

MEET PACO

One of the students I have particularly enjoyed working with over the past couple of years is Francisco Olvera, or "Paco." Paco grew up in the downtown area of Mexico City, where his father worked at a parking lot near the Federal Police building. He decided to become a Federal Police officer himself and joined the Force when he was 21. He also got married at that age and through his wife got to know the Methodist Church. However, Paco had grown up nominally Roman Catholic and was not very interested in Christianity. According to Paco, his experiences with his wife's church and pastors were generally not very positive.

In 2006, Paco was imprisoned, falsely accused of being involved in drug trafficking. There he began to read the Bible and became a fervent Christian. He was released after a year when he was shown to be innocent of the charges, but shortly thereafter he spent three months in intensive care at a hospital, following complications from an operation. According to Paco, he was often close to death during this time but miraculously lived. After working in the Police force for several more years, in 2011 Paco decided to study for the ministry at the Methodist Seminary that forms part of the Theological Community where I teach.



Paco is one of my most enthusiastic students and has a real love for evangelism. When he finishes his studies next year, he hopes not only to serve as a pastor in the Methodist Church but also to begin a prison ministry and get involved in other forms of outreach.

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WEATHER IN MEXICO CITY

Since the weather in the U.S. has been in the news quite a bit lately, I thought I would share a little about the weather in Mexico City. Because we are south of the Tropic of Cancer, it never gets too cold. However, we are well over a mile above sea level (7,000 feet), so it never gets very hot either.



During the winter months, the average daily high is about 71°F and the average low is 45°. The hottest months are April and May, before the rainy season starts. The daily averages then are 79° high and 54° low. Rainy season is a little cooler than that and runs from around June to October. Temperatures never vary much from the averages and it's hardly even necessary to have weather reports. The hottest it ever gets is in the mid- to high-80s and the lowest is around freezing, but that is not very common. Homes do not have or need heating or cooling systems; if it gets a little chilly at night, you just use more blankets. However, you do need a warm jacket or sweaters, especially during the winter months, when it can feel pretty cold.



During rainy season, the days will generally be sunny until early afternoon, when it clouds up and then rains in the late afternoon or evening. Usually the rain is quite intense. It lasts for about an hour or two at most and then it clears up. Rarely does it rain in the morning. From November to late April, we get very little rain—during that time it usually rains only 5-10 times.