April 4, 2017 Newsletter

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Preaching to the choir? I don't know who is a member of the choir and who needs to be reminded of what we are all about. I know that one of our key passages from the Bible is Romans 12:13. Putting that verse into the whole paragraph in which it is found we see the following:

Love in Action

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your

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spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 New International Version (NIV)

That's what it is all about! God is love! "God so loved the world that He gave..." The commandments are summed up with "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Love, that's what it is all about. Once you have truly experienced God's love you can't help but pass it on.

People all too often talk about love but they don't live it. For many there seems to be something more important than God and what He says. We think of ourselves. We place a higher value on things, money, or prestige. The words above speak of sincerity, clinging to what is good, honor, spiritual fervor, serving the Lord in hope, patience, and faithful prayer. And then, share with the Lord's people who are in need.

Well, I have one or two of those! In a colonial, settlement, near Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico a mission, Mission Luterana El Mesias, was started. The pastor there is Luis Moreno, formerly a member of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo and a member of the Praise Band that led worship. Bethany is a small church but under the leadership of Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia and his



Mission Luterana El Mesias

wife Yolanda they have planted two new missions. In June of this last year, we participated in the dedication of the new sanctuary of Mission Luterana El Mesias. They have really worked hard at spreading the Good News of the Gospel.

Luis Moreno is married to Maria de Rosario Corona and they have four children. Rosario is presently dealing with a serious

health problem. After consulting with several doctors, it seems that she needs to receive an Endometrial Ablation. The cost of this procedure is approximately 38,000 pesos or about \$2,031 USD. Insurance, as we know it, would cover this



Rosario, Lois Wolf, Norman Finke, Marty Finke, Luis Moreno

procedure. Unfortunately, most of our pastors in the Lutheran Synod of Mexico are not paid enough to have this kind of insurance. So, in order for this procedure to be carried out it is necessary for someone to come up with the money.

In the past, we have helped other leaders of the Lutheran Churches with personal problems that ranged from hernia operations, cataract surgery, cysts on the breasts, to helping provide for the burial of family members. We would like to ask if you could examine your heart for the love that God talks about in Romans 12:9-13. If you find that you feel this love and are moved by it, I would like you to include Rosario in your prayers and send a check to KIMA to help her recover from this disorder and be able to spend her time once again serving the Lord through activities among His people.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!



And then there is a second area of ministry that needs help. This past year KIMA was blessed with some delightful gifts from some obviously wonderful people who were filled with God's love. Because of these gifts, KIMA has been able to set aside \$6,000 for a special mission endeavor that would be designated by the leadership of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. They have chosen to make an attempt at reopening two churches in the Northwest quadrant of Mexico. Specifically, this would include the cities of Mexicali and Tijuana. Years ago, there was Messiah Lutheran Church in



Tijuana and San Juan Lutheran in Mexicali. The pastors in both of these congregations died and there was no one to take their place. Over the years, the congregations basically ceased to exist. Buildings are there but some of them have been vandalized and are in need of repair.

Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera, his wife Mayra, and two sons Samuel and Pablo have accepted the Lord's calling to go to these two cities in order to be a part in revitalizing the ministries in Mexicali and Tijuana. They arrived on March 31 in the early evening. A house has been found that they are renting. I understand it is nothing fancy but I have been led to believe that it will provide the basics until other arrangements can be made.

One of the major problems that they will have is transportation. There is quite a distance between the two cities and Pastor Samuel Perez does not own a car. So, we are in the process of seeing if we can locate some kind of vehicle to provide this basic need. Rev. Don Smidt of Connecting Generations is serving as our point man in locating a car. Once again, the problem is finances. Unless we can find someone who is willing to donate a car for the Lord's Kingdom work, we will have to raise several thousand dollars to purchase some kind of a used vehicle that is in good enough condition to get back and forth between Mexicali and Tijuana.

So, you see, it once again comes down to finding people who have been touched by the Lord's love and who are willing to use their talents for building the Lord's Kingdom. Some would say, "Joining Jesus on His Mission."

I keep these two sets of problems, or opportunities, in my prayers. We will do what we can! But how wonderful it would be if we could find a sufficient number of people who are willing to help us tackle this problem, solve it, and let these Kingdom workers get back to doing what God has called them to do.

"It only takes a spark To get a fire going And soon all those around Can warm up in the glowing That's how it is with God's love Once you've experienced it You'll spread His love To everyone You'll want to pass it on



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