



Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

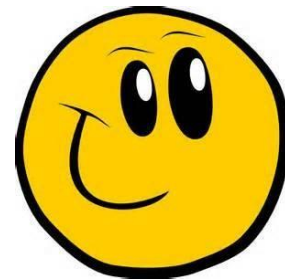
109 Noel Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165-1333 Telephone:

972-935-8017

nfinke.kima@gmail.com

www.kimamission.org

March 17, 2020



KIMA is a mission agency that was initially an outgrowth of the mission trips taken by the youth of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waxahachie back in the 1990's. It is an independent mission agency only in the sense that we have never applied to be a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. We serve in the same capacity as an RSO in that our operations foster the mission and ministry of the LCMS and our activities are in harmony with the Synod. Our aim was to gather likeminded, Spirit-led, individuals, congregations, and the Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod in extending and strengthening the Lord's Kingdom among Hispanics and Mexicans along our southern border, and into Mexico. As of late, our primary focus has been in working with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. Since our beginning, Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia Castillo has been our principal contact and advisor concerning our work in Mexico. Pastor Isaac, a gifted evangelistic servant of God, presently serves as President of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.



As I stated above, Pastor Isaac is a very mission minded leader.

Under his leadership they have:

- Under the guidance of Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera, reopened San Juan Lutheran Church in Mexicali, the capital city of the state of Baja California in northern Mexico, right on the U.S. border.
- Under the leadership of Pastor/Vicar Job Jimenez, reestablished worship at Cristo Redentor in Tijuana, Baja California.
- Opened a new church, Cristo Rey, in the southwestern state of Chiapas. Lay-pastor Alvaro Velazquez leads this first Lutheran mission in the state of Chiapas and is studying to become an ordained pastor.
- Currently they are in the process of starting a new mission in Tampico, Tamaulipas, a city and port in the southeastern part of the state.



The picture above is Pastor Isaac, Vicar Guillermo, Yolanda, and other members of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo as they are driving the almost 300 miles heading for Tampico to continue the process of opening a brand new Lutheran mission.

The vehicle they are using is a 1997 van with several hundred thousand miles on it. It was donated to KIMA by Christ the King Lutheran in Waxahachie and we gave it to Pastor Isaac to be used in his ministry. That van has been from Waxahachie to Rio Bravo; Matamoros; Guasave in the western state of Sinaloa, to Veracruz in eastern Mexico, to El Sembrador Lutheran Church in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; Austin, Texas for Theological Convocations, Our Redeemer in Irving, Texas for a "Joining Jesus on His Mission" workshop, and picking up people every Sunday for church, kids for VBS, and on and on. The other day Pastor Isaac asked me if it would be alright if he got a different vehicle. He looked around and came up with a minivan that would only seat about half of the number of people he usually picks up.



2019 Theological Convocation

About two weeks ago I went down to Pflugerville, Texas for my sister's birthday. While we were down there, we attended a Bible study at KIMA's Board member Ralph & his wife Louise Genz's home. The Bible study was led by Mark Gerdes who has been a longtime supporter of KIMA. In the conversation before the Bible Study the subject came up of the van that Pastor Isaac drives. Upon hearing that Pastor Isaac was trying to get a different vehicle at a cost of \$7,500, Mark suggested that he could get a 15 passenger Ford van for around \$3,000. He is in the business of purchasing vehicles, fixing them up, and then reselling them. He said he would be willing to keep an eye out for a 2013-15 van which he would then give to us at cost. It will cost approximately \$1,000 to get the van registered in Mexico. That comes to somewhere around \$4,000. Pastor Isaac really doesn't have the money to pay \$7,500 for a vehicle.



Here are two 2013 vans. One is a 12 passenger and the other is a 15 passenger.

I don't know the final costs but from what I've said above, you can get a pretty good idea of what we are trying to do. If you



would like to be a part of this, please send your donation to KIMA and earmark it for a van to assist Pastor Isaac in his ministry.



We have been blessed to be part of another development. Most of the pastors of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, since their congregations have not been self-sustaining, have not had any type of health insurance or retirement plans. In Mexico a person can be a part of a type of Social Security program. It is not a required tax like our Social Security. If you are enrolled, you get medical benefits on what is paid regardless of what you make. What changes is the money for a house and the money for your retirement. As of this month of March 2020, KIMA has made it possible for all the pastors that have not been covered by this program to become enrolled in the Social Security program through the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. Up to this time the Lutheran Synod of Mexico has not had the finances to be a part of this program. KIMA is now supplying \$50 a month for each of the subsidized pastors while each of them is contributing an additional \$50 of their subsidy to be enrolled in the Social Security program. For most of them it's like a dream come true.



We have another big day coming up in the beginning of June. Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo will become the first native of Mexico to become an official Deaconess. She has completed more than enough of the required courses to make this official.

Neftalí Garcia Guevara of Rio Bravo is currently serving as Vicar in Mexico City. He is splitting up his time between the three congregations in Mexico City: El Buen Pastor, San Pablo, and San Pedro. He will be ordained at the beginning of June.

Guillermo Leyva C. from Mexicali is currently serving as Vicar at La Santísima Trinidad in Matamoras and at Betania in Rio Bravo. He will also be ordained in Mexico City at the beginning of June.



Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo



Neftali Garcia Guevara



Guillermo Leyva Cruz

Any contributions to help finance the ministries mentioned above may be sent to KIMA, 109 Noel Ave., Waxahachie, Texas 75165 or you may contribute electronically by going to the Internet at:

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

Executive Director: Rev. Norman Finke - Board members: Rev. Donald Berg, Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Sylvia Bulot, Rev. Gregory Finke, Ralph Genz, Debra Hill, Michael Shaw, Lois Wolf, and Rev. Juan Zamora

A special note to all during these stressful times: You are special and our loving Heavenly Father cares for and about you!

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Philippians 4:6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 43:1-3 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.