



Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

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I thought maybe some of you might be interested in what is happening with the men and women we work with in the SLM in Mexico. I originally shared this with the Board of Directors.

Conversation with the people who serve the Lord through the SLM concerning the effects of Covid-19

I started this conversation with 18 leaders in Mexico with the following on Messenger:

Hello, all my brothers and sisters in Christ! I hope and pray that each one of you is doing well during these difficult times.



Many small businesses have had to close for the time being since many of them are not considered to be essential at this time. Restaurants are closed except for pick up orders. We are not supposed to gather where there are more than ten people and then we are supposed to keep six feet apart. Now they are talking of everyone wearing a face mask if you go out in public. Marty and I are going over to our daughter Debra's house later today to get a facemask she got for us.

We have been doing our church services via Facebook Live or by means of YouTube. Pastor does give communion on Sunday mornings. You must sign up ahead of time and then only two to four people can come at a time. So, he offers the Sacrament at fifteen-minute intervals all morning long. He has a brief confession and absolution, speaks the words of Institution, serves the Body and Blood (individual cup only), and then closes with a prayer. We also have Bible Study on Sunday morning by means of Facebook Live.

It would be interesting to know how the virus is affecting your area and what you are doing to offer Spiritual help.

May the Lord bless you and keep you safe in His arms.

Rev. Norman Finke

Isaac Guadalupe Garcia – Betania, Rio Bravo

Greetings Pastor Finke I am pleased to hear that you are well with Marty and also his family, also here in Río Bravo we cannot have our normal services and we are having services linked by zoom, Facebook and are being transmitted on YouTube and devotions. You and your family are in our prayers. Blessings

Nefta Garcia Guevara – Vicaring in Mexico City

Hello shepherd! I am pleased to hear about you! This past Sunday I have arrived in Río Bravo, at my parents' house, I really couldn't do much in Mexico City because of all this COVID-19 situation, all the work is being done online, in the department that I used to live without internet, so it's better to be here. Here with my family and being able to work

from here. This week we begin to upload to the Facebook page of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico some short videos with a reflection regarding the Gospel of Sunday, these videos are recorded before leaving Mexico City, and it will be one for each week from here to Pentecost. It also continued with devotions and catechism classes via Skype on Monday and Wednesday mornings, I will continue supporting Pastor Benjamin and the Church of St. Peter with an evening prayer service on Wednesdays, and some Fridays I will share a Bible study. With the brothers of Saint Paul, we are about to agree on the day and time to continue with other Bible studies that we were having. Starting last Monday, I began to record the devotions of the Prayer Portal in audio to share with the congregations of Buen Pastor, San Pedro, San Pablo and Betania. We pray that God will help us so that in these times of need we can continue to share God's love. Blessings to you and your wife, I will be praying for you. Saint Paul and Bethany. We pray that God will help us so that in these times of need we can continue to share God's love. Blessings to you and your wife, I will be praying for you. Saint Paul and Bethany. We pray that God will help us so that in these times of need we can continue to share God's love. Blessings to you and your wife, I will be praying for you.

Carlos Catalan – Todos Santos, Guadalajara

Greetings Pastor Norman and thank you for sharing your experience in these moments of world crisis because of Covid-19, which is part of the history of humanity, it has radically changed our way of life both socially and economically. From us and from Sunday March 22 we no longer had the Sunday Worship in physical and we passed them from there on Facebook Live at the same time 11. The Bible studies on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and the programs for children and youth, they were also canceled, the latter using Zoom's digital platform. Now, he sent group devotionals on WhatsApp and I transmit a reflection on Facebook Live on Thursday at 5PM. Besides, we have Bible study by Face Time with some families and on Skype. It is what I can tell you and thank you very much again for your prayers. God bless our congregations and protect. Rev. Carlos Catalán Todos Santos Lutheran Church. Guadalajara Mx

Benjamin Quezada – San Pablo, Mexico City

Good afternoon, Pastor Finke. It is a pleasure to greet you through this medium. Thank you for your love and concern as a pastor and brother in faith. Many small companies that carry out non-essential activities have also closed in Mexico City. The city really is, in general, incredibly quiet. We only go out to buy food or go to the bank. For my part, I am telephoning church members to greet them, find out how they are, and provide a meditation on word and prayer. We have also participated in the preparation of the Word Services during Easter, Vespers on Wednesdays, Bible studies on Thursdays and closing prayer on Friday night.

There are always great technical and technological challenges, but we try to do our best. Personally, it has been very frustrating not having the necessary tools to offer live services from the church, but we know that God has his good purposes in the life of his creation and his Church. Receive a greeting and hug from me and my family. Thank you always for your concern and support for the work of Christ in Mexico.

Finally, we have also supported buying food for our brothers in greatest need in our church. Sharing God's love and mercy is always a privilege. Greetings to you and your valued family.

Saul Silva – San Mateo, San Luis Rio Colorado (Saul lives in San Luis, Arizona)

Hello Pastor Finke I'm glad to hear that you are doing well, me and my family are doing good as well, the virus affected us in different ways, for example I am one of many people who lost their jobs, the border has some restrictions and new schedules, I haven't been in San Luis for at least 3 weeks, but we're still working with the community and with the congregation, we've been doing Facebook live for our services, and with the support of my brother in law Fili and some others we have been sharing food to the people, also Sofia my wife is making some masks and she will donate them to the hospital in Yuma and we are planning to do the same in San Luis, as you can see this is a very rough time I am grateful for God blessings through this hard times.

God bless you all

Guillermo Leyva C – Vicar at Rio Bravo & Matamoros

Hello Pastor Finke!

It is good to hear that you and your family are doing well.

I tell him that due to this coronavirus pandemic, I had to travel to my house in Mexicali to be in quarantine with my family. Since all the activities of the church were stopped by orders of the government so as not to have worship or meetings. For now, here I am doing devotionals with my family. But I plan to expand it with all my family on behalf of my parents to do it through the facetime internet. I also mainly plan to do some Bible studies to continue supporting the Bethany church through Zoom. In the same way I will be supporting with some small devotional videos to be supporting during the week and upload them to the Synod page.

I send you a hug in Christ.

Alvaro Velazquez – Cristo Rey, Chiapas

Hello pastor Finke is a joy to hear from you and your family that everything is fine. And because the situation here in Chiapas is extremely critical and worrying. Already the services were suspended, and we cannot bring study on the internet because we lack some of that means. The food situation is critical. We continue praying. Greetings from our mission and my family.

Benjamin Quezada

We will be praying for you, brother. If there is anything we can do, please let us know. God is our protection and strength (Psalm 46).

Job Jimenez – Cristo Redentor, Tijuana

Dear Pastor, I have been attending the online congregation, and supporting pastors to broadcast on Facebook. As soon as I stopped working in the office and now I continue working from my home, I have a little more time to make daily devotionals that I have been going up on the church page, as well as calls to the members of the congregation to know their needs, The situation in Tijuana is very difficult, the labor market has collapsed and the economic future is uncertain. Hospitals are saturated, there are many doctors infected, and day by day the death figures rise, there is widespread fear and on the other hand there are many families who live every day and it is certainly suffering and it is very difficult at the moment to be able to provide relief (economic and health issues). I pray for your prayers that God will give us wisdom to face this pandemic from our Christian vocation.

Benjamin Quezada

So be it, Job. A hug for you and your wife.

Job Jimenez – Cristo Redentor, Tijuana

Also, San Luis, where I am originally from suffers a tremendous health crisis, the largest public hospital designated for COVID was closed by an intrahospital outbreak, about 30 people from medical staff, nurses, guards, cleaners are infected, and the hospital stopped labors for the condition of risk,

It remains to keep us in prayer, trusting in Almighty God not to leave us by his hand.

Samuel Perez Herrera– San Juan, Mexicali

Rev. Norman Finke receive greetings in the name of the Risen Christ! For you and your beautiful family, and for all the brothers who make up the work of KIMA.

With my family we are giving thanks to God for the work of each family and Church that support pastors in Mexico through KIMA. This is giving us the opportunity to remain in our house in total quarantine. Also, that same financial support is being useful for us to pay for Internet services and to have tools to transmit through social networks: Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, etc. The word of God to comfort and strengthen, not only our congregations, but also those who do not have a Church and who are friends of our family, family of the parishioners; to which reaches the

transmission that we upload to social networks: personal and of the national Church. In this way, KIMA's support has spread during these pandemic times.

Since the middle of March, I shared with Pastor Isaac García and Andrew Schlund the idea of having our national services united through Zoom. This gives us the opportunity as a Synod of Mexico to be united with the other congregations, to greet each other at the end of the Word Service as well. At the same time, these services are recorded and uploaded by the vicar Guillermo Leyva to the YouTube platform of the Synod of Mexico and the vicar Job Jiménez transmits it live on Facebook so that everyone can see it from their social networks.

With other Hispanic churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain. A Platform was opened where I am sharing, together with other pastors, Sermons written to support each other day by day as pastors for each church and have this material. Also, in my congregation, locally in Mexicali I am preaching every week through our Church Facebook platform, knowing Sermons transmitted Live and I share it for everyone on social networks, also by Zoom I am giving midweek Bible classes. With my family we were recording daily family devotions to upload to Facebook and guide families to have their own Family Altar.

Well, thank God for this space, Pastor Finke, who makes us share the efforts we have had in Mexico. All this is possible thanks to the Holy Spirit who calls us, gathers, illuminates, and sanctifies the whole Church. And remember that it is not the lack of being in the Temple that separates us, but the faith in Christ Jesus that keeps us united in the Body of Christ. <https://www.facebook.com/sinodoluteranomx/>

Benjamin Quezada

Samuel, is the platform for sharing sermons with other brothers and churches among pastors of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico? Or is it personally with friends and pastors outside Of Mexico?

I am just asking to know how to support. Perhaps it would be good to share resources with our SLM brothers as Pastor Reyes, Alvaro, etc.

Samuel Perez Herrera – San Juan, Mexicali

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcTKeYyAOfBws1I5XOJ53EXw>

Synod Lutheran Of Mexico
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

It's not from the Synod. I uploaded this information a long time ago to the Sinodo WhatsApp group and the link, when I started before Easter.

if you want to download this there this one and I can put here the link, if you want to upload your sermons, I have the access to upload them. You send them to me, and I will upload them.

I can put the link here again

Benjamin Quezada

What a good initiative! I did not see that message.

Sure, can you share it again?

Thank you!

Samuel Perez Herrera– San Juan, Mexicali

There's Children's stuff too

Pastoral Resources:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ROAIZZ0XVvIWS7RNTYBwtghKg7gUu1Ho?usp=sharing>

Children's Resources:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lfOSoxVwbPflwEMFUAaad3pEXqNtRgFd?usp=sharing>

Disaster Response Mercy Resources:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10_9fEkFnZsu9T8wkvoBD62pBuQPc25CV?usp=sharing

This link can be shared with anyone, not restricted.

I have also sent the group of this initiative, videos of the Synod of the services of the word that we have had.

if you want to upload your sermons or Nefta devotions written, I pass them and I upload them for everyone on this Drive (ONEDRIVE)

Samuel Perez Gaona – El Sembrador, Monterrey

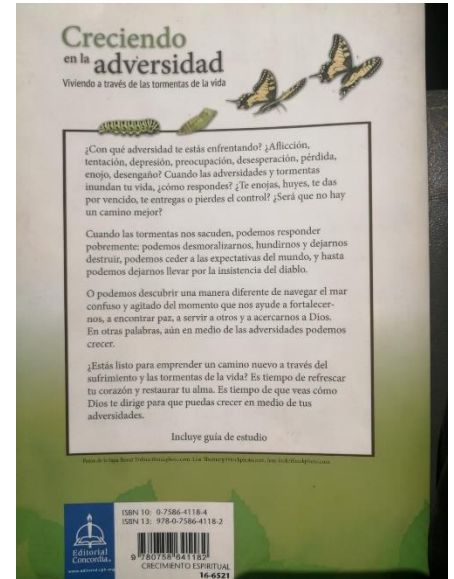
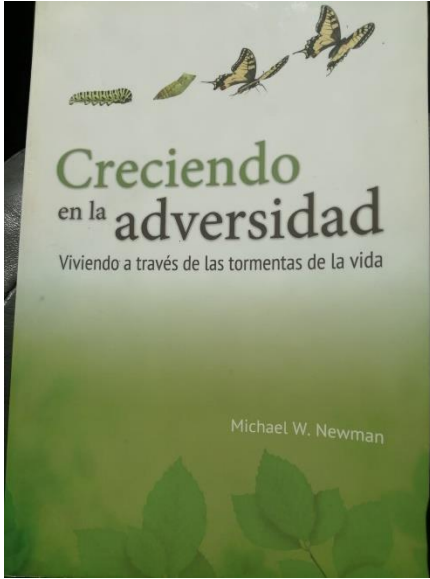
Good morning Pastor Finke, and to all my brethren shepherds of SLM connected in this Network, may the Peace of Christ be with you, your congregations, and your families.

We thank God for giving us the fortitude to fulfill our pastoral ministry held here in our home, my family and I celebrate our worship every Sunday, and we agree with some members to celebrate Holy Communion not every week but consider the appropriate days, I am preparing 2 young men with studies of Catholicism to be confirmed , On Sundays after our local home cult, we connect to the network of cults and preaches that the SLM has, some members of the congregation who have the possibility to connect also do, I make phone calls to the members and support them with the word for their spiritual development.

Here the pandemic in Monterrey, is affecting a lot and the rules of confinement in our homes is mandatory. The non-essential businesses and businesses were closed, my children were dismissed from their jobs for closing businesses where they worked and now 2 of them are here at home with some financial problems. My wife has diabetes hypertension and I have diabetes too, my wife's medications are quite expensive, and we are included in vulnerable people with this virus, so we are in total confinement. We are trusting in the protection of God and praying for all of you. Greetings Pastor Finke, A fraternal hug from Monterrey from my family and I, I hope you are having a good time despite this health crisis, which is affecting everyone.

Omar Garza Martinez – Santisima Trinidad, Matamoros

Hello Pastor Finke and brother pastors ... Greetings in the name of Christ ... the situation in our city has also been getting more tense and we only went out for what is most necessary ... Like our brothers we are sharing our services through the media Electronic ... In Sunday services we join the church that is called to share that Sunday by zoom ... We are having a study and prayer service by conference call on Tuesday afternoons, on Thursdays we continue to share food at the door of the church with the due care required by the authorities and sharing in writing the preaching of the word along with its food dish ... there are fewer and fewer churches sharing food and it has been a blessing to be able to continue doing so at least once a week. ... on Fridays we are sharing by phone conference the book Growing Up in Adversity ... one of Pastor



Mike Newman's books that you brought to us in the last library he gave us ... we have just started, but it is very suitable for the situation ... we continue to speak to the brothers of the congregation to keep us aware of their status and their needs as well as those who have any special care or that require a visit or dinner with the proper care ... I thank God and I pray for the life of you and each one of my brother pastors for guidance, protection and blessing knowing that God is working in the midst of this tribulation for the good of his people and his children and those who are but have turned away from him ... greetings and blessings

Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo – Betania, Rio Bravo

Good afternoon Pastor Finke and pastors, very grateful to God for your concern and effort to bring us spiritual food to strengthen our faith in these difficult times, since each person has been affected differently by many the fact of not Being in the house of God has been a great pain, others have been affected financially, with fears, sadness, but thank God that as SLM the pastors have been bringing the Word of God through different means. For my part I share schedules, I remind them to connect and it helped to be able to do it and if they could not do it, I will forward them to them. I am in contact with the sisters, youth and children of the congregation sharing words of hope in God and telling them that we are praying for them. (It is always good to hear that someone is interested and praying for you). God continue to support us with his grace. Let us continue to pray for each other and for the congregations.

Samuel Perez Herrera – San Juan, Mexicali

I was wrong about amogi hehe
Thank you
@Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo
A hug in Christ

Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo – Betania, Rio Bravo

During all this situation I see a united church and we look forward to Sunday being connected by worshipping God not only the members of the church, but also friends and family.
Many blessings to all the pastors for their effort and God continues giving them more training and wisdom every day.

Benjamin Quezada

Thank you for your love and care for your church members and for sharing your thoughts and experiences at this time.
The peace of our Lord be with you!

Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo – Betania, Rio Bravo

Greetings Pastor Benjamin and to the family.

Greetings to Mayra, Samuel and Pablo

Samuel Perez Herrera– San Juan, Mexicali

They will be given 😊

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>

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