, cleaning up after us when we goof up, and patting us on the back when we, the LORD and us, see success.

You know what I saw this last week? I saw that we, KIMA, you, and God were able to do something that has been “hanging around” waiting to be done.

Last week we were able to give Pastor José Reyes the money that they wanted in order to purchase a piece of property in Las Moras, Sinaloa, Mexico. They have an



opportunity to purchase a piece of land on which they hope to put a small structure that will enable them to worship even when the weather is inclement. We sent him \$1,660 which is approximately 25,000 pesos. Now comes the negotiation stage of this purchase.

So prayers are needed for successful negotiating.

Pastor José Reyes ministers at three different sites in and around the city of Guasave, Sinaloa area in western Mexico. This



obviously means that he has to do quite a bit of traveling. The vehicle that he is using is in worse shape than the one shown here. It doesn’t run at all anymore. He requested a loan from us for \$2,000 American dollars to enable him to fix up the old car or purchase a smaller used car that would enable him to travel about to the various places that he ministers. Because of the love of God exhibited through Our Redeemer Church in Irving, Texas, the Women in Mission group from Redeemer in Austin, and Mary Lou Crawford of Christ the King in Waxahachie (paying for VBS materials), we now were able

to take part of that money that we are saving for next year's VBS programs add it to a few other unexpected gifts (God's like that isn't He) and we had enough to lend him the money. The money that was designated for VBS will be available for that purpose when next April/May rolls around. **So I think more prayers are in order to help José Reyes to find the right solution for his transportation problems.**



Pastor Isaac Garcia and Betania Lutheran Church of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas are going on their own mission trip to the state of Veracruz sometime in July to conduct VBS

programs and Evangelism Services in several different cities. The trip to Veracruz takes about twelve hours one way. Again because of that special love that God has for us, Bill Atwood and Julie Finke have made it possible for this trip to become a reality. In fact Bill Atwood has decided to go along on the trip.

Praise the Lord and pray for the success, safety, and excitement in spreading the Good News through these VBS programs and tent services.



Guillermo, Job, Neftali,



Samuel, & Mayra

Our beloved Mexican seminary students in Argentina -- 4500 miles away from home, friends, and family; studying Hebrew, Biblical Interpretation, Ancient History of the Church, Missiology, and Dogmatics, (a branch of theology that seeks to interpret the dogmas of a

religious faith); a different culture; different foods; and an economy that does not make it any easier to pay utilities, transportation, and buy two meals a day.

It has overall been a very pleasant experience even though some of the changes have been difficult. They have been actively participating in the different events at the seminary which this year included getting together on May 1 with nearly 1,000 Lutherans on the campus of the Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to celebrate and thank God for its 70 years of preparing pastors and other church workers. They also continue helping out in their assigned churches in the city, and studying, studying, studying.

They do miss that good ole home cooking of the excellent Mexican food that they have always had.



Mayra, Samuel Jr., Pablo, Samuel Perez

Mayra is doing an excellent job of being "mother" to all by providing some of that good Mexican food that they miss so much.

Mayra will be going to Cordoba, Argentina for the Ladies League meeting of the IELA (**Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Argentina**) in July. Samuel who is already an ordained pastor will be helping out at a church in Buenos Aires, preaching and administering the Sacraments, during the break between the first half of the school year and the second half which runs from August to December.

The two sons of Samuel, Samuel Jr. and Pablo, both attend a special school which

meets at the seminary. That is good but it adds more to the cost of living because there is tuition and uniforms.



The wonderful part of all this, besides the fact that God is so lovingly providing up-and-coming leaders for the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, is the fact that through some special people who again have been touched by our powerful all-knowing God have made it possible for the second month in a row to send down to each of the students some financial aid to help cover some of the expenses that have become a cause of concern because of the difference in the cost of living in the two countries. Whoop, whoop! Praise the Lord! **Let's include this need in our daily prayers that these young men and Samuel's family may be able to enjoy their studies and learning experiences without worrying about their physical needs.**

International Blog

Preparing pastors for Mexico

By Daniel Fickenscher on May 31, 2015 in Argentina, Latin America & the Caribbean, Mexico



Job Jimenez poses in front of the Obelisk of Buenos Aires.

How many seminarians stumbling through vocab flashcards have asked themselves why God had to choose Hebrew to speak with His chosen people? Why couldn't the Israelites have stuck a little closer to the ABCs?

Well now with the hundreds of Bible translations that use familiar alphabets instead of Squiggly Lines 1 through 27, things certainly are different now than in the days of Moses and company, and yet some of today's largest populations still have meager representations of the Gospel preached in its purity.

While Mexico's population is the largest of all Spanish-speaking countries, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico (SLM) has only three ordained pastors, four lay pastors, and one deaconess. In a country like Argentina a gathering of eight church workers would be considered quaint.

Fortunately, there are currently four Mexican seminarians in their first year at Concordia Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and there's hope for more.

One of these four is Job Jimenez of San Luis Río Colorado. While Jimenez grew up in the church as the son of a pastor, being a pastor wasn't always on his radar. Not listening to God's call for his life, as he puts it, he began studying psychology. He admits that he was too wrapped up in the things of the world. A sermon by a pastor from the U.S., Rev. Carl Slutz, however, triggered a change.

Slutz preached that just as a driver can do a U-turn to get back on track, through God's forgiveness sinners too are put back on track. After the sermon Jimenez decided he no longer wanted a secular job, and for two years he served as a lay pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in his hometown.

God then provided through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Jimenez and the other three seminarians with scholarships to study at Concordia Seminary, Buenos Aires.

While he'll let you know that the lack of authentic tacos isn't the only challenge of life nearly 6,000 miles from home, Jimenez has been adjusting well since his arrival in March. He's particularly grateful for how the seminary's director, Rev. Sergio Fritzler, has helped the four of them settle in.

In between site seeing and hanging out with other seminarians from around Latin America, Jimenez has actually enjoyed the challenge of his Hebrew course. As he works on mastering the 27 squiggly lines that God used to speak with the Israelites, we can pray that God will prepare him well to face the millions of Spanish speakers back home in need of the Gospel.



This is Bethel Lutheran Mission in Rio Rico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Pastor Samuel Garcia and his mission has been blessed and is

outgrowing its present building. They are currently putting an addition on the side of the present building. Still on my prayer list is a nice table that could serve as an altar, a nice cross to put on it, and anything else that could be used to set it aside as something special for the LORD. I was even thinking that there may be someone out there who likes to build things and could use this gift to construct something that would go on and on giving honor to God and His Son Jesus Christ. **I would like you to put this on your prayer list also.**



I just heard of a new project that is being undertaken at Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Church at Independencia, Sonora, Mexico.

The small piece of land that they had there was being lent to them by someone from around there. Now they needed to find another place to establish their mission. Pastor Josafat, a lay pastor and his wife Armandina have been in contact with LBCM -- Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry out of San Diego, CA and this Ministry has made it possible to purchase a bigger and better piece of property nearby. They have been hard at work clearing the land and preparing for worship. Sometime they will

have to once again erect a building similar to the one pictured above.



First Service at the new site



Clearing the new property

Lay-pastor Josafat serves King of Glory here at Independencia as well as at two more mission sites, El Fronterizo and Santo Tomas Apostol Mission at Mesa Rica. He and his wife have been experiencing a life change as they have decided to dedicate more time to ministering to the people. We need another one hundred dollars per month to help pay for gasoline to travel to these three missions.

Pray for Josafat, Armandina, and the missions as they reestablish their ministry.



Please pray for all the items listed above. Pastor Isaac Garcia has added the following to our prayer list:

- **For the Lutheran Synod of Mexico and all of the pastors.**

- Vacation Bible School students.
- Pastor Reyes and his mission project in Las Moras.
- Fix his vehicle or get a better one.
- National Youth Gathering at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Mexico City July 28-August 2.
- The mission trip to Veracruz.
- For Deaconess Esther at San Pedro in Mexico City, her family, and daughter who is sick. Esther feels that she has to leave her ministry and go to be with her daughter.
- For the missionary who comes to help San Pedro in Mexico City.

If you have Choice Dollars available from Thrivent we would be most pleased to be a recipient of that gift.

We hope to have the President of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico at Christ the King in Waxahachie the weekend of September 6. You are cordially invited to come and hear him and his wife Yolanda speak to us about the ministry in Mexico.



Neftali, Isaac, Sarahi, Yolanda

You can contact us at:

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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, 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
Rev. Greg Finke

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

Rev. Norman R. Finke
Executive Director of KIMA