

What is God's will here at the border?

This is the question we were given to consider during our stay at the border.



When we arrived in Douglas, AZ we were taken to the border wall. The first thing I noticed was the overwhelming presence of razor wire hanging on the wall; wire specifically designed cut through human flesh. Within the claws of the wire I saw an article of clothing – a sign that someone had come over the wall. My first question to myself, and to God, was what kind causes a person to be so desperate that they're willing to endure such pain? Another child of God, created in the image of God.

Together there at the wall we read Ephesians 2:10-22:

“So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being

aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. (NRSV)”





This is the passage I continued to turn to for reflection and prayer through my time at the border. And I kept coming back to the phrase, “So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.”

That night we went through the border crossing into Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico where we slept and stayed during the remainder of our time. When I awoke the next morning at the early hour of 5:00am (thank you jetlag) I looked out my window and was struck by the normalcy. People walking their dogs and others heading into the gym for their morning workout. Just people, being people, living their lives. Children of God, made in the image of God.

And that is what I continued to find throughout our stay. Children of God made in the image of God, living their lives.

Joca, a Presbyterian Minister and co-director of Frontera de Cristo with her bright beautiful smile, and her deep conviction to care for migrants. Marina, the director of the New Hope Community Center who came from Columbia with the Mennonites to serve the children and improve their lives in Agua Prieta. Carlos, Juan, David and Laura from CATPSIC, a drug rehabilitation center and our guides through the Sonoran desert. All the beautiful people we met at our bi-national and bilingual Bible study where we reflected on Psalm 91 together. The migrant families trying to figure out the next steps to a safer life whom we met at the Migrant Resource Center.

Children of God, made in the image of God.

Let there be no hostility between us....we are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are fellow citizens...in the household of God.

