

## June 22, 2017 Newsletter

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My brothers and sister in Christ,

I received a phone call last evening from Omar Garza, Treasurer of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. We discussed sending the two young men to the Dominican Republic for their last year at the seminary, the situation in Tijuana and Mexicali, and the need for Pastor Isaac Garcia to go out there and install Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera as pastor of these two churches.



Of course, where there is action, there is a need, and the question arises how will we respond to these needs of our brothers in Christ? In order for the above items to take place KIMA has committed itself to provide \$2000 for this and will need another \$2000 at Christmas time. As I thought of this, I became a little frustrated at the lack of response up to this date. We have about half of the first installment at this time and the young men have to leave in about six weeks. As I sat here feeling sorry for this lack of support I came across a devotion that was sent to me this morning by my friend Dr. Bobby Haney. Here is what he said:

### *Living the Life of Christ*

Love Is...

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18**

Love is...giving.

In this passage, John questions whether it's even possible to love if you have no compassion for the poor. His example is Christ's love manifesting itself by the sacrifice of His very life!

We see that God didn't just give a little for us. He gave His BEST! He gave Himself. And it's no different for us. True love requires sacrifice.

And our love shows up in how we live our lives: “let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

That “action” shows up in giving to others. And it’s not just money, although that is part of it. It’s giving our time. I know...we’re busy. How can we add anything else to our schedule?

Well, how about this? Let’s give our schedules to God and let Him direct it.

Need more evidence that loving is giving? How about this: “For God so loved the world that He *gave*...” (You *know* where that passage is!)

And, by the way, giving without love is worthless. Look up 1 Corinthians 13.

Still, we hang on and are afraid to give “ours” away. Friends, this is simply failing to trust God. Remember the story where Jesus fed thousands of people with just a little food from a boy’s lunch? Jesus gave the food to the disciples after he blessed it for them to pass out to the people – give it away. What if the disciples had simply held onto it, continually thanking Him for providing lunch for them. That would have been silly! There was enough to feed thousands!

But, that is exactly what we do when we fail to give – freely and joyfully. WE are loaded down with stuff friends – more than WE could need in most cases. And at the same time, there are many others desperate for a small loaf.

We hoard our money, our resources, our time, our gifts, our families, and our friends. It’s really ludicrous to say “I love you, Jesus. Thank you for your provision,” while people are desperate for your “love.”

And, what did we say love is?

God gave because  
You are loved!  
Bobby  
Wow!

Then I read a devotion from Halely Morgan the author of “Wild and Free” and in it she said: He has drawn pleasant lines for you. He has never taken His eyes off your situation. You don’t have to pull yourself up by your bootstraps and get to a better place or version of yourself. All you have to do is rest in the work Jesus did on your behalf, and then walk with Him in the works God created for you before the beginning of time (Ephesians 2:10).



So, once again I am asking you to consider a donation to help take care of these two situations, situations that I feel God has laid at our feet. In the last couple of weeks, I have received two donations, one was for \$300 and another for \$25. If you feel that God could be calling on you to be a part of this, please, offer up a prayer of thanks and send your gift to God through KIMA as we send these men off to do the Lord's Kingdom work.

"Just imagine if 80 people gave \$25, the goal of \$2000 would be met or if 40 people gave \$50 it would be met. Many "hands" giving a little and the need will be met in helping provide ordained pastors for the Lord's work in Mexico. I know we can do it with the Lord's help. Thanks in advance for your help in meeting this need." WE CAN DO IT WITH THE LORD'S HELP! Are you there with us? Feel the joy!

May God bless you as you consider your part in this Kingdom work.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Norman Finke, Director of KIMA

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