

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROJECT

Over the past months, several of my co-workers who are also former students at the Lutheran Seminary and Theological Community have been working for the Mexican Lutheran Church on a Christian education project which will also be shared with other Lutherans in Latin America. The project began over a year ago with the aim of collecting and designing educational and worship resources to be made available for Lutheran congregations in Mexico and elsewhere. One of the first steps has been to bring together materials that local congregations have already developed. On this basis, new materials are being prepared that meet three criteria: 1) to be innovative, 2) to reflect Mexican and Latin American culture, and 3) to be rooted in the Lutheran identity and tradition. This material will meet a great need, since almost all that which exists at present is lacking in one or more of these three areas.



Rev. Angela Trejo and Karina García (above), who both serve at Lutheran congregations in Mexico City in addition to their duties with the Seminary, have been developing the material. While they have initially focused on liturgical material and resources for children, they also plan to create resources for people of all ages. Pastor Roberto Chávez, also my former student who now teaches music at our school, has been working with music resources and has put to music song texts written by Angela and Karina to be used in the churches.

**WATER IN MEXICO**

After dealing with the subjects of recycling and waste as well as air pollution in Mexico City in two previous newsletters, in the present newsletter I would like to continue the ecological emphasis that I began last fall by addressing the subject of water. As you can imagine, providing water for a city of well over 20 million inhabitants is quite a challenge. Because water is scarce, people are very conscientious about using it very sparingly. Almost all houses have running water—the exceptions are in very poor areas on the outskirts of the city. However, because there is not enough pressure for the water to run throughout the house—in most places it would not make it up to the second floor, and sometimes not even up to faucet height on the first floor—it must be pumped up to water tanks that all houses have on their roof. From there, it runs down into the house. This means less water pressure in the house, of course, but also less water usage. This photo, taken from our roof, shows some of the different shapes and sizes of these tanks—as you can see, houses are all very close to one another:



All houses and establishments must have toilets that use 6 liters per flush maximum. The price people pay for water depends on the quantity they use and the area of the city in which they live. While one's bill is very low if one uses a minimal amount, it goes up tremendously the more one consumes. Furthermore, in wealthier areas of the city, the cost per cubic liter can be up to four or five times higher than in poorer areas.

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