



**February Newsletter
2015
Koinoneo Independent
Mission Agency**

**109 Noel • Waxahachie, TX
75165-1333**

**Telephone: 972-935-8017 •
nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net
www.kimamission.org**

February 17, 2015

How different can things be? Right now as I write this, it is 10⁰F in Fort Recovery, Ohio; 37⁰F in Austin, Texas; 64⁰F in Sedona, Arizona; 81⁰F in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico and it is still February 16, 2015 in all these places. Some of you might be all bundled up while shoveling snow, others putting on light jackets to go out and get some groceries, and still others sitting around in shorts while getting ready to Bar-B-Q out in the backyard.

To each of us things may seem to be so very different as we go about doing our own thing, but, whether we realize it or not, we are not here, or wherever we are, to do our own thing. God loves us and everyone around us! He has done all that is necessary to make sure that He has a chance to spend an eternity with each of us and the people in our neighborhoods! So the question arises, “How does He get into our neighborhoods?”

According to Greg Finke in his book, *“Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary”* (p. 27-28), *“Neighborhood” is all about the relationships, or the potential relationships, we could have with just a little intentionality. ... “Neighborhood” is defined as any network of people to which we have regular access.*

Obviously the “neighborhoods” where we live qualify, as do the “neighborhoods” of our workplaces and schools. We are regularly within

reach of the same people. But there are many other “neighborhoods” in which we regularly find ourselves. For instance, some of us have access to recreation leagues, yoga classes or craft beer clubs. Some of us are band parents or soccer moms, or we routinely wait with other dads as our daughters finish up dance classes. Some of us volunteer with community revitalization groups or social service agencies. Some of us are Chamber members or Rotary Club members. Some of us are at country clubs, community centers or the Y. All of these are examples of “neighborhoods” in which we may find ourselves.

Now, here’s some important news: Jesus is on the loose in all of them. How do I know? Because Jesus is on a mission to redeem and restore all people. Jesus reminds Nicodemus of this when he spoke the well-known words, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son ...” (John 3: 16). God sent his Son for the world. His goal is not to save some and leave others out. ... Will everyone believe God? No. But that does not change the goal and desire of God in sending his Son.

So wherever you go, whether to the ends of the earth or just to work, if there are people there, you can be sure Jesus is up to something redemptive. His purpose is to redeem. His goal is full restoration. This is what Jesus does.”

God has given us all talents, abilities, aptitudes that we can use as we “Join Jesus on His Mission.” KIMA is but one of the many agencies or ministries that God has raised up to help carry out His redemptive mission. I believe that KIMA has been touched by God and in turn it reaches out to touch our brothers and sisters in Christ, who happen to live in Mexico, as they reach out to touch others with the love of our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ. God uses the power of the Holy Spirit working through His Word, the Sacraments, and through



each of you as you pray for and contribute financially to this ministry and the work being done by our brothers & sisters in Christ along our southern border and into Mexico as they reach out in love to those who do not yet know of God's plan.

Thank you for being a part of KIMA's ministry to funnel God's love and resources to help fulfill Jesus' Great Commission of going and making disciples. None of us know the time or day when our LORD will return so this is not just to be a casual walk but a rushing forth with a sense of urgency.



Lay-pastor José Reyes & Rev. Norman Finke

On August 12, 2002, José Reyes Macías Castañón arrived to take care of El Divino Emanuel Lutheran Church in Guasave, Sinaloa, Mexico. Two months later he

was installed by Pastor Abiut Fajardo as a Lay Pastor and began his ministry among God's people. Since that time Nueva Jerusalén Lutheran Mission has been added in the suburb of San Pedro and a new mission is in the process of developing at Las Moras, north of Guasave. It has been a beautiful experience watching what God has been doing through Pastor Reyes and his wife Martina.

Towards the end of last year, President Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia informed us that Pastor Reyes had developed cataracts in both eyes and that the removal of those cataracts would be necessary in

order that Pastor Reyes could finish up his theological studies and continue to serve effectively in Guasave.

Through the loving and generous gifts given by a number of you we were able to present Pastor Reyes with the necessary funds to take care of the removal of the cataracts. We saw Pastor Reyes at the national assembly of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico held in San Luis Rio Colorado, Senora, Mexico this January. He reported to us that he would have one of the cataracts removed by February and the other a bit later.

I received the following email from him on February 6th. It was written in Spanish and this is my translation with the help of Google Translate.

Hello, God bless, it is a joy to receive your message and more than anything to be in your prayers. I send a big hug and a warm greeting. I'm recovering from the removal of a cataract from my eye and I hope to have an appointment in March to tell me when I will have the other cataract removed. Thank you very much for your help because if it were not for the great love that God has with us and the help they (KIMA) has given me this would not be possible. My eye is healing. Thank God, I now see, on the whole, 90% and I am just waiting for the appointment and the corresponding checkup. I send a big hug and you are in our prayers. God bless you very much, and thank you for being attentive to my operation.

Sincerely: Pastor José Reyes Macías Castañón

In response to this, KIMA gives thanks for and to you for your generosity and to God for His foresight and healing!

⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ¹ Peter 5:8 NLT



When we think all is going well, we have a tendency to let up on the gas pedal, to sit back and relax a bit. But, when Satan sees that all seems to be going well for us, he puts the metal to the pedal, he gets after it.

Many years ago, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico determined that one of their weaknesses was the lack of theological training for both the laity and the up and coming clergy. They asked for our help in rectifying that problem. We have tried to help by offering Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials, computers, internet theological classes, and video projectors to facilitate programs that could enhance theological education on the local level.

Now, through the help of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in conjunction with the International Lutheran Hour ministries, Luther Academy, and Concordia Seminary Argentina the next step of formal education for the clergy is about to begin. The above groups have made it possible for full scholarships to be made available to five promising young Mexican men. The Lutheran Synod of Mexico has decided to pull some of their promising young talent out of the local parishes and send them off to Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

To that end, **Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera** who is pastor of Santisima Trinidad in Matamoros, Tamaulipas; **Neftali Garcia Guevara** youth director and praise band leader for Betania in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas; **Benjamin Quezada** who is serving as a vicar at San Pedro in Mexico City; **Job Jimenez** who is serving as Lay-pastor of San Mateo in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora and three missions in the Sonoran Desert; and **Guillermo Leyva**, who helps Job with the liturgy and preaching and working with the youth, will be going off to Buenos Aires, Argentina to prepare for the next step in the ministry that God is calling them to do.

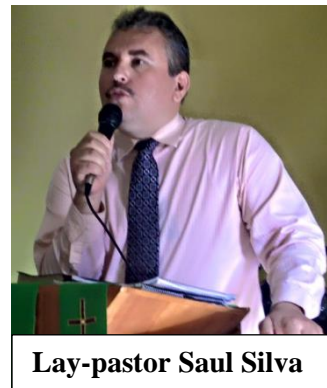
This future group of leaders is going off to be better equipped to serve in leadership and training. The remainder of the leaders will continue to shepherd the flock that the LORD has given them. The Lord is also raising up a new group of recruits,

volunteers, experienced and not so experienced to pick up the slack where these five young men, who are going off to the Seminary, have been serving. We, you, I, and KIMA need to continue equipping this “army” while it is regrouping. We don’t want to let the devil get his foothold.

We ask for your prayers for the following men who are stepping up to the plate and getting fully involved:

Saul & Sofia Silva

Saul Silva and his wife Sofia -- Saul will serve as Lay-pastor at San Mateo in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora. He will be taking Job Jimenez’ place. Rev. Isaac Garcia was at San Mateo on February 15 and installed Saul as the Lay-pastor.



Lay-pastor Saul Silva



Rev. Isaac Garcia installing Saul Silva

Rev. Isaac Garcia & Josafat



Josafat Basto Lopez has been helping Job Jimenez, primarily, at the three missions in the **Gran Desierto de Altar** which is part of the Sonoran Desert.

The names of the three missions are: *Santo Tomas Mission* in Ejido Mesa Rica about an hour south of San Luis; *Rey de Gloria Mission* at Ejido Independencia, and the mission at Ejido Fronterizo which as of yet has no name.



Job & Josafat

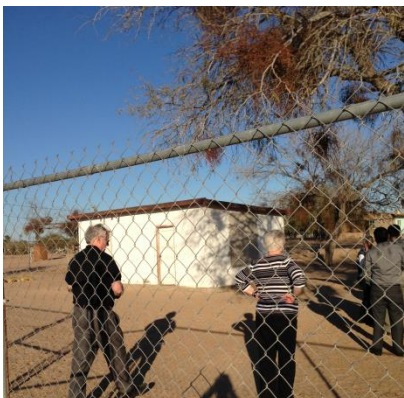
Josafat drives a taxi to support himself and his family. Gasoline alone to shepherd these three missions costs about \$300 per month. Right now we receive \$100 per month that people have designated to cover that expense. The extra \$200 puts quite a strain on his budget.



Santo Tomas Lutheran Mission at Mesa Rica



King of Glory Lutheran Mission at Independencia



Lutheran Mission at Fronterizo

Omar Garza Martinez of Matamoros has been a long time member of Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church in Matamoros. He has taken theology courses and has filled in for a number of pastors in the Matamoros/Brownsville area. He currently serves as the treasurer for the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. Omar Garza will fill the office of Lay-pastor in the absence of Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera as Samuel attends the Seminary in Argentina. Omar is a talented leader and will be an outstanding asset for Santisima Trinidad.



Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

I am happy to report that we have received \$542 Choice Dollars so far this year. I just checked my own Choice Dollars again and was surprised that I had \$51 to designate. It didn't take me long to find the right buttons and designate that money to

KIMA. I pray that you all would consider designating all or part of your Choice Dollars from Thrivent to the ministry of KIMA.



I was talking to President Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia Castillo yesterday and I asked how we could help him in his ministry, to which he replied, "you can ask the people of KIMA for their prayers." So I am doing just that. Would you make a copy of the following list and place it wherever you have your daily prayer time as a reminder to pray for the following?

- Pray for these five Seminary students, their parents, and brothers & sisters as they will be separated from each other by 4,900 miles, studying in a different country, in a different culture, for maybe the next 3 to 5 years.

Benjamin Quezada, Samuel Perez Herrera, Neftali Garcia Guevara, Job Jimenez, and Guillermo Levva.

- Pray for Rio Bravo, its citizens, and the members of Betania Lutheran Church as there is a great deal of unrest in that area due to many shootings and a curfew imposed upon the businesses and people.
- Pray for San Juan Lutheran Church in Mexicali that they may receive someone to shepherd their congregation and lead them in repairing their facilities and operation.
- We would like to ask that you would pray for KIMA and all the facets of its ministry. Pray for wisdom, understanding, humbleness, and a spirit of service as we join Jesus on His mission of reaching out to the lost.

Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency is recognized as a 501(c)3 organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

If there is any parts of this ministry that you would like to become personally involved with, please, pray for that ministry opportunity and, if the Lord so moves you, send your gift to:

**KIMA
109 Noel
Waxahachie, TX 75165**

The KIMA Board of Directors for 2015

**Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Director, VP
Email: gbrunworth@verison.net
972-496-0632**

**Ms. Lois Wolf, Director, Secretary
Email: loiswolf@sbcglobal.net
512-252-2584**

**Ms. Sylvia Bulot, Director, Treasurer
Email: nsbulot@sbcglobal.net
972-979-3403**

**Rev Gregory Finke, Director
Email: finkeonthemove@aol.com
281-844-7644**

**Mr. Ralph Genz, Director
Email: lrgenz@sbcglobal.net
512-251-2006**

**Rev Norman Finke, Executive Director
Email: nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net
972-935-8017**

