



Together on the Border

by Christine Drieling

Pastor and Jeanette teach that all people have value in Christ regardless of their history, culture, age, or economic status.

Reverend Doctor Karl Heimer de la Cotera and his devoted wife, Jeanette, are bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to people throughout the United States, focusing their efforts on the U.S. and Mexico border. When they married 46 years ago, God ignited in them a desire to serve their community, resulting in a unique, significant, humble place in El Paso, Texas, called Ysleta Lutheran Mission (YLM), established in 1982. Through this border mission, the Heimers have been models of community outreach, guided by the Holy Spirit. YLM stands as the culmination of their life's work for Christ.

Ysleta Lutheran Mission is located on a 4.2-acre campus in El Paso, at one of the major passageways between the U.S. and Mexico. Thousands of people cross the border in both directions every day as do YLM's ministries. YLM supports year-round ministry in El Paso and at mission sites in several of the poorest communities throughout northern Mexico.

Pastor Karl and Jeanette balance each other in serving Christ at Ysleta and in their community. Since Ysleta's beginning, Pastor has spent endless hours utilizing community boards, gang and inner-city ministry, prison ministry, medical clinics, Boy Scouts, radio and television ministry, a

lunch program, servant events, and even politics to serve the community for Jesus. Because he is away quite often, Jeanette's trust, support, and faith in God have been critical. God has given Jeanette strength and confidence to direct a preschool, play the organ, facilitate Bible study, assume extra responsibility, and offer stability at home. Pastor Karl shepherds thousands, and both he and Jeanette have a heart and voice for the local people.

Ysleta Lutheran Mission is about relationships, and Pastor and Jeanette have been models of service for their own family and for the many people affected by Ysleta. Pastor and Jeanette teach that all people have value in Christ regardless of their history, culture, age, or economic status. Their five children have served at the Mission, working with servant events, grant proposals, music ministry, and pastoral work. Sergio is one person who exemplifies how Pastor and Jeanette care. Sergio was an advanced gang leader who wanted to change. Pastor Karl and Jeanette met him through their son, Pastor Stephen. Together they introduced Sergio to their Savior. As a result of the Holy Spirit working in his life, Sergio was able to step away from his former life into a peaceful, fulfilling, honest life with Jesus. He attended weekly Bible

studies and craved God's Word daily. The Heimers guided Sergio into a trade and taught him about a life he never imagined. As Pastor Karl and Jeanette followed the heavenly Father's direction, Sergio now knows his Savior personally and is no longer involved in gang life.

Countless volunteers have served through Ysleta and have taken their faith experience home. Mission trips continue to bring many Lutheran youth from LCMS congregations across the country to Ysleta to work. An LWML grant of \$27,970 to Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLMHC), a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, provides weekly hot lunches and God's Word, teaching Bible lessons and distributing Bibles to the people of Ysleta.

Pastor Karl and Jeanette believe that, as long as God wills, they will serve wherever He calls them. The Lord has used their faithfulness to bring about Ysleta Lutheran Mission, a humble place where people come to work and where work gets done for the Lord's purpose. May the Triune God continue to guide their steps as they continue to be missionaries for Him.

Christine Drieling, friend of the Heimer family and 20-year servant at Ysleta Lutheran Mission, is a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota.
