



Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

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To Disciple

At the beginning of the email I just sent to you I quoted part of a song most of us grew up singing in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School, “Love, love, love that’s what it is all about. God loves us we love each other.” As a Christian loved by God, that love translates into discipleship. Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Vice President of KIMA’s Board of Directors, shared with me a definition of “*to disciple*.” He defined it as one who serves Jesus Christ as personal Savior, and follows Him, learns from Him, **and brings others to Him.**

Rev. Greg Finke Executive Director of *Dwelling 1:14* and another KIMA Board member, said in a recent blog, “Outreach is not something separate from discipleship. Outreach is the expected fruit of discipleship. If we disciple people the same way Jesus discipled people in the gospels, outreach happens. If we don’t, it doesn’t.

Rev. Michael Newman, President of the LCMS Texas District, in his book *Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church*, uses the term “Gospel movement” to express the rapid multiplication of the church. He says, “Gospel movement,” refers to the overall multiplication of followers of Jesus who come to faith, share their faith, make more disciples, form churches and multiply all of the above.



I got some great news for you all. You are loved! Did you know that? Most importantly, you are loved by God and have become a much-loved and intricate part of the Body of Christ.

If you are like many of us you might be asking yourself, Who? Me? That’s kind of the same answer the “righteous ones” asked when Jesus said “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.”

What Jesus was saying was that all of you who have My love in you will live that love every day especially as you become aware of situations around you where others are in need. Jesus said, “**And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’**”

Let me, Norm Finke, tell you a little story. If you know me, I can’t tell you a short, little story, so bear with me. I think that the LORD is calling us as He did in the time of the Apostle Paul to gather an offering to help His people in Judea. In this case, Betania and Pastor Isaac in Rio Bravo.

Twenty plus years ago I went with two vans full of people down to Rio Bravo. We had no idea what we were going to encounter but off we went. We helped unload a semi-trailer truck full of cement blocks. The next day we “helped” pour the foundation and slab for the new church building. At night we stayed in the homes of members. It was a new experience for all. On Saturday night as we were heading out to the homes of our hosts, I was told that Pastor Isaac wanted me to preach the sermon the next morning. It was quite an experience as we gathered at a vacant lot next door to the church’s construction site. There was a small covered area where we were going to worship. The ladies prepared the area by sweeping the dirt floor, straightening the cement block and plank pews.

Someone began playing the guitar and we began worship. Although it was all in Spanish except my preaching, which was translated by one of the members, we felt like we were all one in Christ.

This whole thing began several years before this as a number of women who worshiped there walked and gathered in a small shed next to the church property and called upon the Name of the Lord in prayer for a building that they could gather in for worship. After a time, Pastor Isaac was talking to Rev. Samuel Perez Gaona, president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, and he told Pastor Isaac about a group from the Texas District, CAN-DO, and how they helped churches build houses of worship. Pastor Isaac contacted CAN-DO, they contacted Mike Shaw, and the rest is history.

Up to that point, Betania was not part of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. (Side note: the Lutheran Synod is the only Lutheran Body in Mexico that is in Altar and Pulpit fellowship with the LCMS.). So, while the building was being built Pastor Samuel Perez made the trip every Sunday from Matamoros to Rio Bravo to give Confirmation instructions to the entire church. So, on the day of the dedication of the church building, they became a member of the Lutheran Synod and celebrated the Holy Meal for the first time. What a grand start even though it was a rainy day with only mud streets.

Pastor Isaac was happy to participate with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico but he was unwilling to become a full member of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico because one of the requirements was for them to turn their property over to the Synod. After much negotiating, a way was found to get around that rule and the Synod hasn't been the same ever since. Pastor Isaac got involved, jumped right in with the idea that we need to get out there and make disciples of all people. He expanded his tent ministry, he and his people helped build a new church in Guasave which was 16 hours away, and soon was elected President of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico.

Since that time, the Synod has become very much involved with the LCMS, the Seminaries at Fort Wayne, and the Dominican Republic. New pastors are being trained and ordained, deaconesses are being taught, Bible Institutes are being formed and back home on the home front Pastor Isaac's own church, a church very active in outreach, is being "destroyed" by termites, weather and age. The building is surrounded by other buildings, like feet in between them. The only way to expand is to go up.

Thus, a plea, like that to Paul when he was in Troas to come over to Philippi and join them. They had a plan, a desire, a goal but like the church in Jerusalem, they needed help.

Here is their plan. Would you, please, consider God's call and answer like Isaiah, "Here am I! Send me." Use me.

Don't look at this as how can you personally make this possible. There are some of you who could, under the right motivation of Godly love. But most of us couldn't. But if we combine our resources, motivated by the Gospel not by the Law we will be surprised what can be accomplished. Remember the words of Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

You have a choice! Respond favorably and get involved – or delete this email and pretend it never happened.

This is Pastor Isaac Garcia's request:

Iglesia Luterana "Betania"

Ignacio Zaragoza No. 357 Col. Miguel Hidalgo, Río Bravo, Tamps.

Pastor: Isaac G. García Castillo (wife, Yolanda Guevara Jaramillo)

Cell. 899 2187462 casa Tel: 899-934-7720

isaac_gpe@hotmail.com

Project proposal

Author: Isaac Gpe García Castillo, Pastor

May 21, 2020

Objective

We need to change the roof of our church, since it is repaired on some occasions and now it is very damaged, the electrical wiring is also damaged.

When it was built, it had a very good foundation and the walls were made of cement blocks and the columns of rod 1/2" and there are 6 rods in each column, and we have a 15-meter x 10-meter wooden roof construction with tile, which is already damaged, and we need to change, and put a new cement roof and rods, and cover all the property that is 10x20 meters that are 200 square meters.

Due to the particularly good foundation, a second floor can be built for children's rooms and an annex for different activities. Currently we have some wooden rooms, but they are already severely damaged, and we must remove them.



20 years ago the temple was built, initially, the property was purchased with offerings and work of the brothers who gather here, the construction was done with the help of groups of "Can-Do" and sister Churches of the United States that our brother Mike Shaw coordinated.

Our church is in a colony where our neighbors are people who work in maquiladoras [*definition inserted by Rev. Norm Finke: a foreign-owned factory in Mexico at which imported parts are assembled by lower-paid workers into products for export*] and in the countryside. Their incomes are very small and sometimes do not have a job. Our church has been of great help and blessing for the community with programs for children, food and programs for adults, having bible school on Saturdays, Friday and Wednesday prayer, Sunday full worship with Holy Communion, as well as officiating in special events: weddings, quinceañeras, funerals, baptisms and confirmations.

Objectives

We want to continue to serve God and our neighbor. I know that God has commanded us to preach His Word. We trust that He will supply all things to move forward.

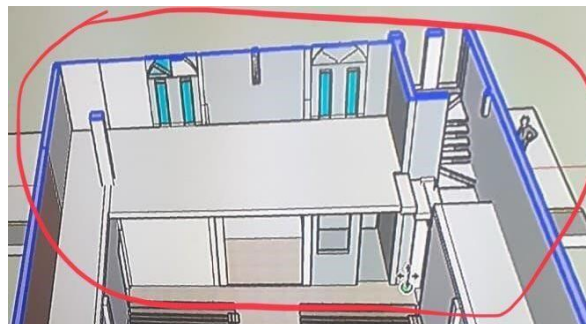
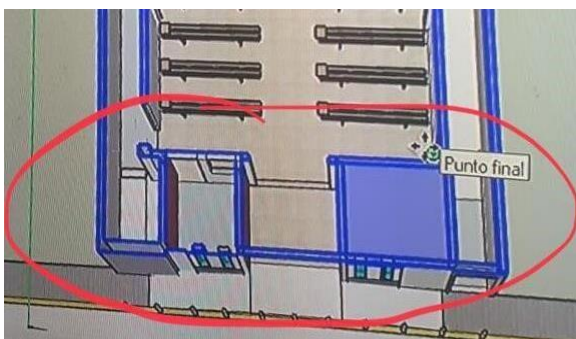
When we started, we had no temple or house of prayer and He sent people who helped us. Today we have the need to rebuild and have a good place where people come and receive what God offers us in His temple, His Word, the Sacraments, and where we can worship Him.

Our brothers come with all their heart and bring from what they received as that widow who gave what she had. In their jobs they have a salary of 1200 pesos per week (about 60 dollars) our church has an income of 50 dollars per week (200 dollars per month)) and with what they bring we pay services such as light, water, cleaning the church, among others.

Thank you to Kima who supports us so we can support the Shepherd.

Having the need to make a new roof for Bethany, we have also seen the opportunity to expand and create other spaces that are also very useful for our congregation, such as the pastoral office and a nursery, this would be on the part of the entrance, above this would be a balcony towards the church, where we can put more benches and thus increase the space for people. This is all because the new roof would be higher than it is now, approximately 2 meters higher. Stairs would serve to go up to this new balcony. [\[This first phase should begin very soon KIMA, because of your gifts, has sent them the \\$3,900 necessary for Phase One\]](#)

THE RED CIRCLE PART IS THE FIRST STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.



In a second stage, we are thinking of making a large room in the back, above the kitchen; the one found is made of wood that is already damaged, which would be used for Bible class, this would also cost approximately \$4,000.00 dollars.

The third stage, the final stage, would be a large 10x20 meter ceiling, which would cover the entire space of the temple, with an approximate cost of \$10,000.00 dollars.

The total cost of the project would be between approximately \$17,900.00 dollars.”

The church ceiling will be a large ceiling that will simultaneously cover the entire building. Our goal is to do the three stages one after the other. The first two stages can be done without removing the current roof. For the third stage we would have to have everything ready, this includes removing the current roof, which also forces us to find a place where we can celebrate our services while it is finished.

Solution

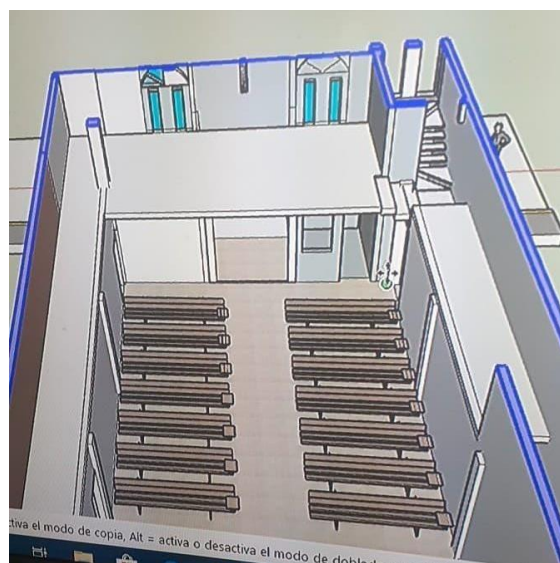
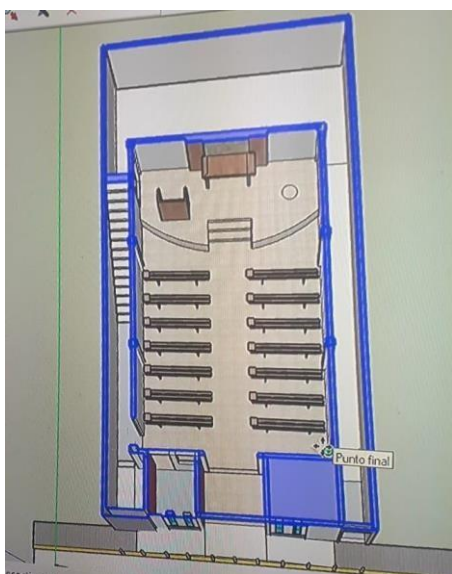
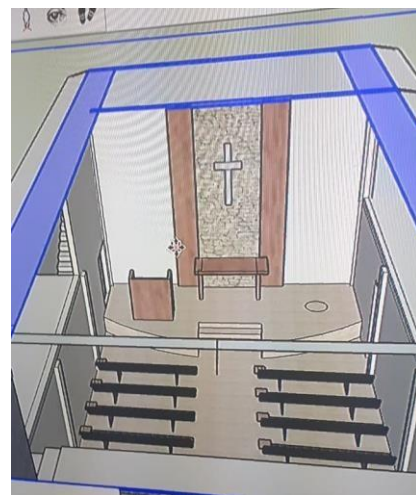
Our temple needs repair and we do not have the resources to carry them out. We ask for your help since with the offerings they are only enough for maintenance.

We will be working as a church to be able to raise funds and co-operate. +++

Drawings for Refurbishing of Betania in Rio Bravo 2020



These drawings and architectural plans were made by Gamaliel Garcia Rios. He studied architecture at Instituto Technological de Reynosa. He is a member of Betania and the son of Lay-pastor Samuel Garcia.



You can see the beginnings of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo by clicking on the following:

<https://kimamission.org/news/betania-anniversary-presentation>

The total project will cost around \$17,900. Phase one will cost around \$3,900 which has already been forwarded to Pastor Isaac.

Phase two, which will include the meeting room on the second floor opposite of the present entry area, will cost about \$4,000. As of this morning we have received \$1,776 that can be used for that phase of the project.

The final phase is the most expensive because it includes a cement ceiling over the entire 200 sq. meters. They estimate that phase will cost about \$10,000.

They need your love, prayers, and then your financial involvement.

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er
the gift may be;**

all that we have is thine alone,

a trust, O Lord, from thee. Hymn 781, Lutheran Service Book, Pew Edition

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:8-9

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10



Just a reminder. **Thrivent Choice Dollars** are once again available to those of you who are associated with Thrivent Financial. It is a fairly simple process. All you need to do is go to Thrivent.com and login. Once you are in you simply go down to Thrivent Choice and then click on Direct Choice Dollars. Then look for [Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency](#) of Waxahachie, TX and designate any of your funds that are available at this time.

Any contributions to help finance the ministry 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