



# FAITH matters

**March 24, 2025**

I had the privilege of being a part of the mission delegation sent by this church to Frontera De Cristo, a PCUSA border ministry located in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. We arrived on January 20, 2025. Our stated purpose was “to become better informed about the border crisis and experience the hope and joy of this ministry so that we could become more equipped to share that hope and joy with others.”

Our journey was both an educational and spiritual experience. As we gathered next to the border wall in Douglas on our first evening there, it was cold and windy. Concertina barbed wire was coiled and draped along the top of the American side of the border wall. A migrant’s hat clung to the wire, swaying in the wind. As the howling wind pierced through my heavy winter jacket, I began to wonder about how migrants in search of a better life could endure such bitter cold in the desert that night. Nearby a border patrol agent sat in his pickup, idling his engine. I wondered whether he would intervene in our devotion time at the border wall or if he was just trying to stay warm, like we were trying to do.

Then I was asked to read Ephesians 2: 11-22. It speaks of the unity created between Jews and Gentiles brought about through the love of Christ as well as God’s intentions for our lives. Verses 14-16 spoke volumes to me that night. “For he (Christ) is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down ***the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.*** He has abolished 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 groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.”

Verses 19-22 conclude, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are 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 are also built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”

I was left with a profound sense of how we as a nation have fallen short of realizing this peace which comes through reconciling with our neighbor, and through disarming the hostility that separates us, like a dividing wall. I was also struck by the good intentions that God has for our lives, as demonstrated in this scriptural passage. While I felt spiritually and emotionally shaken by this experience, I also believe God wants us to live in harmony and peace together as children of God.

While this border wall is made of concrete and rebar, I asked myself, “What walls do we build within ourselves that may separate us from the love of God?” A wall of self-reliance, at times, when we are convinced, we can “make it” on our own. A wall of disdain or intolerance for those who think and believe differently than we do. Perhaps a wall of pride, when we are convinced, we have all the right answers.

As we reflect on when we miss the mark, when we fail to live up to the glorious promises of living Christlike lives, when we become aware of walls of hostility we have built, let us pause to reflect, to reorient ourselves toward our true north, and to ask for forgiveness from our loving God, and to marvel at the good life God intends for us to live. Amen.

~Written by Tom Webster

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