

GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Wednesday, June 17, the Theological Community of Mexico celebrated the graduation of fourteen students in a variety of programs. At least one student graduated from each of the participating seminaries (Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, and Reformed). Six of those graduating from the Theological Community were from a Pentecostal background. Seven of the graduates were women, which is significant given that the Theological Community is one of the few places in Mexico where women can study a degree in theology at the university level in a seminary.



Among the students who graduated was Ari Trejo, who finished his studies at Augsburg Lutheran Seminary (shown below on left with his daughter Elizabeth). Ari will be heading to Guadalajara to work in the Lutheran Congregation there. His sister Angela, Coordinator of the Lutheran Seminary, received a Master's Degree in Biblical Studies and preached at the ceremony (see above photo). Another of the students who graduated, Celumiel (below on right), is from a rural indigenous area in Chiapas in southern Mexico.



FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION,

VISIT: sites.google.com/site/dbrondos
or go to: <http://aokelca.org/#/connect/links>

E-mail: david.brondos@elca.org

VISIT WITH ELCA GROUP ON IMMIGRATION

From June 9-15, a delegation from the ELCA visited southern Mexico, Guatemala, and Mexico City to gather information and observations regarding the situation of Central American migrants who come to Mexico in order then to head to the U.S. border. The group included Stephen Deal and Mary Campbell from ELCA Global Mission, Evelyn Soto and Cecilia Favela from the ELCA's Chicago offices, and Alaide Vilchis from the Washington, D.C. office of ELCA Advocacy. Alicia and I were able to meet with the group during their visit to Mexico City.



Last summer, as I visited some of our sponsoring congregations on home assignment, the crisis involving the Central American children detained at the U.S.-Mexican border as they attempted to enter the U.S. was at its height. Many of you had questions regarding what was happening and what should be done. The ELCA group reported that the number of children attempting to emigrate to the U.S. has not decreased, but that the U.S. government has provided financial support to the Mexican government so that the children are now captured and held at detention centers in Mexico near the border with Guatemala. The crisis thus continues, even though it is no longer mentioned much in the U.S. news because fewer children are now able to reach the U.S. border.

The ELCA, and especially ELCA Advocacy, have studied this situation closely and continue to work on strategies for dealing with the question of immigration. I encourage you to go to the ELCA Advocacy page (www.elca.org/advocacy) and read the information provided there under "News and Updates" as well as "Resources" (look under "International Policy" for the article "Our Communities in Crisis").