



February Newsletter 2016

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We just got back from a 2 day inspirational, informative, and delightful trip to northern Mexico in the state of Tamaulipas. We were able to visit with leaders and members of Bethel Lutheran Mission in Rio Rico, Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church in Matamoros, El Mesias Lutheran Mission in the Colonia Francisco I. Madero, and Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo. I was

accompanied by my wife, Marty, and my sister, Lois, who serves on KIMA's Board of Directors.

[Pictured left to right -- Marty Finke, Lois Wolf, Leticia (Omar's wife), standing - Rev. Norman Finke, sitting - Omar Garza, Rev. Isaac Garcia, Yolanda]



Bethel receiving altar

The trip was a very enriching one and very exciting to hear and see God's handwork in these churches. The leaders and members are very excited and dedicated to do God's work in these communities.

Work is being done on the completion of expanding the church building area in Rio Rico --walls have been expanded, new roof is on, plastering, lighting, painting, office and restrooms need to be completed.

Work continues on the new church building at El Mesias in the Colonia Francisco I. Madero. The walls are up, the roof is on, doors and window frames are being welded; now there is a need for glass in the windows, smoothing out the floor in order to lay the tile, constructing a drop ceiling,



El Mesias - roof is on, walls are up, doors are being installed



Rev. Isaac Garcia, Lay-pastor Luis Moreno, Rev. Norman Finke, and members of El Mesias

buying and installing new light fixtures, purchasing fans, and cementing (stuccoing) walls. Total financing still needed is \$2,700.

Feel moved? God is working and you can become a part of all this by praying or giving financially. Please, don't just read this. Pray! And if so moved, give.

And how exciting it was to be at Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros! They have joined together with Lutheran Hour Ministries of Mexico in Project Bread. Every Thursday somewhere between 70-100 homeless men come to Santisima Trinidad for worship, a meal, and a little bit of fellowship. It is amazing to me that the same two women volunteer to cook for that many homeless men each week. Could



Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros, as part of the Lutheran Hour Ministries, feeds the homeless with the Word and meals.

you just think of preparing a meal for 100 people every Thursday of your life? WOW is all I can say about how God is working among these people! Then how great it is to realize that the serving, washing of dishes etc., cleaning up, etc. in the kitchen area is all being done by youth as well as other adults. These members are sharing God for sure in their actions.



Volunteers at Santisima Trinidad sharing God's love with the homeless.

We were told that one of the homeless men volunteered and did build a very nice ramp with railing for those with special needs to be able to enter the church easily. In fact for "test purposes", we had to check this ramp out by actually using it. We then noticed how beautiful the church doors to enter the church looked. They have the Luther's Rose on each door and were refinished beautifully. We were then informed that another of these homeless men had done that refinishing for the church.

Another example of how loving others was shown by Santisima Trinidad is that on Friday evenings they go to a home in Villa las Torres, one of the poorer areas of Matamoros to have Bible lessons and games with the children that live in that area of Matamoros.



Bible Lessons and games for the children in Villa las Torres



Seeing God's blessings also in a little boy that we had in our prayers who had gone from a healthy energetic little boy at Betania, Rio Bravo, to one that due to an illness could no longer see or walk and then now to see him once again, walking, smiling, and a small degree of vision coming back was truly heart-warming. Our prayers are that God will restore this little boy's vision once again. Apparently he is back to attending school and running and playing. Praise God!

It was also very uplifting to be able to visit with these church leaders and hear them speak of their goals as a part of SLM to reach out, to develop stewardship, to communicate more



Samuel Perez, José Reyes, Job Jiménez Omar Garza, Isaac García, Alejandro Arévalo, Tyler McMiller, Josafat Basto, Álvaro López, Olivia Guzmán, German Novelli

regularly with the different churches and church leaders in the SLM. They also want to reach out to areas that need someone to serve them and their churches that are now not being served by someone. They have plans as to how this can be accomplished.



Lay-pastor Jose Reyes at las Moras

It was exciting to hear of Betania planning to have a youth/adult mission project of going to las Moras one of the mission sites near Guasave, Sinaloa that is being served by Lay Minister Jose Reyes. This site was purchased by us last year but it has no building on the site in which to worship. They worship in the open no matter the weather. The goal of this mission project is to go there and build a framed building in

which they may worship, have VBS, etc. The cost of this will be around \$3,000 for the building. Anyone want to help by contributing toward the construction? The people at Betania are going to try and raise the money for the cost of the trip. To get to Guasave is a distance of 884 miles which will take about 15 hours to drive. You know, they could probably use a little help on gasoline and food!



Kitchen/Meeting room with new mural at Betania

Betania also does a lot of outreach through serving others through Vacation Bible School, church dinners, and fund raisers for things like the mission trip they want to go on sometime in the next few months. They need more space for the kitchen and meeting area. So they want to move the men's restroom from behind the kitchen to an area off to the left of the entrance-way to the church. This will allow them to expand the kitchen. The cost of this renovation is approximately \$2,000. Again, for most of us we cannot go there because we do not have a passport, the time, the expertise, or inclination to go across the border into Mexico. But that doesn't mean we can't help. Maybe you have access to construction material for an expanded kitchen or a new men's room; maybe you could keep this project in your daily prayers until the Lord sees fit to complete the project; or maybe you

could donate towards the cost of this project. The Lord blesses those who "did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed."

For these things to happen, they continue to need our support by our prayers and our donations. These comments of ours are just some of the many things that we witnessed and that were shared with us while we were there.

Also, please continue to keep the seminary students in your prayers as those who were able to come home for the school break are now headed back in the next couple weeks. Pray for them in their travel, studies and training.

We give our thanks to all of you, board members, donors, and prayer warriors that help to make this happen with God's help and guidance!

Rev. Norm Finke, Marty, and Lois Wolf

The following is a copy of the email I received from Erin Mackenzie of Editorial Concordia, the Spanish division of Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

Dear partner in ministry—

It is my pleasure to share with you that your ministry (KIMA) has been selected as one of 16 that will be receiving FREE Spanish or bilingual Vacation Bible School materials from Editorial Concordia in 2016!

What does this mean? We have already started actively seeking sponsors! Our goal is to pair a mission-minded, generous church or individual with each nominee in order to provide you with a Leader's Pack as well as the number of student lessons you requested (up to 50), in your preferred version (Spanish or bilingual).

The timing of when you will receive your materials depends on the pace at which sponsors are found. However, we recognize the need for SOME lead time in order to prepare. Therefore, if 16 sponsors are not identified by April 11, 2016, [Concordia Gospel Outreach](#) (CGO), CPH's missional arm, has graciously agreed to step in and send materials to all remaining nominees at that point.

If you know of anyone who may be willing to serve as a sponsor, please direct them to the ["16 in '16" section](#) of the 2016 Spanish VBS website. You may also share my contact information with them.

Blessings,

Erin Mackenzie

Gerente de mercadeo y ventas

Marketing Manager, Multilingual Resources

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facebook.com/EditorialConcordia

Choice Dollars[®] can help support KIMA. Think of the impact you—along with other eligible Thrivent members—can help make by directing Choice Dollars[®] to KIMA. Last year we received \$3,019 and last month we received \$295 from Choice Dollars. The grant funding we receive from Thrivent Financial through this program can help us support workers, purchase Spanish Study Bibles from CPH, and make VBS materials available. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. We are listed as Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency. City: Waxahachie; State: TX; Zip Code: 75165; Organization Type: Other Lutheran Organization; Organization Focus: Religious. Together, we can do even more to help strengthen communities and change lives.

Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency (KIMA) is a public charity and thus has been classified by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501 (c) (3) organization. Therefore your gift to KIMA is tax-deductible because Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency has not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for your contribution.

Check out our Website at www.kimamission.net
and
our Facebook page at [KIMA Organization](#)

We can be contacted at KIMA, 109 Noel Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165 or via phone through
Rev. Norman Finke at 972-935-8017

Please, pray that the Lord would raise up people to support the ministry of KIMA. This is not just a mission for the people in Texas. I believe that the LORD gave His Great Commission to all who believe. Please, spread the word!

May God bless each of you, your families, and all the ministries with which you are involved.

Rev. Norman R. Finke Executive Director of KIMA

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