

## SUMMER VISITS

This summer I am visiting sponsoring congregations in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Ohio. It has been good seeing many people we had not seen for several years but also getting acquainted with some of our newer sponsoring congregations, such as United Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Shiner, Texas and Abiding Love Lutheran in Austin, Texas (see photos below respectively). We have over 25 sponsoring congregations, so it's not possible to visit them all every two years when we have our two-month home assignment.



This year I am sharing some things about our Seminary's online course program, which turns three years old this summer. We have now had over 500 students from 23 different countries enroll in our online courses. I am also sharing information about many of my students and the ministries in which they are involved (see next column).



## FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION,

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or go to: <http://aokelca.org/#/connect/links>

E-mail: [david.brondos@elca.org](mailto:david.brondos@elca.org)

## MEET MARIO AND YULY

Among the students about whom I am sharing this summer are Mario Medina and Yuly Alonso. Both came to the Theological Community through the Baptist Seminary, which operates an extension program in Chimalhuacán, one of the poorer areas on the outskirts of Mexico City.



Mario works with youth in several ecumenical ministries, including a juvenile prison for 12-17 year-olds. He also gives workshops on sexuality and non-violence, teaches kids theater and is involved in a ministry for the homeless.



Yuly works in a program with children ages 3-12, gives workshops for Sunday School teachers, and is also active in an organization that serves the needs of migrants coming from Central America.



Both Mario and Yuly are also now helping out as co-teachers in our seminary's online program and will help us develop this program further.