



ABBOTT NEWS BRIEFS

August 2010

SEMINARY

Mexico Trip



Professors and administration of the STPM.

The Seminario Presbiteriano Teológico de México (Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Mexico) and SEUT are exploring a formal relationship that will enable the Presbyterians in Mexico to offer theological education in a distance learning format. Once upon a time most seminarians were young, single people who could come and live in residence. The average seminarian today is married and has a job, making residential training unrealistic.

Mark travelled to Mexico in June for an orientation and training trip. He found a highly qualified and motivated faculty who are willing to try new things. One of their members is obtaining a Masters in online education, so they will be able to follow through very well.

Reading Luke like a Story

This past semester Mark taught Luke-Acts with an emphasis on reading Luke and parts of Acts like a story. We focused on plot, characters, intertextuality and many other features. In Acts we also were introduced to the rhetoric of the Greco-Roman world. What made the course so meaningful and fun is that we spent the majority of our study time and class time looking very closely at the text itself. As the saying goes: "It is amazing how a reading of the Biblical text will make sense out of the commentary."

Taller Teológico



Our lay training program, the *Taller Teológico* (Theological Workshop) has had a splendid second year with an increase in the number of congregations participating. A new part of the project has been the addition of adding *Talleres Breves* (Mini Workshops) for 4 hours on Saturdays in different cities. This has attracted people who cannot make the weekly commitment necessary in a regular workshop. Mark will be doing a Taller Breve in November on reading the Gospels as story.

Unfortunately, we recently lost the director of the program, the Rev. Osmundo Ponce. We hope this will not set the program back, and we have passed his responsibilities on to others on our team to keep the momentum going. We appreciate your prayers for this program.

Seminary Video

The Seminary has produced a video that you can watch on our website. Check it out!
<http://www.centroseut.org/english/video.htm>

FAMILY

Diane

Diane is enjoying the summer with her mother in Hamburg, NY. She has had a great year teaching voice lessons in the after school music program at the American School of Madrid, where Chris attends. Besides this and her work at the seminary, she continues to be the principle musician for the Community Church of Madrid. She also completed her study of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto with *Maestro* Daniel Kharatian.

Children Update

Caroline is spending a summer with Mark & Chris in Madrid. After a semester in Florence, Italy, where she managed to learn passable Italian and make new friends, she is working in a high class Italian restaurant in Madrid, *Tagliatelle*. With 20% unemployment in Spain, this is quite an accomplishment. She will return for her senior year at Suffolk University in Boston this Fall.

Andy is completing his second year as a flight instructor at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. He has applied to the airlines and is looking for a change. Pray for his successful job hunt!

Chris successfully completed his junior year at the American School of Madrid. In addition to his numerous musical activities including classical guitar, piano and playing xylophone in the school musical, he presented an art piece at the school art exposition. As he continues International Baccalaureate art next year he will participate in an exposition of several new works next year. In August he and a friend are going to backpack through Europe on an Interrail pass. That will be a growing up experience!

Thank you all for your faithful support as well as your prayers.

Your Partners in the Gospel,

Mark & Diane

GBGM Missionary Codes:

Diane: 10070-Z Mark: 10069-Z