

Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

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“Share with God’s people who are in need.”

Romans 12:13

“A Step Forward in Faith”

February, 2018

As I was thinking back on the year 2017, about all that KIMA has been able to accomplish this past year, the ups and the downs, about all the people who helped and what they have made possible, I couldn’t help but think of the “why” of it all.

It all goes back to love! It could be because you all loved somebody and what you did was to honor that person. It could be because you know some of the people in Mexico and wanted to help them out. But, I would like to think, that the real reason we all became part of this was love of and from God. God sent Jesus. What God have you ever heard of who promised to share everlasting life with anyone who trusts in Him? Only Jesus Christ! How exciting it is to have a God who loves us in that way.

Then I thought of all the people who don’t have this realization. Romans 10:13-15 came to mind.¹³For **“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”**¹⁴But **how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?** ¹⁵And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, **“How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”**



The Good News is our salvation by Jesus Christ. It is the Gospel of Peace. It is the word of reconciliation between God and man. It is the best news that ever came from heaven to earth. Hopefully we, you and KIMA, have played a part in bringing this beautiful news to the people of Mexico.



During this past year, 2017, we were able to give \$6,000.00 to the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, the LCMS partner Synod in Mexico, to be used on any special mission project of their choosing. They chose to reopen two churches in northwest Mexico that had closed because of a lack of qualified men to lead these two congregations. Without a leader these two congregations withered on the vine.

In addition to this we have been able to provide subsidy for a total of seven pastors and lay pastors, money for gasoline to take the Gospel to the desert missions in the Sonoran Desert. We have been able to help out financially, through loans, three workers who have had medical problems this past year. We have provided VBS material for over nine hundred boys and girls to receive the Good News. And finally, we provided for the transportation to the Dominican Republic for two students, Neftali and Guillermo, who are attending our Lutheran Seminary, The Reformer, in the Dominican Republic. They will finish up this year and will return to Mexico to begin their ministry as ordained pastors of a congregation.

This last year our expenses of \$75,583.80 were divided up as follows: 73.8% for Pastoral Leaders Support; 7.9% for New or Rejuvenated Missions in Mexico; 17.7% for Education, Medical, & transportation expenses; and .5% for Administration Purposes.

Last year our total income was \$62,298.95

That means that we spent \$13,284.85 more than we received in 2017. We thank the Lord for the blessings that He gave us in 2016, as we began 2017 with a balance of \$27,000.96. This year we began with a balance of \$13,716.11.

We feel blessed that God's people have stepped forward to help KIMA spread the Gospel to people they do not even know. God knows each and every one of them and loves them and we want to join Him on His mission of saving everyone. I don't know how many people have been touched with the Gospel through the congregations, missions, and preaching stations in Mexico. I asked Alexa and "she" told me there were approximately 124 million people in Mexico. According to Rev. Samuel Pérez Gaona, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, (SLM), has seventeen places where they meet regularly to share God's Word. Point is: there are still a lot of people that need to be reached with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.



These challenges and opportunities became blessings because of the prayers that you offered up to our Heavenly Father, the blessings that He in turn gave to you, and the sixty-two thousand dollars that you people in turn gave to be a blessing to others. Doesn't it feel good to be a part of ministry, being a part of God's plan to bring the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to people?

We are pleased to announce that Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency - KIMA has received \$4,305 in 2017 through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice® program. By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency - KIMA. It's easy to do. I just finished making sure all of our 2017 Choice Dollars have been designated to KIMA. We plan to use Thrivent Choice grant funding to start and rejuvenate new missions in Mexico as directed by the Lutheran Synod of Mexico through the Rev. Isaac G. Garcia. We will provide you with updates in the coming months. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.



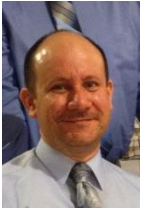
We have received a couple of prayer requests from some of the people in Mexico.

Alicia Valazquez, the wife of Lay-pastor Samuel Garcia Marquez serving at Bethel Lutheran Mission in Rio Rico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, requests our prayers for her husband. For the second time in about a year Pastor Samuel has had a slight heart attack. He had to be taken to the hospital but now has been able to come home while being carefully monitored. They believe that there is an artery that is partially blocked. They hope to treat it with medication.

I just received a response from Pastor Samuel. He says, "God bless you, I ask you for your prayers for me so that my God can heal me."



*Samuel Garcia
Marquez*



*Pastor Omar
Garcia Martinez*

Secondly, on a happy note, Pastor Omar Garza Martinez told me the other night about a man whose name is Rigoberto Garcia. Pastor Omar said that this man has been coming to their church and is very interested in growing in the Lord's Word. He also said this man has expressed an interest in becoming a pastor. Pastor Omar asked to include this man in our prayers.

I would ask for all of you to lift the Lutheran Synod up in your prayers as they continue to grow spiritually and in numbers. With that comes many decisions that need to be made. Later this year Neftali Garcia and Guillermo Leyva will be finishing up their seminary training and they will need to be placed into a leadership shepherding role. This brings up questions like where will they be placed; how will they be supported; will that require more subsidy and if so where do they get it?

Does this mean some new missions? Maybe Reynosa? Fantastic! But again, where and how to cover the cost of that? Mexicali is getting off to a good start but needs a lot of structural repairs. I hear a church from Michigan is sending down a group over Easter to help with some of that rebuilding. Tijuana hasn't opened yet. They have to settle disputes over who has control of the property.

Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera is working hard and at the same time continuing his studies through the seminary in the Dominican Republic. Saul Silva and Jesus Corona of San Luis are both beginning their seminary studies through distance learning from our seminary in Fort Wayne. They are enrolled in a program called Pastoral Formation for Hispano America. Pastor Omar Garcia will be ordained in Matamoros on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. Job Jimenez is back and active in the church at San Luis Rio Colorado.

Wow! Not bad problems, mostly good ones, problems that need to be prayed about, thought out, and then implemented.

I have email addresses for all the leaders, lay-pastors and pastors, in the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. If anyone would like to contact any of them I would love to share that with you.

Rev. Norman Finke, Executive Director of KIMA



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

KIMA is a 501 C 3 Public Charity

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