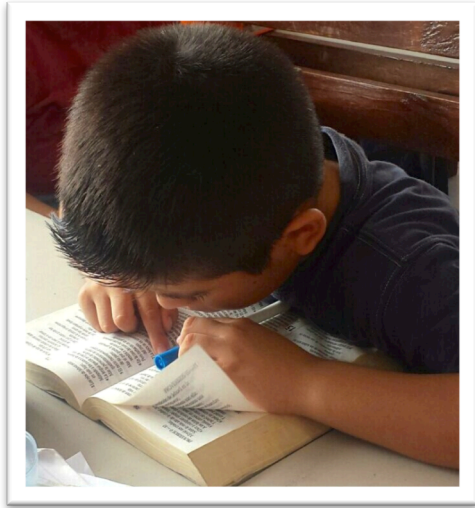


AMO MÉXICO™

Children being nurtured by God's Word through the AMO® Program

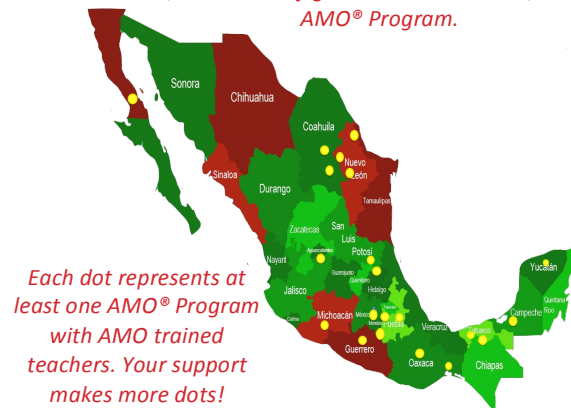


In México, in March of 2014, an important new chapter began for parents and church leaders for nurturing children with biblical Christian principles for *wholistic* Christian transformation of individuals, families, communities and the nation.

The AMO® training, *Biblical Principles for Christian Education and AMO® Program*, published by Chrysalis International, is the five-day beginning to a lifetime apprenticeship of learning and teaching of inspired education for children. It has been used on a limited, yet successful, basis in México since 2006. However, a lack of *trainers* in Mexico limited growth.

Now, volunteers from Mexico and United States have joined to form *AMO México*. A ministry dedicated to

In México, over 1500 children are learning biblical principles, Christian character, noble vocabulary, art, Christian self-government and more, through AMO® Program.



preparing and discipling AMO Trainers throughout México to train parents and teachers for sustainable, inspired, biblical Christian education for children, using AMO.

The first Mexican AMO Trainer has trained 320 adults. Children learning through AMO have increased 60% (1500+). Now, four more AMO Trainers are in the final stages of preparation.

Because they will teach multitudes of parents and other teachers, over time, their careful preparation is important. Parents and teachers in churches around the nation are calling for more of these Trainers. Join in prayer and support for *AMO México* and a greater education for children.

Seminaries Now Using *Apacienta Mis Ovejas – AMO®*

This year, two seminaries in Mexico have entered into agreements with Chrysalis International to begin offering Christian Education courses. Dependent on biblical principles and the Holy Spirit, the AMO courses inspire vision and skill. *Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano "San Pablo,"* of Mérida, Yucatán, is offering a special certification in Christian Education

for those who successfully complete the year-plus *AMO Trainer of Teachers* course and practicum or, they can earn six credits towards a Masters degree. In Tabasco, *Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano del Sureste*, is offering three undergraduate credits to those successfully completing the five-day training *Biblical Foundations of Christian Education and AMO® Program*.

Testimonies from Around México

PÁTZCUARO, MICHOACÁN – Entire regions of this state are controlled by Drug Cartels. Many families here experience generations in poverty of spirit, mind, and body. Alejandro and Veronica are pastors for such families among the poorest of neighborhoods in Pátzcuaro.

“Since we attended the AMO Apprenticeship, two years ago in Mexico City, we understand better how to nurture the children spiritually and educationally,” says Alejandro. Veronica adds, “many of our children don’t go to school and some have special needs. Many families have grave problems. When a child stops coming, usually something has happened. Sometimes it’s family violence. We then visit the family to help.”

Veronica says, “Berenice is physically handicapped and doesn’t go to school. Her greatest

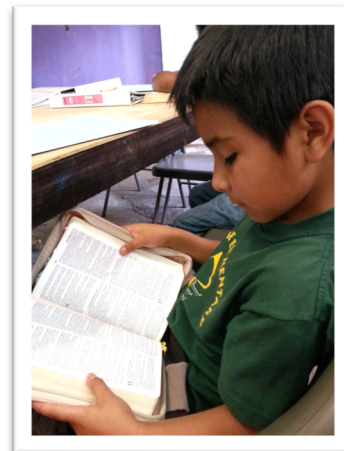
desire is to learn to read. Our AMO Program has helped a lot with her reading. Many children are alone at home all day and families don’t have resources to send them to school.” The couple wants AMO training for their church members.

In response, we conducted the apprenticeship there in 2014 with a follow-up this year, and another apprenticeship planned for 2016. Eight more adults representing two churches have been trained, so far. During the apprenticeship they expressed that healing was taking place in their own hearts. Now, a second church is getting involved.

The small church, *El Divino Redentor*, downtown, has begun its own AMO Program. “Our members are very excited and the children really enjoy the classes,” says Isis Olivares, AMO teacher. Margarita Reyes, who was also trained and teaches with Isis, says, “This is a great blessing, a great program and a new start for us.”



Veronica and Alejandro Melgoza and one of their students



Mexico City area, home to 21 million people

MÉXICO CITY - Priscila Zepeda, teacher at Rio de Agua Viva Church, says her teaching has changed greatly. “AMO has served me tremendously, not just with my classes, but also in my personal life,” says Priscilla. “Before I learned to work with the AMO Compact (a covenant agreement between the students and teacher, based on Christ’s authority and guidance), I was constantly shouting ‘sit down! be quiet! pay attention!’ etc. Now the children and I are learning to govern ourselves with God’s help. They know what to do and they are motivated from within. It has made a big difference,” says Priscilla. Another challenge

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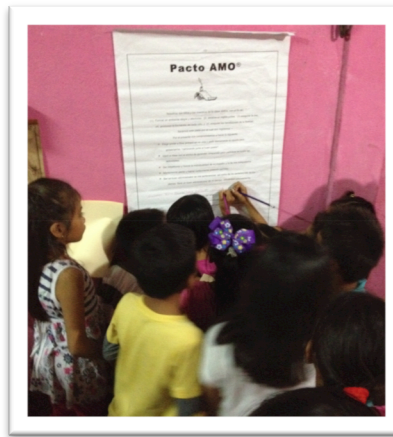
Children in AMO in the state of Michoacán



AMO Apprenticeship in Mexico City



AMO Apprenticeship in the state of Hidalgo



Children in Juchitán, Oaxaca, signing the AMO Compact for learning Christian Self-government

More Testimonies from Around México

SANTA MARIA ATZOMPA, OAXACA – Elizabeth Bermudez works with children in three neighborhoods using AMO. Many of her children are from non-Christian families. “The children are responding to the program with enthusiasm and consistency in their attendance. Two brothers walk thirty minutes to attend classes and they do so even when it is raining,” says Elizabeth. “There are lots of difficulties in their parent’s marriage. The boys pray for them and take home the *AMO Blessing and Prayer* cards.” Mothers are getting involved with the program providing refreshments and helping out in other ways. The church leaders have also responded by encouraging others to attend the AMO Apprenticeships. *Note: We ask your prayers for Elizabeth as she studies to become an AMO Trainer.*

HUITZITZILINGO, HIDALGO – Sareth Martinez began her AMO Program with the youth in her

church. The biblical principles that are taught transcend age groups so the questions for biblical reasoning challenged her group. Also, their careful response to signing the AMO Compact indicated they take the program seriously.

Assuring that parents intentionally bless and pray for their children is one of the goals of AMO. When asked ‘how many of you have been intentionally blessed by your father?’ none of the teens raised their hands. Sareth later sent them home with the *AMO Blessing and Prayer* cards with instructions for the parents.

One boy denied that he had a father when asked if his father had ever blessed him. Sareth, knowing that the father is an alcoholic and abuses the boy’s mother, was able to counsel and pray with the teen. He later

Continued...

HUITZITZILINGO, HIDALGO

(continued)

reported that his father responded to his request and blessed him!

A priority in AMO is for teachers to develop close relationships with the student's parents to share the biblical principles used. Principles such as; parents are the primary educators of their children and that each child has great potential, purpose, and individuality given by God.

LOMAS DE SANTA ROSA, OAXACA ~ Gabriela Gomez is a leader in education at *Nueva Vida Church*. She reports her students are benefitting from the Christian self-government principles she learned through the training. "Two of the children in our church would never sit still. During worship they ran everywhere. No one could do anything. It has taken time working with them but, now they are able to sit quietly on their own," says Gabriela regarding improvement of the children's internal sense of limits and freedoms based on God's authority in their lives. Parents are also responding.

She adds, "Citlali, is a young girl that has always been consistent in our church's Sunday school but her parents were never involved and rarely attended worship. Once we began sending home the *Prayer and Blessing* cards, we saw a change. Her parents are now attending worship and are much more involved in the work of the church."

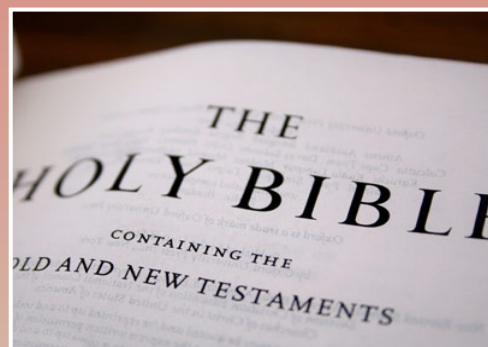
MÉRIDA, YUCATÁN ~ Rubí Hernandez, one of the first to be trained in her state, says, "We have been using AMO for a month now. It has been beautiful to see how the children arrive with such enthusiasm and desire to learn. We've had two new children join who are from non-Christian families and we are praying these families will soon join us. When we asked the children if they had given the *Blessing and Prayer* cards to their parents, they responded that they had and that tears came to their eyes when their parents placed their hands on their heads to bless them."

AMO® Curriculum and Sustainability



The AMO® curriculum consists of teacher's guides with prescribed lesson plans each grounded on a biblical principle.

There are numerous guides for classic literature and the fine arts, the Bible as a reader for reasoning, and Christian History



Those trained in AMO® are taught that they, too, can write their own curriculum based on biblical principles, encouraging sustainability. Through study, research, and revelation from God's Word, parents and teachers are inspired to develop their own curricular units.

MÉXICO CITY (continued)

was handling an age range from six to twelve years old. Teaching by principles, instead of just conveying information, is key.

"I'm working with children of various ages. I've found it easy to adapt the lessons. While older children are reading or working on other activities, I work with the smaller children who are learning to write. It has worked well. Everyone's engaged." says Priscilla. AMO also uses the *Notebook Method*™.

Priscila says, "Keeping the notebook motivates the children to attend regularly because they don't want to miss adding their work to it." The children record their learning and can share it with others. Two of her students have strengthened their family's involvement in the church in this way.

One family had a habit of moving from church to church until their twelve-year-old daughter, Julieta, announced "you can go to another church if you want, but I'm staying here! I like my classes and I want to continue." Julieta told her cousin, Evelyn, about her experience and now Evelyn is attending. "Evelyn and her family had never attended church or heard God's plan of salvation. Evelyn has accepted Jesus Christ into her heart and her family is now coming to church" Priscila added.

Priscila has plans for the future. "I have ideas to expand the class in its areas of art and music based on the same lessons. The leaders in the church have also devoted resources to improve and expand our classroom space."

Linda Gonzalez, leader at Rio de Agua Viva Church, was trained in 2012. "AMO has been an answer to prayer," said Linda. "I shared the vision of AMO with the congregation. That's when Priscila got involved and the congregation added a third floor to our small building for the children. All of this work with the children has improved our outreach to the neighborhood," says Linda.

What we are Hearing

The following are comments are from parents and teachers in México:

"I came (to the AMO Apprenticeship) thinking I was just going to learn a children's program, but my life was changed!" ~ Chevy Cruz, father of one, missionary, Oaxaca, Oaxaca

"We can't adequately lead our children to places we've never been. This is a beautiful time for us as teachers to experience renewal and follow the Spirit and Word of God into areas we haven't been before." ~ Alejandro Melgoza Sanchez, father of three, Pastor at Casa de Gloria Church, Pátzcuaro, Michoacán



Lessons in geography for children in Campeche – AMO helps students and teachers follow God's wisdom into many different areas and subjects.

"In the beginning, the children's lessons seemed to end up everywhere, except in their notebooks. Now, the children are placing their work in its proper place and they are relating prior lessons with the one they just learned." ~ Veronica Bedolla, mother of three, Pátzcuaro, Michoacán

"We began working with the children and the parents, seeing transformation and joy, asked

Continued...

What we are Hearing (continued)

'what is going on?' We then started a class for the parents!" ~ Arturo Rodriguez, father of three, México City

"This is wonderful, first and foremost, for my family because, the (offensive) manner in which my nieces and nephews speak is concerning." ~ Veronica, aunt and Sunday school teacher, Oaxaca.

"The program is very biblical and inspiring. We really need that." Gloria Viveros, mother of three, future AMO Trainer, Mexico City

"This program has help me in being a better teacher and, since I love literature, it has confirmed my desire to be a writer" ~ Yediael Borbolla, 16 years old, Nueva Vida Church, Oaxaca.

"I began working with children simply because I loved them. Now I have a good foundation to work from." ~ Ruth Pérez Silvestre, teenage teacher at Nueva Vida Church, Oaxaca.



Dr. Jose Gonzalez of Semilla, the main speaker at MeXED

MeXED 2015

Our September *Christian Education and Discipleship in Mexico* (MeXED) gathering was graciously hosted this year by *Seminario Teológico Presbiteriana del Sureste* (STPS), of Nacajuca, Tabasco. Leaders there included MeXED as part of their week celebrating the Seminary's 30th anniversary of faithful service to churches throughout Mexico.

A very special highlight of the event was the commissioning and blessing of the four new Mexican AMO Trainers for *Biblical Foundations of Christian Education and AMO® Program* (the five-day training for parents and leaders). Two pastors, from different denominations, conducted the ceremony, which was very moving. While these dedicated women are still in the final stages of being certified as trainers, we, at AMO México, look forward to walking with them as they disciple their nation.

Please, pray for Elizabeth Bermudez, Esther Suarez, Gloria Viveros and Elizabeth Aguilar, as they finish nine months of study, practicum, and final evaluation scheduled for June 2016. Each of these women will, over time, train multitudes of adults to better disciple children and youth for God's *wholistic* transformation of individuals, families and the nation.

Many of the 150 participants of MeXED expressed thanksgiving for the quality of the teaching and the opportunity to envision, with others, God's restoration of families and the nation. Thanks go to Jose Antonio Alvarez, of Semilla and part time professor at STPS and Gordon-Conwell Seminary, who assembled the excellent group of lecturers.

Our main speaker was Dr. Jose Gonzalez, of Semilla, who taught from his book *Machismo and Matriarchy: The Toxic Roots*, affecting families throughout Latin America.

Continued...

MeXED 2015 (continued)

Other speakers included: Dr. Alvin Padilla and Dr. Milton Nuñez of Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Dr. Ascanio Pegueiro of Pastoral Medical Association, Dr. Huascar de la Cruz of Tabasco, Dr. Cuauhtémoc Angulo Pineda of Tabasco, Lic. Jose Lucero Ramirez, Professor of Law at UNAM, our own Dr. Francelia Chavez de McReynolds of Mexico City, Dr. Jill Thrift of Chrysalis International, Pbro. Amós Cahuich and Pbro. Aldo Chalé of San Pablo Seminary in Mérida, Pastor Abimael Borbolla of Nueva Vida, Assemblies of God Church in Oaxaca, and Dean of Academics, Pbro. Juan Marcos de Leon Sanchez, of STPS.

We invite you to join MeXED. In September 2016 we'll meet at San Pablo Seminary of Mérida, Yucatán. Please, pray for this gathering, which represents the uniting and strengthening of biblical discipleship ministries, in their various forms, from both nations. *Contact Chris McReynolds by calling (830) 719-5812 or email mexico@amoprogram.com for more information.*

Francelia introducing Esther Suarez, future AMO Trainer, at the AMO Apprenticeship in Puebla



Students demonstrating self-portraits at Centro Educativo de Puebla, founded by teachers inspired through the AMO



Pastors Aldo Chalé (L) and Abimael Borbolla (R) blessing and commissioning the new AMO Trainers for Mexico



Children in Michoacán listening, imagining, and learning biblical principles from classic literature as they color.

A word to our friends...

"It's our privilege and blessing to work alongside families and churches from México and the United States in this discipleship ministry. Parents and others are inspired and informed by the Word of God in their role as educators. We help them study biblical principles that equip them further. Parents, who never felt capable before, are now teaching children using the Bible and opening their hearts and minds to a world of learning. We're committed to raising up many more to help parents and churches all around the nation.

*Please, pray for us, for México, and for all those working to impart new vision – **God's vision** – for children, families, churches, communities and the nation. We **thank you** and invite your support" Chris and Francelia McReynolds.*

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