



October Newsletter 2015

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Templo El Mesias, Juan Escutia #84, Colonia Franciso I. Madero (Rio Bravo), Tamaulipas, Mexico



Messiah Lutheran Mission, Rev. Norman Finke, President of KIMA; Maria & Luis Moreno (Lay-pastor); Lois Wolf, Secretary of KIMA Board of Directors



The entrance to the side door of the church. Building is shifting and there is a gap now to an open area under the building that fills up with water when it rains.



The ceiling and walls are coming apart due to the shifting of the building.

This church was started as a church plant by Betania Lutheran Church of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico sometime in the year 2000. Betania had just begun itself and had dedicated their first church building on October 17, 1999. Groups from CAN-DO, Messiah Lutheran in Midland, Michigan, Salem Lutheran in Tomball, Texas and probably others I don't remember, put up this original wooden structure. Work was also begun on a more permanent cement block building, right behind the church, that was supposed to serve as a classroom, kitchen, and

restroom facilities, with the idea that eventually a second floor could be added onto it for either more classrooms or for a dormitory for people who came to study at what they hoped would be a small Bible Institute.

Those plans never quite materialized. Fifteen years have passed and the wooden structure, made out of a lot of plywood, is becoming an unsafe place to worship. After much discussion, prayer, and delving into the Word, the people at Mesias (Messiah) have decided to go ahead and convert the cement block structure into a temple to worship God. They decided the ceilings had to be raised because of summer heat and the need for more air to circulate. More cement blocks were bought, cement and plaster was mixed by hand, and men and women alike pitched in to get the structure ready.



It looks like two more levels of cement block were added to the walls all around. Plaster was added to cover the cement block so they can have smooth walls inside. In this picture you can see the top of the older wooden structure off to the right.

Right now the major work has come to a stop because the next step is to put a roof on the new structure. In order to do so they have to get everything in place and ready to go. It has to be ready to do all at once since they intend to use as much of the old roof as possible. This will probably include the wooden rafters and whatever usable plywood they can harvest from the old roof. Their hope is that all this can be done in one week's time. That way they could worship one Sunday in the old church and the next Sunday in the new building. It obviously won't be done but at least they would be out of the elements so they could worship in relative comfort and safety.

The problem really centers around the shingles for the roof. The tar paper and shingles cannot be salvaged. So that all has to be new. They need to cover approximately 1,400 sq. ft. of roof. It is estimated that would cost around \$1,124 if it can be purchased in the United States and more if it has to be purchased in Mexico. So our goal is to raise enough money so they can purchase the tar paper and shingles. The whole roof will cost about \$1,400.



A view of the church from front to back. The short wall in front will be where the chancel area will be.



I would like to have you lift this situation up to the Lord in prayer. We have some money, \$750, that could be used for this, but the problem is that at this moment we are \$711 in the red for the \$3000 we need at the end of this month for the subsidy that we provide for the six pastors or lay-pastors and ten missions or churches that we subsidize each month. So we need \$3711 for the subsidy and an additional \$650 to do it all, a mere \$4,361! But, you know, the Lord has done bigger things than that before.

He has been blessing each one of us. I didn't say each of us is rich or even has money to throw around. But God did promise to provide us what we need. If we take a minute and look around at those less fortunate than us, the people in other countries, and how God has blessed us with the certain hope of eternal life with Him we have a lot for which we can be thankful.

I think God said to His people that we are to love Him above all things and others as ourselves. These people we are helping aren't asking for riches or food for their bellies. They are asking us to join them in glorifying our Lord.

Let's see? If 200 people heard this request and responded with about \$20 each we would be pretty close to reaching our goal. Of course if 40 people gave \$100 we would be there also. Or if 4 people gave \$1000 we would also be there. Or?

It will be interesting to see what God moves His people to do!

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KIMA

or

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