



Waterford Mennonite Church | April 22, 2018

# buzz

---

## **Borderlands Learning Tour: Encounters Across the Wall**

*Borderlands Learning Tour participants (7 adults and 3 youth) will report orally in the Apr. 29 worship services. Over the next three weeks the Buzz will provide glimpses into the learning tour on Encounters at the Wall, Encounters Over the Wall, and Encounters with Migrants. Following is 8th grader Camila Pérez Diener's reflections on Encounters Across the Wall.*

I always love traveling and this trip was even better because I was able to learn and have fun at the same time. Our trip to the borderlands included two days in Agua Prieta, Mexico. First, we went to Café Justo, a cooperative of farmers who grow coffee and also control the entire process by hiring people to roast, package, market, and ship it to customers around the world including the Electric Brew! We got the chance to share in devotions, see the roasting process and buy some of their products.

Another really cool place we visited was DouglPrieta. It is a cooperative that, like Cafe Justo, provides jobs in the community, thus keeping families together so they don't need to migrate to the US. Women learn gardening (permaculture) and sewing skills. They make beautiful bags, cute hot pads, hats, aprons and more. Men learn woodworking skills.

We also spent time at CRREDA, a rehabilitation center for drug and alcohol addicts. It was really interesting to hear people's stories and perspectives. One thing they are really proud of is that they take care of anyone who wants help for as long as they need to stay, even though they don't have insurance and can't pay for services. It was amazing to realize that people at CRREDA who have been drug addicts, are some of the most caring people on earth.

We also toured around Agua Prieta and saw maquiladoras, which are U.S. factories profiting from cheap labor. Joca, a young pastor, gave a presentation that showed how much people make which is about five dollars a day. Part of the learning included experiencing what it is like to buy a meal for seven people with five dollars. So we went to the grocery store to buy ingredients for our meal. The truth is people don't have five dollars for dinner. Those five dollars are for all three meals of the day, water, rent, electricity, school fees, and other expenses. It was really hard to grasp some of the sadness there in Agua Prieta, but it was a good experience to see what life is really like for people living on the other side of the border.

*Photos on back*

## **The Blessing Fence**

Worship Ministry team wants to thank all who brought scarves during our Lenten services. We received a total of 84 scarves. The 18 decorative scarves have been donated to the Depot. Funds from the Depot support the worldwide mission of MCC. The 64 warm scarves and one hat are being stored here until cold weather returns in the fall when they will be taken to the Blessing Fence. This fence is along the sidewalk in front of a home on 6th Street in Goshen. Several years ago during the cold of winter this family began hanging extra scarves, gloves, hats on the fence for whomever might need such an item. It has grown into quite a ministry – many locals have donated items, and even people from out of the area who have heard of this drop things off. A sign on the fence invites those who pass by to "Take what you need...leave the rest. May you always feel warm, cozy and blessed!" Thank you for blessing those who will benefit from having a warm scarf when needed next winter.



**Waterford  
Mennonite Church**

65975 State Road 15  
Goshen, IN 46526  
p: 574 533-5642  
f: 574 533-0879  
office@waterfordchurch.org  
www.waterfordchurch.org

**Staff Team**

**Administrative Ministry**

- Karen Hostetler  
*Secretary*
- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of  
Administrative Ministries*
- Mel Claassen  
*Business Manager*
- JD Smucker  
*Worship Coordinator*

**Facilities Ministry**

- Jan Oostland  
*Facilities Manager*
- Courtney Shetler  
*Custodian*
- Irma Perez  
*Custodian*

**Pastoral Ministry**

- Neil Amstutz  
*Pastoral Team Leader*
- Katie Misz  
*Pastor of Family Life*
- Velma Swartz  
*Pastor of Senior Ministries*
- Cindy Voth  
*Pastor of Community Life*

The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

Sophie Miller,  
editor; 574 903-9158  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org



Ernesto Cambell (center back) resident at CRREDA with our group: Kevin Miller, Bonnie Miller, Lyle Miller, Lorene Miller, Camila Pérez Diener, Maddie Chupp, Denise Diener, Lindsey and Krista Daniels, and Melissa Chupp.



Café Justo manager finishes the roasting process.



The group buys food for a meal on a maquiladora worker's budget.



Women from the DouglPrieta cooperative: Rosalinda, Trini, Maty, Maribel and Miriam, (holding Maty's child Caleb).



Factory workers make brooms from bear grass.