



May Newsletter 2016

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May 21, 2016



Love! Talent! Dedication!

Four worship banners based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

The banners were dedicated on May 1, 2016, presented to Rev. Isaac Garcia, president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, and Pastor Omar Garza on May 3 and were in used in worship services on May 8 at Betania, El Mesias, Bethel, and Santisima Trinidad. The smiles on their faces, a special word of thanks for the love, work, and thoughts of the ladies at Christ the King Lutheran



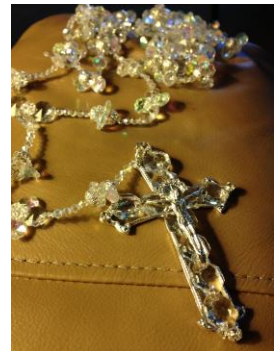
Church in Waxahachie told us they really appreciated the banners and what they lent to their worship environment.



I must admit that I might have hinted about maybe someone making a couple of banners for Christmas. I've seen some of the quilts you ladies out there have made. Think some of you might be able to put together a few Christmas banners?

Anyone know what a lasso is?

Lasso (sometimes called, "lazo") or rope is placed around the bride and groom's shoulders (groom's shoulder's first) in the form of an "8" (the infinity symbol) - after they have exchanged their vows - to symbolize their everlasting union. This is usually done by the officiant, however, family members can also take part in this ritual.



On June 17, 2016 my wife and I have the honor of serving as patrocinadores, sponsors, for Gamaliel and Gabriel at their wedding. Gamaliel is the son of Samuel Garcia, lay-pastor at Bethel Mission in Rio Rico. I say it is an honor but by that I mean it is an honor for all of you who have shown God's love to these warm, loving, and caring people as they reach out to others in order to share the Love of Jesus. Pray for this young couple as they are united in marriage on June 17.



The countdown is winding down. On June 19, the members at El Mesias Lutheran Mission will dedicate their new sanctuary. We've come a long way from a wooden building with no utilities, jacked up to avoid flooding, to a concrete floor, cement block walls, new shingles for a roof, tiles for the floor, electricity, running water, air conditioners for the walls, and a place to gather around God's Word to sing praises to Him for all that He has done. God has called, gathered, and enlightened His people. We praise God for touching many of your hearts to get involved to make this possible. The members there at the mission have done all the work, tearing down the old, mixing plaster, buying cement blocks, welding, painting,

and all the little things that are necessary for God's people to join together, reach out, and share. If any of you want to give them a word of encouragement you can post a message on Mision Luterana El Mesias on Facebook.

Rev. Norman Finke will represent KIMA by sharing the Word of God at the dedication. The message will be based on the Words of St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** The title of the message is **"Gather to Give."** "God...gave...we believe...We gather...to give...praise and honor."



And how does this look? Pretty good, huh! This is a building that was erected at Independencia by the combined efforts of Connecting Generations and The Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry.

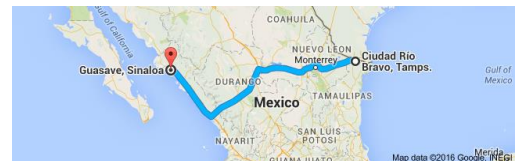
Maybe some of you remember it when it looked like this. Whoever owned the property took it back so in order to continue the mission there a new piece of land had to be purchased and now a new



worship center has been erected.

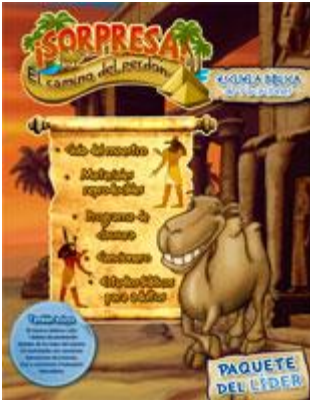


So what has that got to do with the missions that KIMA supports? Last year at Los Moras, in the state of Sinaloa, we were able to help Lay-pastor Jose Reyes purchase a piece of property. There he stands on a bare piece of land. They have gathered in this area for a few years but have not had any protection from the elements during rain or sunshine, hot or cold. Members of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo want to go over there and help the people construct a building similar to the one shown above at Independencia. That is a mere 1423 kilometers or a fifteen-hour trip. The people at Betania (Bethany) are trying to



raise the money for the trip but are going to need help with the cost of the construction. The cost of the basics, concrete, wood, doors, wiring, and windows will be around \$6,000. They are going to go over to Los Moras and begin the construction and go as far as the money holds out. Now the question that looms in my mind is, "What is so important in our lives that we cannot set aside some of the financial blessings that God has given us and help these people establish a base where the Word of God can be proclaimed?" You may ask, "What's so important about this area that I

would want to get involved?" Well, I found out this interesting tidbit on the Internet. The United States Intelligence Community considers the Sinaloa Cartel "the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world." Need I say anything more? How much effort would it take to sponsor a dinner, breakfast, auction, or ice cream social and designate the proceeds to go to build a Lutheran Church in Los Moras?



It's May! That means summer is right around the corner. Many of our children will soon be out of school. That means it's time to get out there and start sharing God's message with the children in Mexico. Last year we were able to share with about 1,500 students. This year will soon be off and running. We need leaders' packets for at least nine places. That's \$54.99 each or about \$500. The student packets are \$3.79 each. That's about \$5,700. If we can get a 20% discount from CPH that would mean we would need about \$5,000. We have \$2,624 set aside for VBS so somewhere out there God has in mind to raise up another \$2,400. It will be interesting to see who He gathers, tap, tap, tap, to give.

Worship - meetings - planning - leadership - service

**That's what it is all about! Love, love, love.
Love from God -- to us -- through us to others.**



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