Angel Lopez

A Glimpse of What Your Support Made Possible

The Spirit has moved us all, and by Jesus's grace we are continuing to serve at the border of Ciudad Juarez across from El Paso, Texas. Like after a storm, we are seeing what God has done at Frontera de Gracia. 2025 has been an important year for those waiting at the border. Thanks to your prayers and support, we have been able to show hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ.

Here's a story of one of the many thousands of people waiting at the border: Patricia's journey started in Venezuela. Together with her friends, she crossed borders and arrived in Mexico City, where they began to apply for a visa (CBP1) to legally enter the U.S. After several attempts, they got one! Their appointment was at the end of January 2025, first at Ciudad Juarez, and then they would fly to Houston, Texas. After working long hours in the city, they were able to purchase their tickets; they packed a few things, and their hearts were full of hope. When the day arrived, the bus had mechanical problems and arrived late to the airport. The manager didn't let them in even though they could see the airplane outside. They waited; they asked for options to get on the plane but soon realized there was nothing they could do. One of the challenges that people were not aware of was that, by the end of January 2025, the border was closed, and nobody was entering, even with visas. Patricia and her friends didn't know the laws had just changed, and nobody could explain it to them.

"We felt awful. We saw our airplane there for more than an hour, but we couldn't get another airplane because we had no money to spare and our visa was valid just for that flight." Patricia was one of the hundreds of people who remained in Mexico that day. With broken hearts, they were looking for a place to stay for a couple days while they figured out what to do. By word of mouth, they heard about Frontera de Gracia, and they joined us at our church/shelter.

Perhaps one of the blessings of being a believer in Jesus Christ is that there is always a Word of wisdom, healing, and hope in the book that we love. At the end of January, we visited the Psalmist and borrowed the prayers of Psalm 22, 42, 88, and 102. These ancient words and our table full of food and water became medicine for all of us, for those waiting at the border and for Frontera de Gracia. Today people are joining us and have become a vital part of our local ministry. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Brothers and sisters, the ministry at Frontera de Gracia has been with the *least of these*. Thanks to your generosity and your prayers, your time and your support, we are able to heal the soul and heart little by little, Psalm by Psalm, at the table of grace that is laid before us by our Savior, Jesus Christ. Gracias!

Today Frontera de Gracia has a growing immigrant community. On Sundays, they connect with a local church and create a new community in Christ. We all can see the border, and every day we are

reminded that many in our community are not from here but hope to one day be able to cross the border legally. If you come to visit us someday, you will see for yourself as you drive around Ciudad Juarez that the United States is across the street, literally! So close and so far at the same time, especially for our brothers and sisters who long to cross and be with their friends and family.

In the meantime, with your generosity we are providing a safe place to wait. Our church is always open for those in need. If you need a friend or food, there is always space at our table. If you need a place to celebrate your birthday or your child's birthday, there is always time at Frontera de Gracia. Sometimes there is a need for a doctor or dentist, and there is always a friend at Frontera that can connect you and take you to your appointment. But most of all, if you need prayer, there is always time to talk together to God. Keeping the door open at Frontera has been possible because of you. Nothing is more powerful than the community of Christ working together and praying together for the border of Mexico and the United States.

On Sunday morning at Frontera de Gracia our youth is leading us in worship

With our white van we are transporting food for those guests living with us and those in need in the city.

Our congregation is growing and the number of migrants joining us is also growing.

Challenges of 2025

When the United States closed the border at the beginning of the year, no one was able to cross without a green card or U.S. citizenship. This led to a lower number of migrants arriving in Ciudad Juarez and fewer guests at Frontera de Gracia, which resulted in two interesting outcomes: First, our leaders and pastors began to rest a bit compared to previous years. Resting and taking time off was something that we needed to learn again, but it is important for our bodies, our families, and our

friends. Second, we dusted off an old dream to rebuild the Frontera de Gracia facility by refreshing the cost of material and adjusting our blueprint. Having fewer guests gave us the chance to demolish the current building. Our goal is to build the first floor for Frontera de Gracia *Church* and the second floor for Frontera de Gracia *Shelter*. People who visited us and who had seen our facility were happy and encouraged us to pursue this project. May the Lord God give us the opportunity to create space for those waiting at the border. Gracias for 2025!

Please Pray

- Pray for the people waiting at the border. Most people are wondering if they should go back soon to their home country or continue waiting, in hopes of connecting with their family and friends on the other side of the border.

- Pray for pastors and leaders at the border, that they would find rest and peace with their families.

- Pray for our capital campaign as we continue to invite friends and family to help us with the cost of our Frontera de Gracia facility.