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July 17, 2017 Newsletter

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14-15 Now how can they call on one in whom they have never believed? How can they believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how can they hear unless someone proclaims him? And who will go to tell them unless he is sent? As the scripture puts it: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'

Romans 10:14-15 J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

How often have we heard these words, agreed with them, but didn't really know what to do about them? For many of us we would have to say, "all too often".

Sometimes part of our problem is that we take a passage in Scripture and isolate it from its surrounding context. I think I have been as guilty of this as many others when it comes to this passage.

If we look at the verses immediately ahead of these, we read this: ^{8b-11} **It is the secret of faith, which is the burden of our preaching, and it says, in effect, "If you openly admit by your own mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord, and if you believe in your own heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."** For it is believing in the heart that makes a man righteous before God, and it is stating his belief by his own mouth that confirms his salvation. And the scripture says: **'Whoever believes on him will not be put to shame'**.

12-13 And that "whoever" means anyone, without distinction between Jew or Greek. For all have the same Lord, whose boundless resources are available to all who turn to him in faith. For: 'Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved'.

These words of God were shared with the Jews living in Rome. They seemed to be a bit taken aback or irritated that Paul was spending so much time and effort reaching out to the people who were not Jews. He was actually sharing the Gospel with people who were ethnically different from themselves.



In verse 13 we see that the promise that He gives is the same for all. **"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"**. That's anyone without exception. That same promise was made way back in Joel 2:32.

What is the life of a Christian but a life of prayer? We talk to Him because we somehow know that we are dependent on Him. We dedicate ourselves to Him believing that He is in control of all things.

Many of us would probably not go as far as those Roman Jews but I'm afraid that many times our lack of enthusiasm for getting involved turns out to be just as much of a hindrance as was the attitude of the Jews in Paul's time.

Let's go back to those words in verses 14 and 15. Now I see something like this, "Why would anyone call on one who they don't even know about? How can they if they never have heard about Him or what He has done or is able to do? So, who will tell them about all that unless there is someone who is sent, commissioned or ordained, and in some degree qualified for the task of preaching and sharing the Sacraments? How blessed we are and thankful we should be that there are people who can bring that Good News of what God is doing!



**GOD is
SO GOOD!**

Well, I want to tell you that it is happening! If you have any doubt listen to this. Soon, Benjamín Quezada, presently serving under Rev. Daniel Conrad at San Pedro in Mexico City will be ordained. That's one!

Two and three! Neftali Garcia Guevara, presently serving his vicarage under Rev. Andrew Schlund at Buen Pastor in Mexico City and Guillermo Leyva Cruz, presently serving his vicarage under

Rev. Alvaro Lopez at San Pablo in Mexico City will leave within the month to complete their seminary studies at The Reformer Lutheran Seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. Through your generous gifts, KIMA was able to pay for their air travel to the Dominican Republic. In fact, because of several generous gifts those tickets are paid for and we are only eight hundred dollars short of being able to pay for their second roundtrip tickets so that they can come home for the Christmas holidays.



The Reformer Lutheran Seminary



Benjamin, Neftali, and Guillermo

God is working in the lives of our donors and is also very alive in the hearts of these three young men. Please, keep them all on your daily prayer list and pray for the success of their ministries.

This doesn't mean that all will be easy for these men, but with God's help, the love of their new congregations, your prayers, and their dedication, I'm excited about what may come.



Rev. Daniel Conrad with his liturgy students

Another exciting extension to the theological education program is Rev. Daniel Conrad teaching two classes to the vicars and other interested students. The two classes this year were Greek I and a second one on the Liturgy. Rev. Andrew Schlund also provided some help to Rev. Conrad. These might seem like little steps but who is to say that this might one day lead into reopening the Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City.



Greek Class



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Another interesting concept in the evangelization of new areas is the work that Josafat Basto is doing out in the Sonoran Desert between San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora and Mexicali, Baja California Norte. Weekly they travel to three different sites and provide breakfast, the singing of Christian songs, and sharing the promises of God with the children and their parents. Looks like it was a beautiful day to praise God with the brothers and sisters at Mesa Rica, Independencia, and Fronterizo.



Rev. Isaac Garcia presenting books to two seminary students, Guillermo and Neftali



Editorial Concordia
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Talk about gifts from out of nowhere? Earlier this year I got the following email from Erin Mackenzie marketing and sales manager of *Editorial Concordia*, the Hispanic division of *Concordia Publishing House*. *Editorial Concordia* focuses on three areas of service-mission: Christian education, theological education, and mission. They offer over 300 resources, from Vacation Bible School programs to exegetic commentaries.

Erin said: "I'm writing with some good news for you! Thanks to many, many generous donors, CPH's charity, Concordia Gospel Outreach, is seeking organizations that 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.

The end result of this was that *Editorial Concordia* sent us a set of professional and theological books for each Pastor, Lay-pastor and the four seminary students. There were commentaries on books of the Bible, books on Christology, Pneumatology/Holy Spirit, the Office of Pastor, Baptism, and the Formula of Concord. Wow! What a start for a Pastor's library! They even sent materials for New Church Plants. Thank you, God! Thank you, *Editorial Concordia*!



I want to have you take a careful look at the picture below. It shows all the people that KIMA helps to support financially each month. These are men and women of God who have dedicated their lives to share the Gospel message, the message of our loving God who wants nothing more than all to be saved. Some are business men, others construction workers, taxi drivers, seminary students, and a few are ordained pastors of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

We all live in this same world and we don't have any idea when God will come again "to judge the living and the dead." The fact that we sometimes forget about, is that all those, whether they be our own family members, friends, neighbors across the street, or the people in Mexico, who do not believe that Jesus is their personal Savior will be doomed to eternal punishment in hell. I don't think any of us want to see that happen!

Going back to the opening Scripture of Romans 10:14-15, I think we see how necessary it is that we make sure that the "called" are being "sent." Each month KIMA sends down to the Lutheran Synod of Mexico \$4,300 plus sometimes a little more to cover special needs like medical problems or a financial crisis in one of the churches when a special need comes up. KIMA receives on a regular monthly basis from a few congregations, an LWML group, and, God bless them, four or five faithful servants, approximately \$2,290 a month. There are some faithful and loving people who give gifts of love several times a year, and the ladies of Trinity, Weatherford who put on a sale each year, Christ the King of

Waxahachie that has an auction each October, the Women in Action LWML group of Redeemer, Austin who help with VBS material, Christ the King VBS which gives its offerings every year to buy VBS material for the children in Mexico, and a few faithful friends who designate their *Thrivent Choice Dollars* to KIMA. For all of this we are eternally grateful and thankful because it enables these faithful brothers and sisters in Mexico to more effectively gather together with the people in their communities and share the love of Jesus which they have in their heart.

We have been blessed and because of that we want to be a blessing to others. It is amazing to see what God is doing through these modern-day disciples. Many of the original disciples were fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, etc. So today we have construction workers, taxi drivers, business men, and even one man who works in a casino. The one common thread they have is a love for their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the heart of servanthood.

The problem that we have is that when the well runs dry what do we do? We get down on our knees and pray that the Lord of the harvest will touch the hearts of His people and that they will step forward as His stewards, join us in prayer, and then step up as servants and help KIMA serve the people of Mexico by sending out and supporting the workers.

'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'



Our God is the God of Love. God so loved that He gave. He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. He now gives us the challenge, Go and make disciples. Help KIMA to open additional doors and become as servants.



Please send your contributions, gifts that God has given to you, to enable these two men to finish their Seminary training next year and begin their ministry in Mexico to:

KIMA
109 Noel Ave.
Waxahachie, Texas 75165



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

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