

VISIT FROM CHRIST THE KING-HOUSTON

From March 9-12 we had the pleasure of receiving in Mexico City 27 members of the choir of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston, one of our sponsoring congregations. On Saturday, the choir spent some time interacting with the students in our school's program for training church musicians and also performed for the group. They then attended worship on Sunday at our church, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, where they participated in the liturgy and sang for the congregation.



On Monday, the CTK choir visited Tultitlán, where the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation (AMEXTRA) carries out a number of community projects. Choir members were able to help with some repairs and painting at the community center where AMEXTRA works, read and play games with the children, and have lunch in the homes of people in the area who participate in AMEXTRA's projects.



Naturally, the choir was also able to visit some tourist attractions, including the Teotihuacán pyramids and the Folkloric Ballet. All in all, it was a wonderful learning and sharing experience for everyone involved, enabling all to grow in the love and solidarity we share in Christ.

**MEET PASTOR JOSÉ**

At the Theological Community where I teach, we have many students who already work as pastors but wish to study at our school in order to get a Theology degree. In most cases, what motivates them is a desire to learn how to carry out a ministry that is more holistic and inclusive, stressing things such as gender equity, a concern for social justice, and liberating perspectives on the Bible that they find lacking in their own churches and denominations.

One such student is José García Ortiz, whose work and dedication are truly admirable. José (shown below with Alicia and me) serves at a Pentecostal church of about 60 members, leading services and other activities there on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. It takes him a couple of hours on public transportation to get to his church, yet that is nothing compared to the four hours it takes him to arrive to our school. He is able to come only once a week, on Wednesdays, when he packs in as many courses as he can. This means waking up at 3:30 a.m. to make it to his 8:00 class and getting home past midnight after another four hours of travel.



In addition to his pastoral ministry and studies, José teaches at a Bible institute that meets on Fridays and Saturdays, preparing students of his own to become pastors in his denomination. He also grows corn on his 2½ acre farm, where he usually spends his Mondays. José is married and has four daughters, aging from 6 to 16. What a joy it is to work with students such as José, whose academic level is actually very high, and to have their love of the Lord and their dedication to serving him rub off on the rest of us!

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