

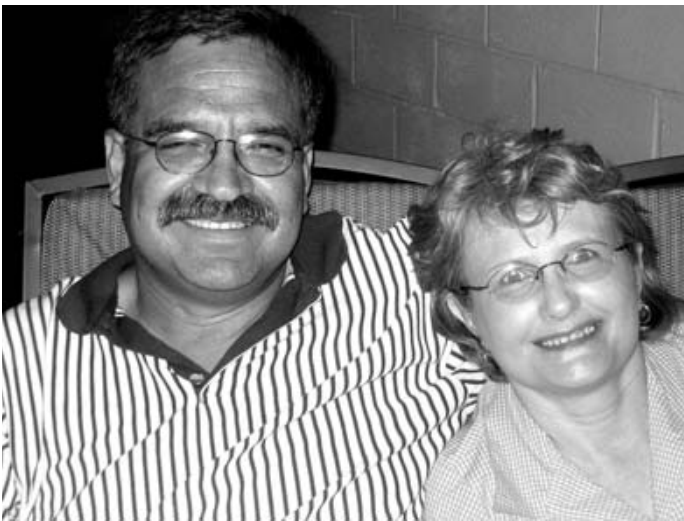
Latin American Lutheran Mission CLARION

Vol. 70, No. 5

“You shall be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

October 2005

Welcome Aboard, Wanda and Fred



God in his sovereignty and goodness has answered our prayers for help in the Latin American Lutheran Mission. Fred (Alfredo) and Wanda Garcia of Amarillo, Texas are that answer to prayer, both their and ours. We didn't even put an add in the “help wanted”, but the Lord of the Harvest has his own way of moving his servants to their next assignment. Though they had not known about us previously they were referred by a friend of the mission. Wanda had a desire to serve the Lord since a little girl. Fred was raised in a Hispanic family in Texas. They have been actively serving in their local congregation, Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Amarillo, and have spent time in Mexico both traveling and in short term service. Now that their children have grown and become established, they feel the time is right to disengage from their secular jobs in order to be more involved in service in Mexico and with missions. Wanda was a realtor for many years. Fred has much experience in carpentry and construction having bought, remodeled and sold many homes and rental properties. Their gifts and abilities complemented each other. Since an experience last year helping build homes for the poor in Mexico, Fred has sensed a call to use his

talents and expertise in a mission to Mexicans. Wanda has experience with Children's ministry. She is an organizer and fabulous with people. As they come to the LALM and its ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico, Fred will take on the maintenance of our seven buildings here at the border station as well as work with teams and their projects in the churches of Mexico. Wanda will help Barb in administration and especially in developing our relationship with churches in Texas and beyond. We and they are excited about working together for this next season of our mutual ministry. We invite you to pray for them and from time to time you will be hearing from them in the Clarion.

Thanks for Praying for Sanford Haugen

LALM's longest tenured General Director, Sanford Haugen, remains in a nursing home here in Laredo. He is loved and remembered by so many both in the churches of Mexico and in the States. Recently visitors on the border from Ebenezer Lutheran in Saltillo made a special effort to visit Sanford. Though he has lost much of his physical abilities as well as his memory, their challenge of “Let's go to Mexico” elicited a response from Sanford. A few weeks ago Sanford took a turn for the worse and was taken to the hospital where doctors feared he might not recover. The family prepared for the worst but with treatment the Lord turned things around. Keep Sanford in your prayers. God knows the plans he has for our brother Sanford. As Jesus said to Peter, “When you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.” (John 21:18).

Testimony

On June 24, 2005 a group of ten adults and one college student all from South Dakota arrived in Laredo, Texas, on a mission trip to serve Bethany Lutheran Church of Apodaca, near Monterrey, Mexico. We were warmly received by the Pastor Samuel Diaz family. Their parsonage needed significant repairs and after a brief assessment we headed for town with a list and plan, returning with needed building materials and tools. But that was not all. We were deeply touched the next day in church, especially by the overwhelming shower of love upon little Julian whose third birthday was celebrated as part of worship. Literally everyone processed up the aisle at Bethany Church to give him a big hug a "feliz cumpleaños". Monday afternoon through Wednesday we held vacation Bible school for the neighborhood children and about 40 kids heard about Jesus' love through puppets, drama, songs, and teachings. The kids were very receptive. There was lots of laughter as Americans helped Mexican kids with crafts and treats. On the last day each one received a cloth bag of school supplies and stickers. Despite the language barrier we all felt close to the Diaz family and to the wonderful children. It is amazing how much communication can be done without words through playing games. Each evening the ladies from our group and the Bethany ladies had a mutual foot-rub session that communicated a lot of love and comfort and was the occasion for tons of laughter. Daily devotions led by team members were always a high-light. God definitely spoke to us through each other. Everyone in the group found it very hard to leave at the end of the week having made so many friends and had so many great experiences. We'll never forget the evening of music that was offered to us in the patio of the parsonage the last night of our stay in Apodaca. Bethany and

the Diaz family will always be in our prayers. We will never forget the love and compassion we shared and received. We came home with much more than we brought.

—John Nelson, Grace Lutheran, Parker, SD

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's an exciting time at Latin American Lutheran Mission! As you read this we will have completed a rather breathless **Summer coordinating the movements of 25 short term teams** (in spite of various cancellations due to concerns for safety with the border violence that's been in the news), and our yearly **round trip with our Mexican pastors** to the Upper Mid-West for the Annual Meeting of the LALM association and **visits to churches and colleges in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. We're knocking on some new doors and it's exciting when they open!**

We're excited with the coming of Fred and Wanda Garcia to help us at LALM October 1, 2005. Fred is a Texan with expertise in construction, of Mexican origins, and Wanda is an energetic and creative lady from the Upper Mid-West. They have a special sense of calling to a life of service, and the Lord has led them to partner with us at L.A.L.M. and the Lutheran Church of Mexico. Fred will work with maintenance and projects on the border and in the churches of the ELCM and Wanda will help us in administration and public relations. Welcome!

Latin American Lutheran Mission

ELC-M Partners Who Help Proclaim the Gospel

Incorporated in 1936, LALM is a faith mission depending entirely upon God for the supplying of its needs through the prayer and freewill offerings of His people as the Holy Spirit moves them. LALM is an independent Lutheran organization, having members on its Board of Directors from various Lutheran bodies. To learn more about LALM, please feel free to contact the board member nearest you.

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Latin American Lutheran Mission Clarion

The Clarion is published bimonthly by LALM for friends of the Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico. If you wish to be a prayer helper in this Mission for Mexico and would like to receive the Clarion, please contact the Editor at the address listed under "Mission Staff." There is no specific subscription price for the Clarion, but for those who wish to and have the means to help LALM with its cost, it is about \$3.00 per year for each mailing address. Please send contributions to our Treasurer at the address listed under "Mission Staff."

Publication deadline for the next Clarion issue is September 9, 2005.

Donations for LALM should be mailed to:
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Our web site: www.lalm-elcm.org

The Kerigma Seminary of Pastoral Training

“Kerigma” means “proclamation” in New Testament Greek

Mexican Churches –Mexican Pastores

One of the unique attributes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico is that each of their twenty established congregations is led by a Mexican pastor. There are no missionaries of the Latin American Lutheran Mission living in Mexico or in charge of Mexican congregations. But many have asked, **“How did these pastors get trained?”**

What seminary prepared them for ministry?” The answer is two fold :

In the first instance, about **50 % of the ELCM pastors** received one year of preparation through a Bible Institute, similar to the Lutheran Bible Institute, that the national church has maintained since the days of Myrtle Nordin, the founder of this mission. Most of the attendees were **young men**, three of the pastors trained in those early days are still serving the ELCM after fifty years. This training was deemed sufficient for a pastor to begin his ministry along with the teachings imparted at the quarterly pastors’ conferences. However these October, January and May conferences have not followed a curriculum and have been very irregular in the quality of instruction. **The Bible Institute Model** had given them a good foundation but pastors, like other professions, to avoid stagnation, need the challenges of a program for professional growth.

The other half of the pastors of the ELCM rose up in the “seminary” of the local congregation. Under the eye of their forward thinking local pastor ,their maturity, pastoral potential, and motivation for ministry were confirmed. In many cases they were encouraged to exercise leadership by helping start a mission. When they were ready they were then more formally commissioned and installed to lead it. More often than not **these latter individuals were more “seasoned in life”** than the youth who could attend the Bible Institute. They held full time jobs, were married with children, and had on-going commitments which made it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for them to uproot themselves and go to another city to study even for a week, much less for a year. Besides, their local church counted on them for its leadership. In New Testament terms we refer to them as **“tent-making” pastors** because, like the Apostle Paul who supported himself by making tents, they support themselves through their so-called “secular” employment outside of their church commitments. Increasingly, however, these “tent-makers” feel their lack of ministerial preparation, and desire more Biblical, theological and practical training.

How can the mission help pastors who can’t just drop everything to attend a residential school? The quarterly pastors’ conferences, called “Confraternidad”, were designed to address this need. The mission has

tried to bring in presenters who can inspire, deepen, and equip but there has not been a unifying program to follow that gives plan, sequence and the satisfaction of completing a diploma or earning a degree. The pastors have been asking for this and the Kerigma program we hope will satisfy the need of both groups of pastors.

Pastor Carlos de Leon, himself a Bible Institute graduate in his youth is spearheading this new effort to take our ELCM pastors to the next level. We call it **“The Kerigma Seminary of Pastoral Training”**. It will bring in theologically prepared and gifted evangelical teachers and using the time frame of the quarterly pastors’ conference follow an established curriculum in three units. Upon completion of each subject pastors will receive a certificate, and a diploma upon graduation. Each class will have required reading, most books cost \$10 per person so the pastors will be obtaining a basic library in the process. The entire program will take a minimum of four years to complete so it will require patience, energy and focus. God willing the result will be a roster of confident and competent, Spirit led and even more fruitful pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico.

We love our ELCM pastors and their families and we’re excited about the long-term positive impact of the Proclamation Seminary of Pastoral Training. We’d like to offer you a Poster of them all as a helpful prayer reminder. It will be in the December Clarion. Pray for our new seminary endeavor and for creative approaches to funding this need in the ELCM..

REQUISITOS Los requisitos para estudiar en Kerigma Seminario son los siguientes: - Estar activo en el ministerio - Haber graduado de un Instituto Bíblico. - Haber por lo menos dos años en un ministerio organizado. - Estar en plena comunión con su Organización eclesial y estar acreditado por la misma. INSCRIPCIÓN Para matricularse, diríjase a un oficina U.S.R. pidiéndole copia de ficha de inscripción llenada y aprobada por la mesa directiva y este tríptico copia. COSTO Para información sobre el costo de nuestros cursos de seminario que incluyen material y transporte al teléfono (844) 499-0823 o a la oficina. Av. Fco. de Urquía 1296 Sur Franc. La Madrid C.P. 29550 Saltillo, Coah.	KERIGMA Seminario Ministerial  DIRECCIÓN: REV. CARLOS DE LEÓN VAZQUEZ SECRETARIO: REV. ANTONIO TRINIDAD MARTINEZ TESORERO: REV. BRIGIDO HALLERIN SALAZAR VICI-PRESIDENTE: REV. GERONIMO SALAZAR MANCHA VICI-PRESIDENTE: REV. HILARIO CASTRO GUJARDO VICI-PRESIDENTE: REV. MARCEL OJAZ MENDOZA VICI-PRESIDENTE: REV. MARCEL OJAZ MENDOZA	DATOS DE LA SOLICITUD A SER LLENADA POR EL MINISTRO - ESTUDIANTE SOLICITUD DE INGRESO - Hacer la información solicitada e indicar una fotografía reciente, dentro de un espacio reservado para el programa. PERSONALES Nombre completo: _____ Fecha de nacimiento: _____ Sexo: <input type="checkbox"/> Masculino <input type="checkbox"/> Femenino FAMILIARES Nombre con una "C" en el primer apellido: Cónyuge: <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica Hijos: <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica Nombre del (de) esposo (a): _____ Nombre de hijos: _____ DACION ¿Está usted casado con grado legal? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica ECLESIASTICOS ¿Pertenece usted a alguna iglesia? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica Nombre de su iglesia local: _____ Dirección de su iglesia local: _____ ECLESIASTICOS ¿Es usted ministro? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica Nombre: _____ Cargo: _____ ¿Pertenece usted a alguna iglesia? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica Nombre de su iglesia local: _____ Dirección de su iglesia local: _____ RECOMENDACIONES Nombre y dirección de una persona que pueda recomendarlo: _____ POSTRO ¿Está usted casado con grado legal? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica TIEMPO ¿Cuánto tiempo lleva estudiando en Kerigma? _____ OTROS ¿Hay alguna otra información que desee proporcionar? _____ FIRMA DEL MINISTRO ESTUDIANTE FECHA DE SOLICITUD
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Mexican Pastors Trip to the

“Every year the mission has brought Mexican pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico to the Upper Midwest to minister a cross cultural blessing at our annual meeting and dinner, to speak to the LALM board and to the LALM’s supporting churches. This year it was our intention to make new connections with colleges and churches. In the course of two weeks we sang and preached, gave greetings, and held adult forums on missions in thirteen different Lutheran congregations and one church school, and were on three different Lutheran college campuses contacting students about mission opportunities. We were privileged to participate in chapel and eucharistic services, and to interview staff and students. God inspired powerful messages through our Mexican pastors Juan Cortez, Ulises Lopez and Ricardo Dominguez. We would love to come to your congregation sometime and share Jesus passion for you and His Mission.”



Crossing many borders en route to Minnesota.



Jim and Sonja Halvorson—our hosts in St. Paul



Bruce Underhill leads and sings at the LALM dinner.



Always Good food & Good Fellowship



Commissioning Prayers for the Garcias



We sing & share at the Gustavus College Chapel—St. Peter, MN

Upper Midwest



Pr. Al and Janice Vik our hosts in Decorah, IA



Abram Lopez and friend



A warm welcome at Warturg College, Waverly, IA



Visiting Esther Hovland in Blue Earth, MN



Dakotans and Mexicans sing praise at Roseni Lutheran, Beresford, SD



Pr. Lopez' 8 yr. old son Abram drives a combine.



Don and Jo Olson of Windom, MN, our border helpers for many years.



Garcia's supporters from Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Amarillo, TX

continued on the following page



Doing the motions to “Yo Tengo Un Amigo que Me Ama”



Pastor Dick translates for Ricio Lopez

continued on page 8

Our Apostolic Calling

As we scrambled to get ready for our yearly trip to Minnesota for the annual dinner program of the mission’s supporters and the all day board meeting held the same day, I found myself overwhelmed: confirming itineraries, arranging hospitality, creating and printing agendas, reports, menus and programs. The deadlines and details, like a hurricane, so filled my inner life that it became hard to hear the Lord. On consecutive early mornings I cried out to the Lord to give me some fresh manana. In His faithfulness, the Lord brought me to Romans 1:8-13, and thoughts about apostolic ministry.

In our creeds who confess that we are one holy and apostolic church, but “apostolic” is an infrequently used word in our vocabulary. It was a precious and powerful word in Paul’s vocabulary defining his personal authority in ministry, his theological and experiential foundation for ministry and his method of ministry. The Lord reminded me that the movements both ways through the border station are part of an apostolic cycle of ministry. The Apostle Paul itinerated much of his ministry, indeed the word “apostle” means “sent one”, implying a lifestyle of mobility in response to our Lord. When groups from the States come to serve in Mexico they are Apostolic, and when the pastors of Mexico go North, they are being Apostolic, too, as they go forth weeping, bearing the precious seed. All of us do so in the desire that through the Spirit we shall come back rejoicing bearing a harvest to God’s glory.

Paul identifies three Apostolic reasons for his trip to Rome in Romans 1:11-13 and these same reasons define the LALM ministry as Apostolic:

1. To Strengthen – “That I may impart...some spiritual gift to make you strong.” (v.11) The teams from the North impart strength to the church of Mexico and the Mexican pastors in turn impart strength to Lutheran Churches in

the North. If you have received their ministry you know how the Spirit imparts strength through them.

2. To Be Mutually Encouraged – “That you and I may be mutually encouraged...” (v. 12). Mutual encouragement is probably the most frequent blessing acknowledged by giver and receiver alike in cross cultural fellowship and ministry. Maybe we judge that the Apostle Paul, mighty man of God that he was, didn’t need encouragement, but he did. Most often it seems that those who think they go to give, actually find themselves receiving much.

3. To Obtain a Harvest – “That I might have a harvest among you...” (v.13)

Paul doesn’t detail what the harvest is though we conclude it meant people brought to faith in Jesus. When we left Laredo for Minnesota, the brother who prayed for our safety and fruitfulness was given the scripture, “...go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Mt. 10:6). It occurred to me that in the Lutheran Churches in the

Upper Midwest there are plenty of lost sheep in the house of Luther. Teams from the North are used of the Lord to bring the lost to Jesus in Mexico, too.



Do you have an apostolic lifestyle? Jesus has given you something that you can impart to another for their strengthening. In the process you will also be encouraged. The result will be a wonderful harvest, though you may not be able to quantify it at the time.



Gifts of Love



The following persons and organizations provided gifts, donations, or bequests to the Latin American Lutheran Mission in May through June of 2005. The LALM Board of Directors and staff are grateful for all these gifts as well as those gifts of time and talents. (If you do not want to be recognized by the Clarion for your gift, please send a note along with your contribution to the Treasurer/Financial Secretary stating your desire for anonymity.) We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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Minneapolis, MN 55417-7385**



Our happy hosts, the Weviks, Beresford, South Dakota

LALM – Prayer Warriors

October 2005

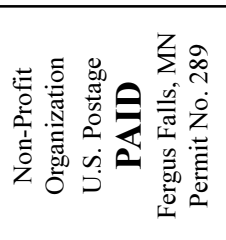
“...in everything by **prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your **requests** be made known to God...” Philipians 4: 6

Prayers of Thanksgiving

1. For 3,000 miles of safe travel from Laredo to Minnesota and back.
2. For the inspiration and fellowship experienced at the Sept. 19 board and association meetings at Trinity.
3. For the open doors in colleges and churches to share the opportunities in the Lutheran Churches of Mexico.
4. For the faithful prayers and giving of those who hold this ministry dear.
5. For the testimony of the Hobarts and Haugens which still resonates in the hearts of LALM supporters across the country.
6. For the excitement that Fred and Wanda Garcia bring as they join our staff in October.

Supplication & Requests

1. For our November 9-15 “Inspiration and Information” tour in Illinois and Indiana.
2. For the October 26-29 quarterly pastors’ Conference in El Potosi and the beginning of the “Kerygma Ministerial Training Program”.
3. For the Spirit to speak to and through the couples, individuals and groups who will spend time in the churches of Mexico this Fall.
4. For the Spirit to mature and confirm the connections made in colleges and churches during our September trip.
5. For the Lord to guide and mature our Bible Institute graduates as they complete their six month internship.
6. For the Spirit’s guidance and protection over the LALM staff as they build a sense of team and develop the strategic vision of the LALM.
7. For a Spirit of Evangelism and Apostolship among the pastors and leaders of the ELCM.
8. For the financial provisions to pursue the Mission of the LALM.
9. For Erickson’s grandchild, Tiana’s cleft palate surgery November 28.



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