

Pray with Mexico Sunday, September 20, 2020

BY [ELENA HUEGEL](#) ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Lectionary Selection: Exodus 16:2-15

Prayers for Mexico:

Our God, heart of the sky - heart of the earth, we who live in the birthplace of corn, who eat thin wafers called tortillas that fall not from the heavens but are a rich gift from mother earth, we ask your Spirit to transform our complaints into a joyous passion for abundant life.

As we complain about conflicts: shape our collective strength, resistance in the face of corrupting forces, and capacity to find just solutions for all.

As we complain about the regulations and limitations due to the pandemic: mold our behavior with consideration for others.

As we complain if there aren't any tortillas or if there are only tortillas to eat: send us reminders to appreciate the food on our tables, care for our soil and native seeds, respect for those who toil in the field, the hospital, or the market.

We recognize that complaining is the default response of an oppressed people, a people whose identity is trapped in the pain of victimhood.

Give us wisdom to find the grains of truth hidden in our complaints and strength to heed your call action: claiming freedom, naming injustice, affirming dignity, and caring for all your creation.

Amen



Mission Stewardship Moment from Mexico:

Apapachar is a word that comes from the culture of the Nahuatl people of Mexico. It means to give gentle attention or make someone feel special through words or actions: literally "to caress with the soul." When we receive a special blessing, we say that God has *apapachado* us.

The pandemic has mainly affected the elderly and shut-ins. Facilitators from the Roots in ruins: hope in trauma program based at the Institute for Intercultural Research and Study in Chiapas, Mexico, suggested a way to reach out to people who might not have access to digital platforms.

Volunteers make telephone calls, share a Bible reading, listen to personal stories, and pray. Weekly "journal entries" suggest a topic along with Bible verses, questions, mind-body exercises, and meditations. These entries are written by people connected to the Roots in the ruins program from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Chile, and the United States. Callers learn that *acompañamiento* or "companioning" as described by Alan D. Wolfelt in *Companioning philosophy* is a way to let people know they are not alone. It is also a two-way blessing. A pastors' wife from the Disciples Church in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, writes, "I was nervous about calling an elderly woman whom I did not know well. Now God has given me the gift of friendship with a wise woman."



Has God blessed you an *apapacho*, a gentle caress of the soul, this week? Find a way to share that *apapacho* with someone else!