

ORDINATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PASTORS IN MEXICO

After years of struggles in favor of the ordination of women within the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the first two Presbyterian women pastors in Mexico were ordained in an ecumenical ceremony on Reformation Sunday this past October 28 at the San Andrés Chapel in Mexico City. Unfortunately, this was possible only after those Presbyterian pastors participating in the ordinations had been disciplined and excommunicated from the National Church in recent months on account of their stance in favor of women's ordination. Among these is Rev. Dan González, Director of the Theological Community of Mexico (below on left), together with other professors at the Community.



The two new woman pastors, both trained at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Mexico, are Gloria González Esquivel (above center) and Amparo Lerín Cruz (above third from right). Pastor Gloria is serving a church in Chiapas in southern Mexico, while Pastor Amparo serves a church in Mexico City. Their congregations, along with other Presbyterian congregations that had to leave the National Presbyterian Church on account of their advocacy in favor of women's ordination, form part of the newly-organized Mexican Communion of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches in Mexico.

**CARS AND AIR POLLUTION IN MEXICO CITY**

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that I would be sharing some short articles on ecological realities in Mexico. In this newsletter, I would like to touch on one of the measures that the government has taken to address air pollution in Mexico City.

In 1988, the government began to require that all vehicles circulating in Mexico City pass an annual emissions test, which is now biannual. In 1990, a law was passed mandating that each vehicle be removed from circulation one day a week. In 2008, this was expanded to include one Saturday per month. This depends on the last number on the license plate: for example, vehicles with a number ending in 7 or 8 (like mine, see below) cannot circulate on Tuesdays (from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) or on the second Saturday of every month. While at first this applied to all vehicles, those that are less than 8 years old are now allowed to circulate every day of the week, provided they pass a stricter emissions test.

There are over 3.5 million vehicles in the Mexico City metropolitan area. According to a global study made by IBM in 2010, the average trip in auto in Mexico City takes 40-42 minutes, which ties Mexico City with New Delhi, Beijing, and Moscow for the longest average. Since many other measures have been taken to reduce air pollution in Mexico City over the past 30 years, including removing the oil refinery that was formerly in the city, it is difficult to say how much the one-day-a-week limit has improved air quality.



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