

14 February 2007

Dear friends in Christ,

Our prayer is that all is well with you. We wanted to share some of the more recent news from here, as well as some photos. We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at our church here. One of our members organized a special choir, and that went well. Our daughter Monica sang in the choir, as did David, and our other daughter Elizabeth was here to play the flute.

On January 6, our church went to Lomas de San Isidro, an impoverished community outside of Mexico City, where we have been supporting the work of Amextra (Mexican Association of Rural and Urban Transformation). We handed out some gifts to the children there, and also gave a donation that we had collected at church for the Day Care Center. It was a very meaningful day both for the community there and for us as well. Attached you will see a couple of pictures from that day. On the right in one of the pictures is Lara Janssen, the Horizon Intern David is supervising, who visits San Isidro weekly.

On January 3, two members of our pastoral team at church, Manuel Hernández and his wife Eldaa Ocampo, left for Winston-Salem, North Carolina to do a four-month internship at the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany there. While we have missed them a great deal, we have heard that they are doing very well. It is a wonderful experience for them, and is no doubt enriching the church there as well; what they learn there will also be of great benefit for us here when they return.

The congregation where we are active, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, also has made the decision to call one of our Seminary graduates, Enoc Ravizé, to be the full-time pastor there. We are very happy about that. We also learned that for the fourth year in a row we will be receiving a Horizon Intern. Next year's intern is Quinn Gorges, from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The weekend before last, David attended the ordination of another of our Seminary graduates, Roberto Trejo, at Faith Lutheran Church in Guadalajara. The other Seminary professors, Rev. Dr. José Alcántara and Rev. Moisés Pérez, also participated, along with Roberto's father Daniel Trejo, who is the President of the Mexican Lutheran Church. A couple of the other pictures are from that event.

We also are delighted to have two new students at the Lutheran Seminary: Jorge Salazar, who is from the same church where Roberto was ordained, and Rosa Hamden, who is from our congregation, Good Shepherd. Both have very interesting stories, but those will have to wait for another occasion!

Finally, we would like you to check out the 2007 Global Mission Lenten resources. David prepared a sermon and a liturgy for Ash Wednesday, which is on the ELCA website at: <http://www.elca.org/globalmission/lent/index.html>.

We pray that you may have a very blessed season of Lent, growing closer to our Lord so as to continue to take up your cross with him in love and service.

Yours in Christ,

David, Alicia, Elizabeth, and Monica Brondos





