



**December 2, 2008**



**Family, friends, celebrations, giving thanks:**

- thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus Christ into this world to fulfill His promise of giving us a Savior;
- thanks to God for giving us the Great Commission of going to all the world baptizing and teaching;
- thanks to God for giving us each other, co-workers in God's grand scheme of things whether it be here in the USA or in Mexico.
- I give thanks for men like Pastor Isaac, Luis, Samuel, and Vicar Samuel Herrera in Rio Bravo and Matamoras; Rev. Jesus Jimenez, pre-seminary student Job Jimenez and seminary student Martin Hernandez in San Luis Rio Colorado, Independencia, Fronterizo, and Santo Tomas Apostol; Rev. Abiut Fajardo in Guadalajara; Lay pastor Jose Reyes in Guasave, San Pedro, and Las Moras; pre-sem student Magdiel Fajardo at the University of Texas Pan Am in Edinburg; and President Alvaro Lopez in Mexico City.



I've been hearing of some exciting things that are happening. Pastor Isaac tells me that since the time of the youth Congress some of the youth at his church, Betania, have been putting on a radio program on Friday nights called "Alcance Extremo." It is on station 1070 AM in Reynosa from 11:00 p.m. to midnight. They have Christian messages, talk with teenagers and have Christian music. If any of you are interested, they could use some help in sponsoring this program as it costs them \$50 a week. So far Pastor Isaac has done much of the sponsoring. If any of you want to help or know of someone or a group that would help, send donations to KIMA and we will see to it that Pastor Isaac gets it.

**Pastor Isaac and the people from Santisima Trinidad (Holy Trinity) in Matamoras are in the process of starting a new mission in a different part Matamoras. Santisima Trinidad has been receiving new**

members who want to get involved. The other day they had a special prayer service and 27 people came. The new mission has had three families coming on a regular basis.

Santisima Trinidad is having trouble with the roof on the church. It is always leaking. They will have to find a way to waterproof the roof or they will make a wooden roof with tile. Again, if any of you has any expertise in this area maybe we could get together a group to go down there and give them a hand.



And then we move some 1300 miles west to San Luis Rio Colorado. This picture is of Job Jimenez and a friend standing outside his home. Job has set up part of his office with several of the computers that we donated to them. They call it an "internet cafe" in San Luis. He has been teaching computer to several students and instructing a couple of neighborhood people who pay him a little. They did repaint the outside and replaced the bad door in front.

They are using these computers to both reach out to others and to earn a little money to help buy medicine and gasoline. Lately Job has not always been able to go out into the desert to the various preaching stations because he has not been able to afford the gasoline.



The beginning of November in San Luis Rio Colorado was also an exciting time at San Mateo Lutheran church. The Holy Spirit was at work as 50+ people were on hand as there were 4 baptisms and 3 first Communions. Pastor Jesus Jimenez officiated, Martin Hernandez preached, and Job and Philly were the musicians.



I also got a letter from Rev. Abiut Fajardo. He thanks us for all the support that we have given to him and his son Magdiel. He said that Magdiel interviewed with Rev. Kyle Castens from St. Louis Seminary. He said on the last Sunday in November they had a special Thanksgiving dinner at church and the lighting of the first candle of Advent. They always try to have some kind of food at church on the last Sunday of the month. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, as a congregation, they will have a Christmas dinner and a special service where the youth and children will sing and put on a Christmas pageant. There will be



On December 20<sup>th</sup>, as a congregation, they will have a Christmas dinner and a special service where the youth and children will sing and put on a Christmas pageant. There will be

candies and piñatas. On Wednesday, December 24, they will have their Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. At the end of the service they will sing the hymn “Silent Night” with the lights out and the candles lit. Pastor Abiut Fajardo said that his family and he, in this time of Advent and Christmas, want the power of the love of God to be with us. He also says, “Remember that we will always be grateful to you and your family for the great blessing that you have been for us.” He sends his greetings to you all.

So what do we have?

- Certainly, a need for prayers.
- We have an opportunity to send a Christmas gift to some special people, people I named above. A gift is always special but to people that don't have a whole lot it becomes even more special.
- An opportunity to assist the youth of Betania Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo to reach out to the Hispanic youth of north-east Mexico and south Texas sharing how Jesus can be part of their everyday life. \$50 will cover one week.
- Volunteer help or financial aid to Santisima Trinidad in Matamoras to repair or replace the roof on the church.
- Financial assistance for Job Jimenez and Martin Hernandez so they will have money to pay for gasoline and or medicine.

We wish you, your family, your church family, and your ministries God's blessings.

Don't let these troubled times stand in the way of your commitment to be an ambassador for the Lord. God's promise in Malachi 3:10 hasn't changed. Trust Him! He will out give you.

If the Lord moves you to be a part of this ministry please send your contributions to:

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**Rev. Norman R. Finke**  
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