

# In the Migrant Journey

by Saulo Padilla

I walk with my brothers and sisters in desolation.  
Are you here God?  
Please don't be far.  
I am afraid and my soul is trembling.  
You cried in Gethsemane, come cry with me.

Many hunt for us and we are accused of breaking the law;  
You have been persecuted,  
come be our witness,  
defend our cause.

Make known the roots of our suffering and the causes of our journey.  
Make public that our intentions are in accord to your law.

Intercede for those who walk with us in this path.  
Make their rights be known,  
and their voices be heard.

Guide the feet of those who get lost.  
You know the darkness.  
Hold our hands.  
In the dim night shine your light and direct our path.

Restore the lands of our ancestors.  
Bring justice to our people.  
Pour rain on their crops,  
and give them peace to harvest their fruit.

Anxiety and fear are our companions in our journey;  
replace them with peace and hope.

Nurture our spirits while we are far from home.  
Be with our loved ones.  
Do not let time erase the way back home,  
so that we may not live in exile forever.

The desert is arid and thirst awaits us.  
You know the desert.  
You've been exiled.  
Come walk with us,  
and bring a fountain of justice into our lives.

Sow seeds of peace and justice in the hearts and minds of those who resist our journey.  
Let us be seeds of peace and hope in our new home, this land of our exile. Amen.

*Saulo Padilla is MCC U.S. Director, Office on Immigration Education. He lived as a political refugee with his dad, mom and four siblings, in Mexico for 3 months in 1980, then as an immigrant in Canada from 1986 to 2001, and now as an immigrant in the United States since 2001.*