



# *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"*

*How exciting it is to see the LORD at work among us!*

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Twas the night before Christmas and I was thinking about all the blessings that God has been giving us throughout our lifetime.

The obvious was there because I was surrounded by it; a calm night; soft lights in a warm and snug room; peace and quiet with the soft Christmas music running through my mind from the Cantata I heard from Christ the King Lutheran Church's choir on Sunday morning.

I looked at the Christmas tree lights and ornaments that hung from the green boughs of the tree and reminisced how my mother and father had made some of them, our own children some, former students at

St. Matthew Lutheran School in Houston had lovingly given some of them to us, friends at Christ the King in Waxahachie others, and the last one, an ornament made out of the steel of a fifty gallon oil drum, by someone from Haiti who had hand drawn it and cut it out with a hammer and chisel. Love, love, love!

But the greatest love is that which is the reason for the season. As my eyes dropped down to the base of the tree, there sat the nativity scene we got from Concordia Publishing House fifty-seven years ago. There was Mary & Joseph with God's real gift to us, Jesus the Christ! Joy, peace, and certainty, all made possible because **"when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children."** Joy, joy, joy!

My next thoughts turned to how do we keep this alive, how do we make this peace and joy known to more and more people? Have you ever stopped to think about, meditate on the words of Romans 10:13-15? Have a look once again: **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"** Anything strike you? What's God saying to you?

I meet together with a small group of very special people every other week and we always begin with the question, "How's God been "messing" with you this week?" As we share, we hear about all kinds of fascinating and intriguing things that have been happening in each other's lives. I'm convinced they are happening to all of us but sometimes we are so distracted by the things of this world that we don't pause to notice Who might be "messing" with us.



A man, Josafat Basto, I have met twice, dies. He lived over twelve hundred miles away from me. He was a man who loved his Lord, ministered [like John the Baptist did] out in the wilderness [the desert of Sonora, Mexico]. His parishioners were mostly children, a few mothers, and even fewer fathers. But he met them weekly, fed them breakfast one day a week, sang Bible songs with them as he played his guitar, and told them Bible stories about the love of God and His gift of His Son Jesus Christ.

I know another man, Saul Silva, who feels called by God to be a pastor to the people of Mexico. He is presently serving as the Lay-pastor to a congregation in Sonora. That's good! He has to work ten hours a day in order to support his wife and two children. He is thankful that he has a job but that does not leave much time to serve as a full-time pastor to a congregation and continue his studies through the Seminary. Now in addition, he has been asked to oversee the ministry in the missions out in the desert.



*Sofia, Saul's wife*



*Lay-minister Saul Silva*

This man lives and works in the United States and has to make that border crossing every time he goes to minister to the people or goes home to be with his family and fulfill his obligations for his secular job. In recent months as he has been led by God to fulfill what he feels is the Lord calling him into the ministry, he has felt that he needed to find employment that did not require 10 hours a day with the threat of having to work on Sundays.

In order to try and serve San Mateo Lutheran Church, the missions in the desert, and continue his theological studies through the Seminaries in Fort Wayne and the Dominican Republic he is seeking to find partners in the ministry, sponsors, individuals, congregations, Sunday Schools, LWML and LLL groups, and any interested parties who would like to make this ministry possible. He needs to secure sponsorships that total around \$2500 to \$3000 a month.

I don't think I am all that different from most of the rest of you. So, maybe you can understand when I thought, "What does all this have to do with me? Why are you telling me this God?" I also found out once again that if you ask God a question, He is probably going to give you an answer, like it or not.



*Coach Finke*

So here is what I think He is saying to me [and maybe you]. He still talks to me a lot of times like I am still a coach I started out to be fifty some years ago, Ok, Norm, you have a team that is called KIMA and you have two hundred sixty-one wonderful people that I have sent to you to be part of that team. Two hundred fifteen of them have remained part of the team and are sitting on the bench. It's your job as coach to get these people up and off of the bench and out into the game. Seventy-four of them have stepped up and made a significant contribution, some have shot the eyes out of the basket, others have played hard and done whatever they could, and some are still waiting to get their chance or be motivated to get into the game.

Starting to get the point?

Life, of course, is much more than a game. It's a calling back of the redeemed, a walk with God in the calm of the day, but it is also very much a spiritual battle in which we are all called to fight the good fight. **12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.** 1 Timothy 6:12



We are willing to make a commitment to Saul Silva to be one member of the team helping to support him while he completes his SMP studies. This should be completed within four years. If, for some unforeseen reason, he drops out of the program this commitment will have to be reconsidered, adjusted or terminated.

It is my prayer that each of you might consider this opportunity to become a vital part of the calling, equipping, and enabling of Saul Silva to become an ordained pastor giving hope, joy, peace, direction, and certainty to the young and old of Mexico who have become lost in darkness. **"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined."** Isaiah 9:2

There are some out there who could take care of this need all by themselves, others could give twenty-five a month, some a hundred or two, and some “the widow’s mite.” If we, as a team, can put it all together we might be finding that the Lord is “messing” with us in some really spectacular ways, the greatest of which would be in seeing others come to know the love of God as we have come to know it in our own lives.

If the Lord is speaking to you and you are willing to join Him on this mission, please, make your commitment to the Lord, Saul Silva, San Mateo Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, the missions in the Sonoran Desert, and KIMA by sending your intentions to us at KIMA, 109 Noel Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165 or by return email.

Some of you may know of people who might be willing and capable of helping the Lord get Saul ready for full time ministry. If you do, would you, please, speak up for the Lord and seek their help?



Do you remember the last project we undertook, “Operation KIMA Christmas Child – KIMA Mission kids”?

Here are a couple of

pictures of some of the over one hundred children who received your gifts of love. 2 books in Spanish containing Bible stories, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap and washcloth, crayons, pencils, pen, and pencil sharpener, spiral notebook, coloring book, toy, comb, and candy.

The trip down and back was about eleven hundred miles. Lois Wolf, one of our Board members, drove her car down delivering the eleven boxes of gifts to Tino & Petra Guerrero in Mercedes, Texas who stored them until Pastor Isaac & Yolanda Garcia could come over and pick them up. I simply rode shotgun. Pastor Isaac sent the following message: “Thanks Pastor Norman Finke and all our brothers who donated to make these children happy, a gift is always of joy on this Christmas date where we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Finally, I share with you the posting I received from a former student of mine the Rev. Francis Schroeder:





To all my family and dear  
friends who I am blessed to  
have in my life...

May this Christmas bring *LOVE*  
in your heart, *HEALTH* to your  
body and *PEACE & JOY* to your  
home throughout the New Year!

Any response, a onetime gift or monthly commitment may be directed to Rev. Norman Finke at any of the addresses listed at the top of this Newsletter or you may contribute electronically by going to the Internet at <https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/3npxmz29g32a>

Board members: Rev. Norman Finke, Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Lois Wolf, Sylvia Bulot, Ralph Genz, Rev. Gregory Finke, Rev. Steve Roth, Debra Hill, Rev. Donald Berg, and Rev. Juan Zamora