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Theological Convocation Texas District, LCMS, Austin, Texas May 6-8, 2019



Rev. President Michael Newman and Lay-pastor Job Jimenez,
Tijuana B.C.



Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing and Lay-pastor Job Jimenez,
Tijuana B.C.



Rev. John Davis and Lay-pastor Job Jimenez



Rev. President Mike Newman & Rev. President Isaac
Guadalupe Garcia and his wife, Yolanda

Rev. President Isaac Guadalupe Garcia of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, his wife Yolanda, Lay-pastor and Seminary student Job Jimenez, and his wife Diana attended the Theological Convocation. It was quite a task for them to get there. Pastor Job Jimenez had to attend a meeting in Los Angeles about missions on Saturday. He returned that evening to Tijuana. Got up at 2 A.M. to go to the airport to fly to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. He and his wife, Diana, then took a bus to Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas and met up with Pastor Isaac and Yolanda. It took them 4 and ½ hours to get cleared to drive to Austin, Texas. They arrived at Lois Wolf's home at 4:30 Monday morning. Everyone was up by 9:30 and off we went to the Convocation where they helped us set up the KIMA booth.



President Newman and the Convocation committee provide translators for all the sessions, including opening and closing devotions, prayers, and discussions. The translators did an excellent job and our friends from Mexico were duly impressed by the whole proceedings. In fact, they would like to get more of their co-pastors to attend next year. It is also hoped that more of the Spanish speaking preachers in our District might take advantage of this opportunity in the future.



Pastor Isaac, Yolanda, Diane Shaw, and Marty Finke



KIMA Booth -- Yolanda, Lois Wolf, Diana, Pastor Job



Pastor Isaac, Norm Finke, Yolanda, Diana, Pastor Job

KIMA was represented by Board members Rev. Juan Zamora, Mr. Ralph Genz, Lois Wolf, and Norman Finke.

Marty Finke and Louise Genz helped Lois Wolf prepare supper and breakfast. Of course, we were treated by Pastor Isaac grilling the steaks. We did have quite a discussion as to whether we were serving coffecake or cinnamon cake for breakfast and Job solved the problem by just taking it all home.

Sorry you all couldn't be there and get acquainted with these lovely people. I was not always sure I got everything about

Zechariah, (it wasn't because it wasn't interesting and informative but the power of my concentration was not always the best), but the fellowship was fun, the ribs on Monday night were great, and the steaks, Pastor Isaac grilled on Tuesday night, were outstanding.

Pastor Job Jimenez really did think the Convocation was of tremendous help. He said they would like to see more of their pastors come like maybe Lay-pastor Luis Moreno, Rev. Omar Garza, Lay-pastor Saul Silva, and maybe Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera. Obviously, this is going to take some planning in order to raise enough money to pay for transportation, etc. We have been paying for their way and food the last couple of years. This year it cost us \$600.

I gave my 21-year-old truck to my grandson, so I did not have a way to get all the material down to Austin. Rev. Dr. (I like those fancy titles) Russ Hildebrandt offered to take all the boxes down in his car. I would have been overjoyed to have him do that except I knew Pastor Isaac really wanted, needed, that altar. So, I called Mike Shaw to see if I could borrow a truck from him, who has been doing this since before we were. He even donated all the gas for the trip. Mike and Diane Shaw transported the altar, crucifix, candle holders, communion ware, eighteen boxes of children's clothes, and two boxes of shoes. On the front of the Communion Table/Altar it was engraved the words of Jesus, "In remembrance of Me." So, we had 185 miles of witnessing.

We did learn that Job's wife name is pronounced Dee Anna (Diana). The letter "I" in Spanish is pronounced like ee.



I talked to Job and he said they stopped in Pharr, Texas to stay overnight with a former member of Pastor Isaac's church. Thursday morning Pastor Isaac had to take care of some business in McAllen and then they all

went to Rio Bravo. They unloaded the Communion Table /Altar. Then they all went to Matamoros to visit with Pastor Omar to have some conversation about missions and had some barbeque in the backyard.



Pastors Job, Omar, and Isaac

On Friday Pastor Isaac drove them to Monterrey to catch their plane and they got home around 10:00 P.M. Then they were getting ready to cook fried chicken for all the mothers on Mother's Day that Sunday.





Pastor Isaac is still very much a man of outreach. He feels it is necessary to get something started in Veracruz. They have been going several times a year to have prayer and Evangelism services. They are taking the clothes we brought down this time to Veracruz. They have taken several cases of Bibles down there. They would like to see more trips like this made with the hope that they can find someone down there who would become interested enough to study for the ministry and begin several missions in that state.

Neftali and Guillermo will return from the Dominican Republic at the beginning of June. Unfortunately, their return plane tickets only get them to Mexico City. We have paid for their plane fare so we added another \$300 so they can go home for a little while before they begin their vicarage. They will have a course or two to finish online but will begin their vicarage as soon as possible. Neftali will serve under Rev. Andrew Schlund in Mexico City and will help out at all three churches in Mexico City. Guillermo will serve under Rev. Isaac Garcia and will help out in Rio Bravo, Matamoros and possibly some in Monterrey. There is some thought to starting a mission church in Reynosa. It was also hoped that this extra help would allow Pastor Isaac some time to go down and do some of the things listed above in Veracruz.



Guillermo and Neftali

Pastor Isaac will request the SLM to certify Yolanda as a Deaconess. The program calls for them to take about 18 courses and she has already taken around 35. (Someone suggested that maybe she should become a pastor in the ELCA. – Just kidding!)



We were all very impressed with Job Jimenez. He has a heart for missions! As I have told you before, Job is having some health problems. I have been in contact with Melissa Salomón of Concordia Lutheran Church. She lives in Chula Vista and has been very active in all that has been happening with the church in Tijuana. Incidentally, she has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Concordia Seminary. She told me that she felt Job needed to see a doctor about all his health concerns. The money they have asked for to help Job, \$650, was sent to Melissa and she is making sure Job is getting the proper treatment.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: I can't emphasize enough what a wonderful gift it is to open up an email from Thrivent Financial and see that they are depositing Thrivent Choice Dollars in KIMA's bank account. A few weeks ago, we got a plea from Job Jimenez about needing financial help with his medical expenses. That next morning, we got a notice from Thrivent that they were depositing almost the exact amount that we had decided to give to hope. \$10 here, \$20, \$35 there and it all mounts up. We were able to help Job with his medical problems and bring Job, Diana, Pastor Isaac and Yolanda to the Theological Convocation. You think maybe the Man upstairs had something to do with that? It is a very simple process of checking online or with your Thrivent agent to find out if you have some Thrivent Dollars available. Use it or lose it!

Any contributions to help finance any of the above projects may be sent to KIMA at the address printed 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

