

NCN Regional Gathering | Saltillo Mexico 2023

To bear fruit, a tree requires time and care, and farmers need to work the fields with the hope that the fruit will arrive in due time. Similarly, the relationship and unity between communities in Mexico and the US is like a field that slowly bears fruit.

This weekend, we enjoyed the harvest time as our brothers and sisters from Oaxaca, Pennsylvania, and New York traveled to northern Mexico, to the city of Saltillo, to spend a time full of blessings with Iglesia de Cristo in El Salvador neighborhood.

There are many things to highlight about this meeting: the opportunity to get to know each other more and make our friendship stronger, the shared food, the cross-pollination that happens when communities come together, and the way in which the relationship of the churches in Saltillo is strengthened.

Our meeting spanned from Friday, the 15th of September, to Monday, the 18th. We had more than a hundred people from eight different communities participating in our Saturday evening event. And throughout the weekend, our neighbors around the Church also participated. We had the opportunity to worship, converse, and play. And also mourning the loss of loved ones.

On Friday night, we participated in the Independence celebration party in the square of a small town on the outskirts of Saltillo. We lost count of how many tacos, tamales, and mole we ate together. We count everything as joy.



We believe that work and relationships between communities will continue to bear fruit with God's help.

Next, we would like to give voice to some of the participants of this gathering. Also, we want to share with you some beautiful pictures

“The Saltillo meeting was a good experience of fraternity among participants from different communities, especially on Saturday, September 16, where joy reigned, everyone united in the faith of Christ, making Paul's words a reality: So it doesn't matter. whether they are Jews or not, whether they are slaves or free, or whether they are men or women. If they are united to Jesus Christ, they are all equal (Galatians 3:26-28)”

Carlos Gonzalez, Bruderhof New York



“The meeting that took place in the city of Saltillo was very beautiful because it allowed me to meet Brother Roberto's family, since he hosted us in his house. I was able to realize that we have many things in common as a family, they have the qualities of hospitality, they are very empathetic, very transparent and loving. At Saturday's meeting with the other communities, I was very impressed by the participation in the small groups to reflect on how to be a church and work in community. At dinner with the other communities I felt very well integrated as if I were at

home. It was also a very special experience to try the food and see the places they took us on a tour. An unforgettable visit. Thank you very much for everything you allowed me to experience. A hug to everyone.”

Claudio Chavez, Casa de Esperanza Oaxaca



“Many thanks to everyone who made this conference possible. As a foreigner, surely my impressions of this weekend may be a little different than others' when celebrating their independence day. Their culture is incredible! Anyway, it was really nice getting to know you all a little bit at least, and I can't wait for the next time we see each other. What caught my attention about the conference were the times we spoke in small groups, and answered the questions that Roberto asked. In particular, the question "how we should act as Christians", or followers of Christ. I challenge myself. Now that I have returned to my community, I am thinking about how to better do the acts of kindness that every Christian should be found in Matthew 25:34-36. Once again, thanks to everyone, particularly Nathan and Erika for hosting Carlos and me in their home. And also my birthday celebration 😊 I'm not going to forget that. “

Carl Thomson, Bruderhof Pennsylvania



“Dear brothers, I want to express my deepest gratitude for all the attention you have shown to my family and me, your generosity, kindness, they have made us feel at home. My brother Roberto and family who hosted us learned a lot from you! Even how to prepare flour tortillas! You are an example of work, peace and love for your neighbor. Above all, I love the transparency with which you operate at home and in the community, which reflects that you live in harmony with God, and with nature. I just love that. I thank the entire community for their attention and participation. Natán and Erika are a blessing in the community of Christ. Blessings to all.”

Mari, Casa de Esperanza Oaxaca



“Many thanks to the community of the Iglesia de Cristo El Salvador for the hospitality on our visit from September 14-18. Especially grateful to Lupita, Nani and their children Daniel and Gael Escobedo. The Escobedo family made us feel at home and adopted us as part of their family for a weekend. In addition to the deliciousness of the tacos and gorditas that we ate, the true

delight was enjoying the Escobedo family and meeting many joyful young people from sister churches on Saturday. It was nice for me to see how the congregation has integrated the community, neighbors close to the place where the meetings are held. Sunday's meeting was special singing with the congregation and listening to Mary's word of encouragement. I have returned with a lot of hope and reasons for prayer. Many thanks to Roberto who picked us up and took us back to the airport. We miss the brotherhood of Texas, we hope to meet soon and tell the fruits of this meeting in Saltillo."

Luis Rey, House of Hope Oaxaca



"Hello my dear brothers, it is a pleasure to be able to share a little of what this great experience was for me, starting with the hospitality and trust of the family of our brothers Roberto and Dania, because they made us feel like family from the moment we arrived, and I can say that I've tried the best tacos to date.

I must also say that it was quite nice to finally meet the brothers that I had only seen on camera, as well as the communities that were part of the Saturday service. I return home very strengthened and inspired by the spirit of unity and work of the brothers of Iglesia de Cristo El Salvador and I am very happy to know that the family in Christ continues to grow and expand its borders.

Thank you to everyone who made this great meeting possible."

Gamaliel Chavez, Casa de Esperanza Oaxaca



