

March 17, 2017 Newsletter

972-935-8017

nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net

www.kimamission.org

Facebook: KIMA



**KOINONEO
Independent
Mission Agency**

*109 Noel
Waxahachie, Texas 75165*

I've got some exciting news I want to share with you. In our last KIMA Newsletter, I mentioned that we were helping to send a team of three, Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia, Rev. Samuel Perez Gaona, and Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera to explore the possibilities of reopening two churches in the North-Western part of Mexico. To be more specific these missions or churches are located in Tijuana and Mexicali. These two churches were active churches years ago but in both cases their pastors died and the Lutheran Synod of Mexico did not have any men to take their place.

These last two years four young men have been attending the Seminary in Argentina. They are not returning to Buenos Aires this year but are continuing their education through a program of theological education by extension from our Seminary in Fort Wayne. This program is being supervised by Rev. Daniel Conrad, LCMS missionary to Mexico City.

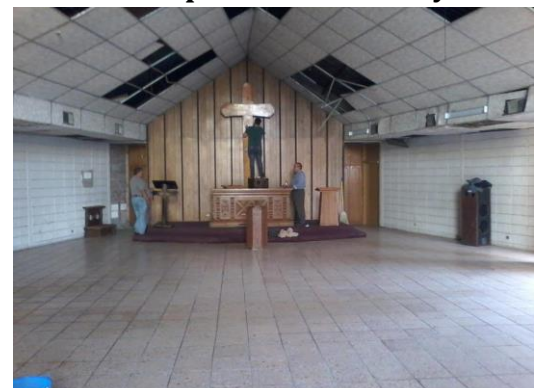
Back to the trip to Baja California Norte. I think it was the last Sunday in January when these three men met with a small group of people in Tijuana. They were excited about the possibility of opening up their church again. In fact, they wanted to issue a call to Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera to come and be their pastor. Unfortunately, there were only about two families involved and they would find it impossible at this time, to support a pastor and his family.



San Juan Lutheran Church, Mexicali

The following week the three men went over to Mexicali where San Juan Lutheran Church used to worship. The church and parsonage had been vandalized and are in need of much repair. These three men plus Guillermo, another seminary student, worked throughout the week to clean up the church so they could hold worship there on Sunday.

I was told that about forty people showed up for worship and twenty-five of them received the Lord's Supper. Needless to say, they were excited and so are we. It was decided by the executive council of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico that they were going to pursue the opening up of these



San Juan Lutheran Church, Mexicali

two churches. The decision to do so was easy, how to carry it out would be a much larger problem.



San Juan Lutheran Church, Mexicali

As I mentioned, one of the men who went along on this trip was Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera. He had also just spent two years at the Seminary even though he is already an ordained pastor. To open these two churches the Synod wanted someone who was an ordained pastor so not only ministry of the Word would be able to be done but Word and Sacrament ministry. Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera, when asked, accepted the position.

Now comes the real problem. The Lutheran Synod of Mexico does not have the funds to support this mission endeavor. A possible solution to this is the fact that KIMA has designated \$6000 to be used by the Lutheran Synod of Mexico for some mission outreach program of their choosing. They have chosen to use that money for this purpose. But do you know how long \$6000 will last when you start adding up cost of transportation for Pastor Samuel Perez and his family to travel from Matamoros to Mexicali? Let's just say it is somewhere around \$800 to \$1000. There is no house to live in but Vicar Guillermo has found a house they can rent for maybe two hundred a month. But there is little furniture in the house. Pastor Samuel Perez Herrera does not own a car. The distance between Tijuana and Mexicali is 146 Kilometers or 91 miles as the birds fly. This does not include any expenses for Samuel's two sons to go to school, support of his wife and two sons, utilities, etc., etc., etc.



Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera and his wife, Mayra



Samuel Jr., Pastor Samuel, Mayra, and Pablo

Up until this time, KIMA has been subsidizing, per month, ordained pastors the difference between what the Synod or local congregations can pay and \$800 a month. Now if the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, spends, let's say, \$1000 to get the family out to Mexicali or Tijuana, that leaves \$5000 of what we have sent them. If they decide to give Pastor Samuel \$400 a month, that \$5000 will last approximately one year. If that scenario is correct that would mean that KIMA would need to supply \$400 a month for the next year. Out of these funds Pastor Samuel would be expected to take care of the house rent, utilities, schooling for his children, etc.

It would be our prayer that we could find individuals, and/or congregations, or ladies'/men's groups that could help out in making these church upstarts a possibility. We need a vehicle for transportation, and \$400 a month for his subsidy. Somehow, we are going to do this. I do know that if this is God's will that He will raise up good, Godly people here in the United States that will step forward and through their prayers and financial support see God's Word and Sacraments proclaimed and administered to the forgotten brothers and sisters in Mexicali and Tijuana. If you would like to be a part of this mission outreach, earmark your checks for the Mexicali/Tijuana Missions

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!



I would also like to suggest that all of you who are involved in Thrivent check your Choice Dollars. I think funds from last year can still be designated through March 31 of this year. If you go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice you can see if you have any undesignated Choice Dollar funds. I plan on putting all the Choice Dollars that we receive into the above program of opening these two churches.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

If you would like to designate your Choice Dollars® to Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and follow the directives.



Rev. Andrew Schlund and Vicar Neftali

This week I received a phone call from Rev. Daniel Conrad, LCMS Missionary to Mexico City, stating that three of the Seminary students from last year are doing their vicarage this year in Mexico City. He stated that they are a wonderful group of men and are doing outstanding work at the three churches in Mexico City. Guillermo Leyva is serving at San Pablo; Benjamin Quizada at San Pedro; and Neftali Garcia is serving at Buen Pastor.

I received an interesting letter from Erin Mackenzie, Marketing Manager of Editorial Concordia of Concordia Publishing House. She said, "Thanks to



Neftali Garcia at Buen Pastor Lutheran Church

many, many generous donors, CPH's charity, Concordia Gospel Outreach, is seeking organizations that



Picture of first set of books to be delivered to Vicars serving in Mexico City. Guillermo Leyva, Pastor Isaac Garcia, and Neftali Garcia

could benefit from Spanish and bilingual ministry materials, completely free of charge. I'd love to bless KIMA in a big way by sending a load of whatever is most needed."

That was exciting news! We have now received 15 sets of 31 books dealing with everything from commentaries, writings of Luther, and books on worship and the work of the Holy Spirit to be distributed to all the pastors, lay-pastors, and seminary students of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

We look forward to seeing how these materials will help put the Gospel into the hands of many!

We can be contacted at 109 Noel, Waxahachie 75165 or by phone at 972-935-8017

KIMA is a 501 C 3 Public Charity

The KIMA Board of Directors

Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Director, VP; Ms. Lois Wolf, Director, Secretary; Ms. Sylvia Bulot, Director, Treasurer; Rev Gregory Finke, Director; Mr. Ralph Genz, Director; Rev Norman Finke, Executive Director-- 972-935-8017 or nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net