

**FAMILY GREETINGS**

As we head into a New Year, we want to send all of you greetings and our prayers that this coming year will be full of blessings for you. Our 2013 was an eventful year. The big celebration was our daughter Monica's graduation from Augsburg College in May. It was great to spend a few days in Minnesota being not only with Monica but also our daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Matt, who live in Minneapolis. In July, both girls were able to spend time with us here in Mexico City:



As we shared in our last newsletter, this fall we had some health issues. Alicia missed about three months of school after she broke bones in both hands in a fall on a slippery sidewalk. She finally made it back to work at her school in mid-November. David had a rotator cuff operation at the end of November. Although healing has been slow, we thank God for restoring our health.

Monica is spending a year working as an au pair in the Netherlands, and so she was not with us this Christmas. However, Matt and Elizabeth have joined us. We took a family trip to Oaxaca and enjoyed it immensely. The following picture was taken at the Monte Alban ruins last weekend:

**VISIT TO LUTHERAN CHURCH IN OAXACA**

While in Oaxaca this past Sunday we were able to visit for the first time the Lutheran congregation there (La Santa Cruz). It was established in the 1950's but has been without a pastor since 2001. However, the lay leaders of the congregation have been active in the online courses which David coordinates for Augsburg Lutheran Seminary. In particular, Timoteo Hernández (on David's left) has been one of the most active online students and may be ordained as the church's pastor in the near future, once he finishes his courses.



The online courses have continued to be very helpful for many churches in the same situation as La Santa Cruz who are unable to afford a full-time pastor and are relying on lay leaders. We are working with leaders not only in Mexico but in other Latin American countries as well.



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