



Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

109 Noel Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165-1333

Telephone: 972-935-8017

nfinke.kima@gmail.com

www.kimamission.org

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It has been a while since we have talked. It has been a time of new opportunities, which sometimes included a few frustrations, but overall, a time of excitement because good things are happening. Up until a couple of weeks ago, there were no “go to meeting” church services because the government declared them as non-essential. But the Lutheran Synod of Mexico has been doing what many of your churches have learned to do, going online! There were no services but each week various SLM pastors from different parts of Mexico led worship from either their homes or offices. If you want to see some of this, go to Facebook and search for Sinodo Luterano de México.



In the last few weeks, they have been given permission to meet once again for worship. Rev. Omar Garza at Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros is now having three services every Sunday. They have one in the morning for people over 60 years old and women who are pregnant. One in the afternoon for all other members and one in the evening for members and friends that just need the encouragement of God’s Word. Pastor Omar is also presently enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St.



Leticia & Pastor Omar Garza

Louis for a Master of Arts (M.A.), Spiritual Care Major. The Spiritual Care Major delves into each aspect of theology — exegetical, systematic, historical, and practical — with a unique focus on the spiritual care of women, children, families and people in general.



Earlier this summer Rev. Carlos Catalán, LCMS Missionary from the Chicago area, retired as pastor of Todos Santos in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. He has since returned to the Chicago area and Todos Santos asked the SLM for help in finding a new pastor. The SLM decided to send the two vicars, Guillermo Leyva and Neftali Garcia, for a short time each to help them out until a decision could be made about calling a new pastor. So, Guillermo Leyva



went to start this process. Within a couple of weeks, Todos Santos was convinced that they had their man and issued a formal Call to him to be their pastor. He accepted the Call and was ordained on September 20, 2020.



We need your prayers for Pastor Luis Moreno, lay-pastor at Misión Luterana El Mesías in Rio Bravo. He is currently enrolled in the FPH program at the Concordia Reformer Lutheran Seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic studying to be an ordained pastor. This program is like the LCMS program of SMP. Pastor Luis has lost about 70% of his sight in one eye and is beginning to lose sight in the other. At first, they thought it might be glaucoma but now have determined that he has a tumor on his brain. We thank the Lord that at the beginning of this year we were able to enroll him and seven others in the Social Security Insurance program of Mexico which includes medical care. He will be having an MRI on November 15 which will decide if he is to be operated on and if it will be in Monterrey or Tampico. He has been pastoring at El Mesias since 2001. He was a member of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo and was part of the worship team. When the new mission started, he took over the leadership of it. He needs our prayers and more importantly, God's help!



The people at Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo have been conducting a Saturday morning children's Bible School for children of their immediate community. There are lots of children in the area, many of whom have both parents working to make ends meet. The people of Betania have been able to provide the funding necessary for this outreach program but since the pandemic occurred many have lost their jobs and Betania could no longer financially support this program. They had people who could do the work of cooking, teaching, creating games, leading songs, etc. but they did not have the funding for the materials needed. In fact, some of the children were scrounging around in the garbage to find food to eat. Betania

came to KIMA and asked for help until their people get back to work and can support this program by themselves. We are sending \$50 a week to help.





If any of you are interested in contributing to a special gift for one or the other of our two Seminary graduates, we have purchased a red Stole for each of them that they can use for their ordination. The cost was approximately \$300 each. These stoles will be able to be used throughout their ministry on special days such as Pentecost, Reformation, Palm Sunday, services recognizing heroic martyrs of the church, Confirmations, Ordinations, and Installations. We will

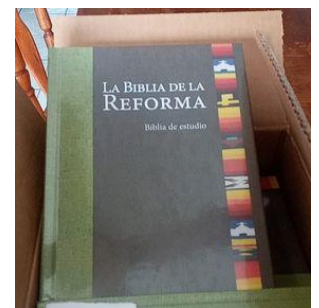
notify them of your contribution for their stole.



Guillermo Leyva & Neftali Garcia



These are some of the almost forty ladies who are studying to become Deaconesses in the SLM. This group meets in Baja California and the other in Matamoros. They are presently being taught through Concordia Reformer Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic. The classes are quite intensive, and we have just purchased 12 La Biblia de la Reforma (The Bible of the Reformation) from Concordia Publishing House to be distributed to the ladies who do not have a study Bible.



Concordia Publishing House has been making available to church leaders a Pastoral Desk Diary. The *Pastoral Desk Diary* is the ultimate planner for Lutheran pastors and church workers. In addition to traditional daily and monthly calendar spaces, this planner includes lectionary information, planning pages, and spaces to log calls, mileage, and the like. The pastors of the SLM, as they have become more liturgical, have come to treasure this book for the information that it provides. We recently purchased 17 of them for the leaders of the SLM.



Keep Isaac Neftalí García Guevara in your prayers as he will be ordained and installed as pastor of San Pablo Lutheran Church in Mexico City on November 15. While San Pablo is trying to recover from the financial stress of the pandemic and trying to be faithful to their former pastor who has had several operations this past year, KIMA is temporarily giving them financial aid so they can have Pastor Neftali come and serve as their pastor for the future.



Betania Lutheran Church in Betania is in the midst of remodeling their temple to meet the needs of their ministry to the children of their neighborhood. They are enlarging their worship area with a balcony and providing a nursery room for the very young during services. They are securing the ceiling and roof of the structure by rebuilding with concrete instead of wood. They are adding

instructional and meeting rooms for the children. KIMA through the gifts of God's concerned people has been able to provide almost \$18,000 for this renovation.



Some of you may remember the van we gave to KIMA a few years ago. It had a few miles on it when KIMA received it from Christ the King Lutheran Church. KIMA put some new tires on it, with the help of Gary Thompson, and got it ready for more action and gave it to Betania Lutheran Church to help in its ministry. It has been used to pick up and take-home people every time since then when there was a church service. It has been to Matamoros, Tampico, Veracruz, Guasave, and Austin several times. Needless to say, it is on its last miles. KIMA is in the process of helping Pastor Isaac purchase a newer vehicle to help with the ministry of the SLM and Betania in particular. If he is able to find a vehicle

suitable to do the job, it will be off to Mexico City for the ordination of Neftali and soon thereafter down to Cacahoatan, Chiapas to show the new church there how to conduct a Bible School and deliver gifts to the children from KIMA.

The Lord gave us all the Great Commission to go and make disciples! The purpose of KIMA is to enable God's people to join forces and provide finances and materials that will help our Christian brothers and sisters in Mexico to reach out to people in their neighborhoods so that they may learn of the love and forgiveness of God so that they also may spend an eternity with Him in heaven.



“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



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>

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