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## Tampico Graduation

Last weekend we drove 500km to Tampico to attend a MOCLAM graduation. Frequent readers of Sholla will have heard of Tampico before. It is a city on the Gulf of Mexico where Pete has been travelling regularly to teach classes organised by Rolando. (You might have met Rolando via video during our last home assignment.) Rolando is a pastor and a church planter. He leads a small network of churches and sees the importance of careful and thorough formation of new leaders. Theological education is an important aspect of this work.

Pete first met Rolando in 2010, and in November 2011 the MOCLAM classes started with 8 students. 7 years later they are all graduating with the final certificate! They have studied faithfully, working through the 18 subjects to receive the Certificate of Theology.

The group is made up of a 2 pastors of planted churches, a couple of members of a neighbouring church and members of Rolando's church who are involved in various types of leadership and teaching. A key reason for the success of the group is that their pastor (Rolando) saw that the studies are so important, he was as keen a student as the rest of the group, organising and participating in all the classes. As you can see from the photo they vary greatly in age, but all share a desire to know God better through his word and serve others.

During the graduation it was great to hear their testimonies (often with tears) of what they have learnt and how their studies have been a blessing to them.

It was also encouraging to meet several people who are now studying, being taught by Rolando and others – the next generation of MOCLAM students is growing!



Pete, Sarah, Kenya and Rolando

The time we had in Tampico was a great reminder of the importance of long term investment in the lives of the people we serve. Seven years of visits, teaching, sharing meals and being at church together has produced the wonderful fruit you see in these pictures.



## Please pray

- Give thanks for the MOCLAM students in Tampico and pray that they continue to grow in their love and service of the Lord.
- Pray that all of the graduates will continue to look for opportunities to teach the Bible to others.
- Give thanks for Rolando and his faithful, humble leadership. Pray for him as he discipless other pastors.
- Give thanks for the 3 Bible study groups where Sarah is studying Psalms with women.
- Give thanks for a 2 day preacher training conference here in Monterrey with Leadership Resources International. Pray that most will follow through on their commitment to come to training every 6 months for 2 years.
- Pray for Pete as he goes to speak at a pastors' conference in Lima (teaching Ephesians with Nick and Kysha Davies) and then to a planning meeting in Havana.
- Give thanks for spectacular song and dance shows that Lucy and Miriam have been performing in these weeks (9 shows in 9 days for Lucy plus exams!),
- Give thanks for Karina's involvement in good ways to serve in Sydney.

## Bible

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. Rev 7:9

*A world that knows Jesus*