

**A commentary about the Dramatization,
La Historia de Nuestras Vidas,
by Juventino Lopez Pichia**

It was a night in the month of November...when we were sitting in the living room and we made many comments relating to our lives in Guatemala and in Mexico and also [about] the time we were in jail and how they treated each one of us...and there we were, recording our stories when all of us companions thought, if there was a way to present to the people how they had treated us in the jails in the form of a theater...so that we could give a bit back to our families because it had been almost 8 months we had not been working and all this time we could not put bread on the tables of our families. But we thought the story of our time in jail was very small, and so we decided to share our idea with Luz Maria, David, Alex, Kati, Mega, and Amanda, and they were very interested in this idea and so we began to get together 2 times per week in order to write our stories [from our lives] in Guatemala and Mexico. That part, for me, was not very interesting, because I hadn't thought of doing it in that way, but when we finished writing all the stories of our lives, we began to create images. That, at first was difficult for us, but with the writing and ideas from Alex and Kati, who were the most involved in this play, little by little we got going. We spent 2 or 3 months and it began to get more interesting... and the days of the first two presentations were coming up and each day we felt more nervous because we felt that we might not be ready to present the play. But the words of Alex and Kati animated us because they wanted us to present, and then our directors prepared the details and the place for us to do the first presentations. Those were the first steps of the play and for all of us. I never thought of going far with this play. Personally, I feel very happy because already we have presented the play many times and in different places, and we have gotten to meet and share life with many people. But above all, thanks to our directors for representing us and taking interest in our stories, Alex, Kati, Mega, and Amanda. And also to all the people with good hearts from Decorah that supported us in the first steps. Many Thanks.