

MCC Mexico/U.S. Borderlands and Migrant Trail Learning Tour 2015

Objective:

This learning tour is designed to bring awareness about the increasing migrant deaths, militarization, environment degradation, effects on habitat and effects on sister communities by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. Borderlands. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues.

MCC and our Borderlands partners¹ will be leading a five day Borderlands Learning Tour on Wednesday, May 20 to Sunday, May 24, prior to the start of the Migrant Trail. Below is a tentative description of what the Learning Tour will include. The cost of the Learning Tour is \$400 for the five days, which includes all meals, modest lodging and transportation on sites. We will cross the border to Mexico, so you will need to bring your passport. We are planning a meeting with Border Patrol (BP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. **We will need full name, passport number, birthdate and full address by April 17 in order to process participants' clearance.**

For more information for the delegation, please email SauloPadilla@mcc.org or JorgeVielman@mcc.org or call Jorge/Saulo at 574-534-4133.

Group Leaders: Saulo Padilla, Jorge Vielman and Jack Knox

¹ Visits and activities at the Borderlands are being planned and led in collaboration with our friends from *Frontera de Cristo* (Mark & Miriam Adams) and *Shalom House* (Jack & Linda Knox), two ministries working with migrants and providing radical Christian hospitality in Douglas/Agua Prieta.

Tentative Schedule

MCC Borderlands Learning Tour/Delegation in Partnership with Frontera de Cristo

May 20 - 24, 2015

Wednesday, May 20/Miércoles 20 de Mayo

Airport Arrivals: Please make flight arrangements to arrive by 5 PM

6:30 PM Dinner and ICE visit orientation with Tina Schlabach

Thursday, May 21/Jueves 21 de Mayo

7:00 AM Breakfast at Shalom Mennonite church

7:30 AM Departure to Eloy Detention Center

9:00 AM Tour of detention center facilities with ICE

12:00 PM Lunch

1–3:00 PM Meeting with Florence Project staff/attorneys assisting immigrants at the Eloy Detention Center

3:00 PM Depart to Douglas (border) – brief stops at Tombstone and Bisbee mine

7:00 PM Dinner

Friday, May 22/Viernes 22 de Mayo

7:30 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM Prayer at the border wall and Douglas cemetery visit

9:00 AM Frontera de Cristo: Border infrastructure tour and context for ministry

U.S. Coordinator Mark Adams will greet the group and lead them on a tour of the border infrastructure designed to “secure” the U.S./Mexico border. The tour will culminate overlooking the Sulphur Springs Valley at the high spot of Border Road. Participants will engage in conversation about the history of immigration in the valley, the impact of border security and the way in which the groups the delegation will engage with have been affected.

10:30 AM U.S. Border Patrol Station tour

The Douglas Border Patrol Station is the largest employer in Douglas employing more than 600 persons. The Station tour will include an opportunity to hear how the BP is seeking to enforce our immigration drug laws and will allow for time for questions and answers.

12:30 PM Lunch and visit permaculture project at Dougla-Prieta Works

Participants will volunteer at the community garden. Here they will get a chance to see a community working together to create sustainable programs such as community gardens and local structures. Participants are given the chance to see how they are able to use permaculture in action.

2:30 PM Visit and conversation in Agua Prieta

Visit one of the main employers in the formal sector in Agua Prieta and have conversations about NAFTA, economics and migration.

4:00 PM Café Justo

Participants will learn about grassroots and sustainable solutions to immigration by touring the coffee roasting facility, drinking delicious coffee, speaking with Daniel Cifuentes, one of the founders of this “more than fair trade” initiative, and interacting with other employees.

6:00 PM Dinner with Familia

Both Oscar and Carmina migrated to Agua Prieta to work in the factories. Oscar, originally from Obregon, Sonora, works in Takata, a seat belt making factory. Carmina, originally from Salvador Urbina, Chiapas (the community where Café Justo was formed), now works in the offices of Café Justo. They are members of the Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church and Carmina is the secretary of the Board of Café Justo Cooperative

Return to Shalom House for lodging

Saturday, May 23/Sábado 23 de Mayo

8:00 AM Breakfast with Mexican Consulate Representative at Jack and Linda's and prayer at the border wall

10:00 AM Agua Para La Vida

Meet Director Raul Garcia and individuals from Center for rehabilitation on alcohol and drugs abuse (CRREDA); brief tour of the facility and then head out to the desert. Participants will spend time working with local members of this group to put fresh water in the desert for migrants who are crossing the border. We walk in the footsteps of migrants who have traveled this path before. Picnic lunch in the desert with our friends from CRREDA/Water for Life. Picnic lunch prepared by Centro Comunitario Nueva Esperanza.

3:00 PM Migrant Resource Center orientation

The Migrant Resource Center is a ministry of Frontera de Cristo and Sagrada Familia in partnership with dozens of other churches, businesses, individuals and organizations.

Coordinator Betto Ramos and volunteers will give an overview of the center that has served over 77,000 men, women and children since it was founded in June of 2006.

4:30 PM Debriefing experiences in Plaza Azueta enjoying some Aguas Frescas, Nieves y/o paletas

6:00 PM Dinner and conversations at CAME/ Border Patrol agent

Participants will serve the guests of the CAME (Centro de Atencion Migrante Exodo) a ministry of the Sagrada Familia Parrish in Agua Prieta. Participants will eat and have conversations with the guests. After the meal, the leadership of CAME will give an overview of the ministry and respond to questions.

Overnight at Shalom House

Sunday, May 24/Domingo 24 de Mayo

7:00 AM Breakfast

7:30 AM Drive to Tucson, participate at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship's Sunday worship and blessing to Migrant Trail Walkers

After lunch Visit to Saguaro National Park

5:00 PM Migrant Trail orientation at Presbyterian Church

Stay at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship on Sunday night.

Monday, May 25/Lunes 25 de Mayo

Breakfast and head to Presbyterian Church to load support vehicles and press conference.

Ride to Sásabe for lunch, Mass and start Migrant Trail Walk.

THE LEARNING TOUR WILL OFFICIALLY END ON SUNDAY AT 12PM.
HOWEVER, LEARNING TOUR PARTICIPANTS WHO DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST DAY OF THE MIGRANT TRAIL WALK CAN STAY, SLEEP AT SHALOM MENNONITE CHURCH AND WILL RETURN TO TUCSON MONDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING AFTER WE HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER AND WALKED FIVE MILES TO THE FIRST CAMP SITE AT BUENOS AIRES NATIONAL PARK.

PLEASE MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ON MONDAY, MAY 26 AFTER 8:00 PM OR FOR DEPARTURE ON TUESDAY MORNING.

For those interested in walking the Migrant Trail after the LT:

Migrant Trail: We Walk for Life (2015)

May 24- 31, 2015

Our Vision:

The precarious reality of our borderlands calls us to walk. We are a spiritually diverse, multi-cultural group who walk together on a journey of peace to remember people, friends and family who have died, others who have crossed and people who continue to come. We bear witness to the tragedy of death and of the inhumanity in our midst. Lastly, we walk as a community, in defiance of the borders that attempt to divide us, committed to working together for the human dignity of all peoples.

Join us for the seventh annual 75-mile journey from Sásabe, Sonora to Tucson, Arizona in solidarity with our migrant sisters and brothers who have walked this trail and lost their lives. We bear witness to the lives that are lost, the families who mourn and the communities that suffer the divisions that borders wreak on all of us.

Monday, May 25th, 2:00pm:

Sásabe, Sonora:

Join us for the first 5 miles of the Migrant Trail. We will begin at 2pm, crossing the border.

Carpools will leave Southside Presbyterian Church (317 W. 23rd Street) in Tucson, AZ at 11am.

Sunday, May 31, 11:30am:

Tucson, Arizona:

Join us for the welcoming celebration as participants complete the 75-mile journey, bearing witness to the gauntlet of death that has claimed more than 5,000 men, women and children on the U.S.-México border.

Migrant Trail Registration

Click [here](#) to visit the Migrant Trail website for more information about the Walk and Registration.

<http://azmigranttrail.com/registration-documents/>

The suggested donation for participating in the Migrant Trail is \$8.00 – \$10.00 per day (sliding scale) for a total of \$56.00 – \$70.00 for the entire week.