



December 2022

December 21st the border will be closed for everyone!

This is the information that is been spread all over cell phones and media. Immigrants who can move to the USA/Mexico border, are doing it.

On Sunday and Saturday, buses and taxis arrived at the border with thousands of immigrants hoping to cross the border as soon as possible. Usually, the process for an immigrant who wants to cross the border is to go first to the Mexican officials and then to the U.S. government immigration process. This time is different. People are going directly to the actual border and hoping that the official will accept them right there and then. At this moment, the “proper” places of crossing are not being used by this huge group.

People from other countries are crossing, but not from Venezuela. For months, immigrants have camped along the bank of the Rio Grande on the Mexico side, and now the new group is crossing the river and waiting on the U.S. side of the river. The line is so long now, they are waiting. Women, men, and children are taking off their shoes and, like the ancient Biblical story of Israel, crossing into the Promised Land. They are rolling up their pants and parents are taking their children in their arms or by the hand, and crossing through freezing waters. On the Mexican side, we only see chaos, people trying to get through, and we don't know how many can cross into the USA. People seem to hope that this kind of pressure will compel the U.S. government to let them in.

From Pastor Samuel's perspective, we don't know how long this swelling crowd can wait on the other side of the Rio Grande. For several months people have been gathering along the riverbank on the Mexica side; non-profits and Christian organizations like Frontera de Gracia have barely been able to support them with food and goods to protect them from the cold temperatures. As Mexican citizens, we are not able to cross the Rio Grande and bring them food or any other help. We don't know how long they can wait for the U.S. officials to let them in. “I don't know if USA and Mexico governments have control of this situation, this is just chaos for all of us.” – Samuel.

Even so, more and more people are continuing to arrive every day...

Pray. For those waiting in the border, either in Mexico or in the U.S., to find comfort and peace in this Christmas season.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

Pray. For those in leadership roles and pastors who are always finding a way to bring a piece of bread, dry socks, a sweater, water, and a secure place for their guests to rest at night.

Pray. For the governments find ways to care and protect people—all people—at this border.

Merry Christmas!

Angel Lopez