



Waterford Mennonite Church | April 29, 2018

buzz

Borderlands Learning Tour: Encounters with Migrants

Encounters with Migrants, by 8th grader Lindsey Daniels, is the third of three articles written by youth participating in the Borderlands Learning Tour—see previous two issues of Buzz for Encounters at the Wall and Encounters Over the Wall.

In Agua Prieta, we visited C.A.M.E., a migrant resource center where migrant families seeking asylum can go to wait, located just a short walk from the border. We heard about ways they provide support to migrants who are wishing to cross, such as food, clothes and lodging. I was surprised at how important a shower was to the migrants upon arrival because many hadn't been able to bathe for a month.

Once back in Tucson, we had lunch with Rocio, a migrant who spent 1.5 years in a detention center before getting through the legal system and gaining legal status in the United States. She shared her story of how she was a victim of human trafficking and what life was like in the detention center. Rocio is now working, along with Tina, as a leader in a program to visit detainees and give them hope. . .which she didn't have.

We went to a courthouse in Tucson to observe Operation Streamline, a government program to process people, usually young adults, who have crossed the border illegally. They are assigned a public defender that morning, with whom they have only 20 minutes to talk with before going into the courtroom. They are brought in in groups of 7-8, asked questions such as "are you guilty?" and "do you understand your rights?" to which each person, down the line, gives their response. Seeing this process made me feel sad for them, knowing that just because of where I was born, I would never be treated that way.

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Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School

PEACE LAB

June 11-15, 2018

VBS Registration: Sunday, May 6

(Monday-Friday 9:00-11:30 a.m.)

Peace Lab – where kids will discover God's way of peace! Fun activities will help Bible stories come to life and lead children on an awesome adventure, learning to be compassionate peacemakers.

Can you volunteer? We especially need Response time leaders and assistants, preschool class assistants, Worship Leader, Worship musicians and a Snack Coordinator. Sound like fun? It completely is! Call or email Veronica Berkey (vberkey@gmail.com) or 574.971.6566) RIGHT AWAY.

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On our last day, we visited Casa Alitas, a place in Tucson where migrant families can go to wait until they can get to their family or friends in the United States. Casa Alitas helps them arrange transportation and provides space for the kids to play and medical attention if needed. The staff packs bags of snacks and toys for the families to take on their bus trips, which usually take a couple days. Every child who visits gets to pick a stuffed animal to take with them, too. This was a positive ending to a very emotional week.

The Eighth Day in Concert

The Eighth Day, a six-member bluegrass band of Goshen College first-year students, will give a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Bethany Christian Schools. The group includes Simon Hurst and Nathan Berkey of our congregation. The group donated this concert to the MYF Service Auction and the winning bidder is inviting anyone interested to attend for free. Invite your friends. The Eighth Day plays a nice mix of tradition and popular bluegrass with several other musical influences squeezed in. Listen to a sample at [facebook.com/TheEighthDay/](https://www.facebook.com/TheEighthDay/)



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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.

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Lunch with Rocio and Tina in Tucson



Krista Daniels with a young family staying at CAME. We found out a few days later, they crossed and were in the kindness and care of Casa Alitas. Praise the Lord!



Backyard of Casa Alitas