

Faith-Filled Journey

Following a visit to our Sister Parish Congregation, Rebirth of the Martyrs in the Community of Monseñor Romero, it was time to return to San Salvador and Casa Concordia, the guest house of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. We decided to use the means of transportation Pastor Martir and his family do when they travel to and from their home in Apopa to the congregations he ministers to each Saturday and Sunday.



We walked 27 minutes up the hill with Pastor Martir, his wife Rosa Elvira and daughter Xochilt to the road near the school so we could continue the walk to the main road where we'd catch a bus for San Salvador. Fortunately a delivery truck came by and we hopped a ride out to the main road to wait for the bus. The bus finally arrived, we boarded, paid the fare and sat back to enjoy the scenery and participate in the long ride back. We disembarked at the bus station, Rosa Elvira and Xochilt transferred to a bus to take them home, and Pastor Martir secured a cab to take us to our guest house rather than having us become involved in bus transfers. When we arrived at the guest house, we said our farewells and Pastor Martir proceeded to go to the bus line to travel to his home in Apopa.

Transportation, or lack of, is a constant reality for Pastor Martir and his family and other pastors as they minister to congregations in El Salvador, particularly in the rural

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communities. Walking, long bus rides, transfers, and more walking consume much of their time, and fares take so much of the small salaries they receive from the Salvadoran Lutheran Church.

Pastor Martir faithfully ministers to three congregations in rural areas: Rebirth of the Martyrs (Sister Parish congregation of Galilee ELCA, Pewaukee), Jesus The Life (Sister Parish Congregation of North Cape ELCA, Franksville), and Mission Congregation Santa Anita. Pastor Martir has also recently been appointed Coordinator of the Central Micro Region in the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. Seeking supplemental employment in the private sector is difficult because so many opportunities involve Saturday and Sunday hours--- the time he is involved in the ministry of his three congregations.



It is a wonderful experience to participate in and observe this family's dedicated ministry; Xochilt being part of the peer groups, Rosa Elvira working with the children in Sunday School, music, and activities, and Pastor Martir nurturing the high school students, young adults, and sharing his Gospel message with all three congregations.

Strong hope and peace are deeply evident in the lives of the El Salvadoran people in their faith-filled journey. Jesus is indeed the center of their lives. We have so much to learn from the religious strengths of our friends in El Salvador and the sacrificial commitment of their Pastors

Submitted by Barb from Galilee ELCA.

Your gift to the Salvadoran Lutheran Church Pastors Endowment Fund will help to provide a sustainable source of salary support to Pastor Martir and the other clergy of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. For more information about the fund or companion synod ministries with the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, email info@partnerswithelsalvador.org