

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Many people are still recovering from the earthquakes that we suffered in Mexico on September 7 and September 19. In addition to those who died or were injured, many have lost their homes and thus must either sleep in provisional shelters that have been put up or find some relative or friend who can take them in.

In rural areas, the situation is even more difficult. Many of these areas are not easily accessed and thus have faced shortages of food and basic items that people need.



The Theological Community where Alicia and I teach has formed a Disaster Assistance Program. It has been working with several communities in particular that did not receive help from the government. In some of these areas, over half of the homes have had to be demolished. One of our professors who himself lost his home here in Mexico City has been heading up the efforts. People have donated many basic food items, blankets, and clothes which students, staff, and professors have taken to the communities directly. Funds have also been received from the ELCA and the PCUSA, among others, which have been used to purchase many of these items.

**94 THESES**

A couple of months ago, as I was thinking of something I could share to promote reflection on the 500th anniversary of the posting of Luther's 95 Theses and the Reformation in general, I got the idea of doing my own thesis, limiting the number to 94 out of respect for Luther's theses (I later found out that the "Radicalizing Reformation Project" had also published 94 theses, but I figured that there was nothing wrong with other people like myself to do the same).

A student of mine designed a website for me to share them, so they are available online at: 94t.mx. I also have included some of my other writings there, and I intend to continue adding new things.



The thesis I have prepared reflect my most fundamental convictions regarding the gospel, my understanding of what it means to be Lutheran, and my views on a number of the issues that as Christians we need to address. Above all, they express one of my central concerns as a Lutheran theologian: that we distance ourselves from views of God and Christianity that we find oppressive, and that we proclaim the gospel in terms that people can readily understand.

I hope that the theses will contribute to dialogue and reflection among Lutherans and other Christians.

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