October 2025

"I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me"

Dear Friends in Christ,

At *Frontera de Gracia* ("Border of Grace"), we are daily reminded of Jesus' call in Matthew 25:35:

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Right now, **21 guests** call Frontera de Gracia home—including **four children** (one from Mexico and three from Venezuela) and several adults who have fled hardship to seek safety and a future filled with hope. These families wait faithfully—hoping for changes in immigration laws that might one day open a new path forward. They know the wait could take years. In the meantime, they do what they can: working long hours in our city to support their families, and trusting God to provide.

A couple of years ago, our guests at Frontera de Gracia began to create side jobs to cover needs as they travel and wait at the border. One of these side jobs was washing cars in front of our building—even a local tv station made a noise about it! We had more clients after that, and today it is still a good side job for our families. Interestingly, this year, a new side job has become available for our guests—food delivery! Most Central and South Americans seem more familiar with driving motorcycles than locals. Most able-bodied people at Frontera de Gracia are saving and investing in a motorcycle, which opens a new market of jobs. Buying motorcycles also suggests that people must wait longer times in this city; most of our guests are realizing that the process of crossing into the United States might take several years.

Our team at Frontera de Gracia has also been blessed with **a comparatively slower pace** after months of welcoming huge groups of migrants. With this shift, we've enjoyed a less chaotic time with our shelter guests, sharing day trips, game nights, and other church activities—moments of fellowship and normalcy in an otherwise overextended and all-consuming ministry context.

But life and movement in our border-facing neighborhood **remain dangerous, even though less crowded.** Stricter border enforcement measures mean that those caught near the border are detained and often deported. And yet, new families continue to arrive in Ciudad Juárez, even knowing they cannot cross, but still holding on to faith. They work hard each day and wait—trusting that God sees them.

Now, we face a new challenge—*and* an opportunity.

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.

Our **shelter building needs to be rebuilt** to remain a safe and welcoming place for every person God sends to our door. The existing structure has always been inadequate, and constant overuse has taken its toll on the facility. For over 5 years, the facility has served as both a worship space as well as a place for sleeping, eating, and bathing. The structure has several flaws that prohibit expansion, and we've felt for years that improvements would require new construction. We've prayed for the day when this hope could become a reality.

We have worked hard to develop a plan, and now that we are temporarily experiencing a lower movement of guests to our city, we think this could be a great opportunity to advance this project in anticipation of the needs that will be ongoing in the years to come.

Would you prayerfully consider helping us rebuild Frontera de Gracia? Learn more about this opportunity here.

Your gifts will provide safety, dignity, and hope for those who have nowhere else to go.

Above all, we ask for your prayers:

- Pray that our shelter remains a place of peace, hospitality, and God's presence.
- Pray for both the **Mexican and U.S. governments** that they might show compassion and justice for "the least of these."
- Pray for every man, woman, and child waiting—that they would not lose hope.

If you would like to learn more or partner with us in this work, please write to: **Reconstruyendo-Frontera** to my email at alopez@rca.org— we'll gladly share more about how your support can make a lasting difference.

Thank you for standing with us in faith and love. Together, we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ on the border.

In his grace,

Angel Lopez
Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
RCA missionary