



Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

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The LORD has blessed KIMA and its mission to the people in Mexico.



When I talked to you towards the end of June, KIMA had a total of \$786.93 in the bank along with commitments to help 15 mission/preaching stations along with 10 workers at a total cost of \$4,150 American Dollars per month. It seemed like an impossible task to me. In fact, with literal tears in my eyes I wrote to each of the men/congregations that we help each month and told them that we could not guarantee that their usual subsidy would be there in the coming months.

That means that, unless the LORD blessed KIMA and its ministry with an additional \$4150 in one month, they might be in financial trouble and would have to find a new way to do things. I told them that prayers needed to be raised to the Lord to send more people to help raise (give) funds, and/or we would need their help to reduce the subsidy of what is really wanted to what is available.

I was, or maybe still am, not sure what the LORD had/has in mind. All I knew is that I suddenly felt comfortable with leaving it in God's hands, knowing that He was going to provide for what He wanted to be done. I asked them to raise this up to the LORD so that somehow, we could continue to reach the "lost" in Mexico. I asked God to bless them in their work, ministry and the decisions that we together have to make.

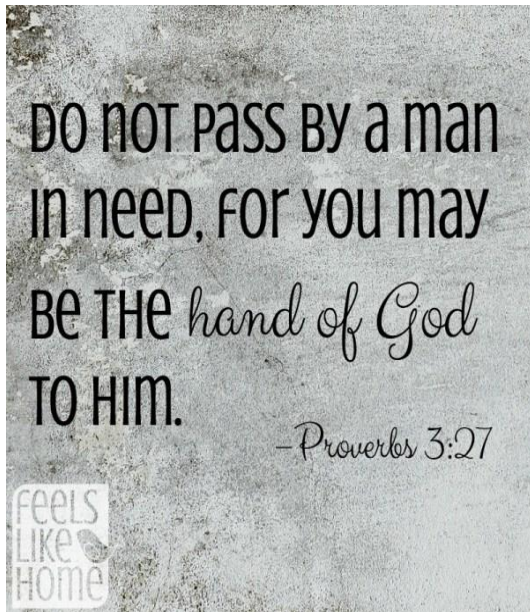
I sent out a plea to the people who have been a part of KIMA's ministry, said a prayer, and went on vacation to be with my wife's side of our family in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

By the end of the first ten days of August, the Lord has already acted and sent forth blessings that once again brought tears to my eyes; tears of joy, thankfulness, and gratitude. The LORD answered prayers and touched hearts. Since that tearful day in June till now we have received around \$25,000. We have received gifts of \$25, \$500, \$700, \$1000, and are you ready for this, \$15,000! These have been gifts from individuals, former classmates of mine from some 60 years ago, non-profits, churches, and a special Foundation. If that doesn't make you jump for joy, I don't know what will.



We have been able to provide the full subsidy that we have provided in the past to the workers/congregations, provided Spanish Bible Class materials for a women's Bible Study group, and provided the needed funds for a group of people from one of the Mexican congregations to make a VBS mission trip to the unchurched in Veracruz, Mexico. And, we still have about \$20,000 in the bank.



Lest we fall once again into that false sense of security that may have caused the shortage of available funding and resources, we need to remember that all our possessions really belong to God. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17, Everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer Him a small portion of the abundance He has already given to us. Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognizes everything we have and give already belongs to the Lord.

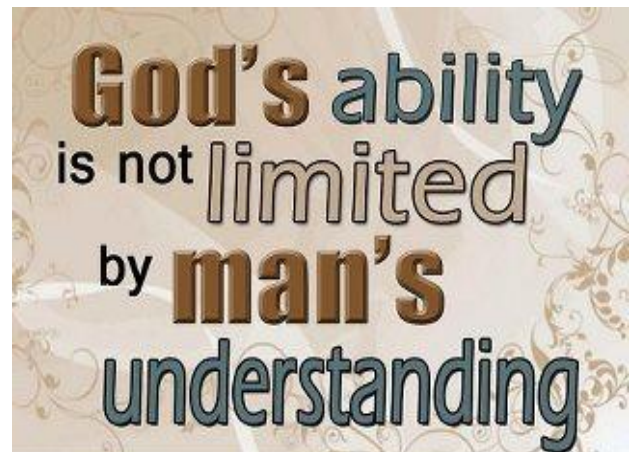
First and foremost, God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize He is truly the Lord of our lives. He has provided us with everything not because we are so good, special, or intelligent, but He has given them to us because He loves us and wants us to use His gifts for extending His Kingdom as we join Him on His mission of bringing all people, including us, into a

loving, trusting, caring relationship with Him. We carry out our responsibility by using those gifts from God to reestablish His Kingdom here on earth.

We rob God when we fail to give offerings to Him. Malachi 3:8; "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings." This verse speaks for itself. We aren't fully surrendered to God until our money is dedicated to Him.

In 1 Peter 4:10-11 God tells us, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Our prayer is that the LORD would guide us in making the best use of these blessings enabling our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are living in Mexico, to reach out to their "lost" neighbors. It is also our prayer that the congregations of Mexico would begin to more faithfully support their pastors and families so that we can concentrate on helping them in the areas of ministry, worship, evangelism, stewardship training, and Christian education for adults, youth, and the children. We want to assist established congregations to become stronger as they reach out to those who have not yet



experienced and felt the real love of our heavenly Father through His Son Christ Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament.

One of the points of all this above is that, unless people change their way of doing things, all these special gifts will only buy us some time until the devil's will catches up with us again. We need people who understand and feel the urgency of daily, weekly, and monthly continuing to battle with the devil by giving of ourselves whether that is of our time, finances, leadership, support, or all the above to see to it that we are joining in full heartedly to direct people to Christ so that He assures them of His love. Yes, He could do it without us but He chose to do it with us when He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations."

So, what's happening in Mexico?



- Pastor Isaac is on a mission trip with his people to Veracruz.
- Pastor Samuel Perez Herrera is trying to carry out a program of theological training for lay-pastors so they can administer the Sacraments.
- Lay-pastor Job Jimenez is working at several churches in Tijuana trying to restart viable ministries and join them together with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.
- Naphtali and Guillermo are helping out in various places this summer as they wait to complete their degree programs to become ordained pastors in Mexico.
- Job Jimenez wants to restart his theological education program. The question is

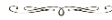
where will that be?

- They are all just finishing up VBS programs. The question is how many came to know Christ and how do they get them involved?
- How many new men are waiting to begin their program of theological education to become pastors?
- There are always problems in any church body of understanding each other. The question always raises its "ugly" head, "How do we get people to be forgiving and repenting for the sake of the Gospel?"
- Prayers are requested for Rev. Alvaro Lopez of San Pablo Lutheran Church in Mexico, City. At the moment he is only able to get around with a walker. We pray for healing.

I don't know the answers to all these situations. I only know that we need to approach each other in love, forgiving each other, and seeking His guidance as to how we can move on in His ways. As someone told me the other day, "Forgive, forget, and move on."

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We have now added electronic giving to our website which is www.kimamission.org. Take a look at it. Lois Wolf is working hard at trying to keep it going and updated. My daughter Debra Hill said when she gets back from vacation she wants to see if she can help us get the word out there through social media which is one of the things she does for Cornerstone Staffing.



We are pleased to announce once again that Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency - KIMA continues to receive Choice Dollars designated by you through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice® program. This month we will be receiving \$340 from people like you. I just want you to know that when those kinds of unexpected funds come in we can help fill some of the unexpected needs. By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency to receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent.

If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing them to Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency - KIMA. It's easy to do. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

If you would like to donate, please copy this address into your server:

<https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/3npxmz29g32a>

We pray that the LORD would bless each and everyone of you and that your families and ministries would be blessed.

**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.**

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus came to His disciples and said, "Go and make disciples ...baptizing ...and teaching. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

Romans 12:13

"A Step Forward in Faith"

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