

Hello, this is just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Frontera de Cristo and Café Justo. Don't forget to add mark@fronteradecristo.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox each time! You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

May 16, 2022

16 de mayo 2022

Frontera de Cristo

**Cultivating Relationships
and Understanding
Across Borders**



Students from Albuquerque's Menaul School participated in an Agua Para La Vida water trip on the desert with CATPSIC personnel during Menaul School's Mission Week 2022. [See more photos from Menaul's Mission Week](#)

Dear friends,

"Every number has a name, every name has a story," shared Jill Carmichael, director of mission at National Community Church, at a recent Healing Our Borders Prayer Vigil.

Each Tuesday for the last 21 and a half years, Frontera de Cristo has helped facilitate the Healing Our Borders Prayer Vigil in which we remember. Last Tuesday was May 10—Mother's Day in Mexico—and Bethany reminded us to continue praying for Carmelo Cruz Marcos's mother who had joined us virtually from Puebla with Carmelo's widow and their three children.

"Carmelo didn't go to rob," she cried out, "he went to work hard for his children so they would have a roof that does not leak. I want justice for my son and I want him brought back to me." Carmelo had been shot and killed by a Border Patrol agent in the rugged and remote Peloncillo Mountains just 30 miles east of Douglas/Agua Prieta. [Watch a 2-minute video of our search for the site.](#)

Join us as we pray and work for the day when no mother's child has to risk their life to provide for their children. [Email us](#) if you would like to receive the link to our weekly vigil. [Order coffee](#) from Café Justo and enjoy delicious organic coffee, knowing that the coffee growing families were able to stay on their land together. Contact your elected officials and advocate for a [New Border Vision](#) of encounter, opportunity, and hope.

Peace,
Mark & Joca

We Are All Important

by Marina Forero, Director, Children's Enrichment Ministry

Over the last two months, the Educational Enrichment Ministry has been highlighted in an exhibit of 16 photos at Café Justo y Mas. Sixteen businesses from Agua Prieta sponsored the photographs, which provides not only financial support but also moral support for the ministry. We organized an event for the children and their families, to recognize the good work of Ammi Robles, a young photographer and artist from Agua Prieta, and for the businesses that sponsored this initiative.



Lyssander Sánchez, is one of the children who identifies himself in a photo of the exhibition, like the other children who were captured by the photographic lens and feel important to be seen by the people who visit “Café Justo y Mas.”

One of the principles of the Program is to recognize that *we are all important*, that is, to know that we are present to others, that we do not go unnoticed, and that our existence is particularly enriching for those with whom we share moments. They are the reason why this program was developed.

[Continue reading...](#)



We Welcome Delegations!

We are grateful that the Frontera de Cristo Board of Directors gave us the "go ahead" last fall to begin receiving delegations again, and we have put a number of health and safety protocols in place to make this possible during the pandemic. To schedule your delegation's visit or check on prospective dates, email us: office@fronteradecristo.org.

Recently, we hosted the Senior Class from the Menaul School in Albuquerque—a school that includes, as part of their curriculum, a “[mission week](#)” for each grade level. And we are looking forward to upcoming visits from churches and seminaries that are committed to broadening their understanding of cultivating relationships across borders. Francisco, the bus driver for the week with Menaul, said: "I do not know much of the world, but the world came to me this week. Each one has left something with me and I hope they take something with them from me." There were 13 different countries represented by Menaul students, from Africa, South America, Europe, Asia, and North America.

In unexpected ways, God speaks. This kind of cultural exchange leaves unique and special moments that are not common in our everyday lives. We welcome the warmth of each being and celebrate the differences that enrich us. Thank you to our creator for allowing us to meet along the way.





Bridich Saragos

We are happy to announce that Bridich Saragos is the new assistant coordinator of the Migrant Resource Center.

The FDC Board in partnership with the Migrant Resource Center created the position to support Coordinator Betto Ramos and the incredibly dedicated volunteer team who have kept the center open a minimum of 17 hours a day and welcomed more than 18,000 men, women and children since January.

Bridich, a seminary graduate and former intern of FDC, is from the state of Chiapas. She is bilingual in Tzeltal and Spanish and has raised our awareness of the need to be especially attentive to persons who do not speak Spanish or for whom Spanish is a second language. Tzeltal is a native language of the Mayan Indians of central Chiapas, in southeastern Mexico.

Bridich reflects on a day not long ago, when she realized the need for this understanding: "They entered the patio of the Migrant Resource Center and did not make eye contact. They were quiet and they separated themselves from the group. Then I heard them talk in a language that brought back memories of home. They spoke Tzeltal—my native language. I remembered how I used to feel so excluded because I did not think I spoke Spanish well and I went over to greet them in my language and in their language. I could see that they became more relaxed as we spoke in our first language. They had not made it to their destination, but now they had a safe space to think about what to do next. I love being able to use my language to help others feel more welcome."

More Ministry Reflections



Pastor Lorena

"Would you like a cup of coffee?" It is the question that initiates a relationship of friendship with the relatives of the children of the educational enrichment program. Sip by sip, sorrows, life experiences, and the needs of the soul are shared and lifted to God. The Seed has been deposited very carefully in the hearts of children and adults. Day by day the hope is nourished that in its time will bear fruit, healing lives, restoring souls. The next time you enjoy a cup of coffee (Café Justo, of course), remember the children's ministry in Agua Prieta, raise a prayer so that we might continue to sow faith, hope, and love, with wisdom and grace.



Zeyla

We started journaling together—the women of CATPSIC and I. We call it our 'space for memory and healing.' We can share our regrets and our hopes. I am blessed to be invited in to share a bit of life with these women who have suffered a lot and who continue on their journey of recovery and wholeness. In a recent entry, Maria shared that she missed her children so much that it hurt. "This is a sign that life is returning," she said, "and that I am living in recovery because when I am on drugs I don't pay them any attention." Join us in prayer for Maria and all those who are on the journey of recovery and for those who have not yet begun the journey.

Love Mercy, Do Justice, Order Coffee

Frontera de Cristo and Café Justo developed the Coffee and Compassion program in 2020 in response to the economic downturn due to COVID and the concurrent drop in sales of Café Justo when churches stopped meeting together in person. The program has been an amazing success, and we are grateful to everyone who participates. Hundreds of families in Agua Prieta received assistance with food and other needs over the past two years because you cared.

Why not [order some coffee today](#)? You will enjoy delicious 100% organic coffee cultivated, roasted, and shipped by the Café Justo cooperative. To order by mail instead of online, just download [this form](#).



**Febe Maldonado,
barista at Café Justo y Mas**

Summer's almost here! Do you know how to make café en la roca? It's iced coffee, à la Café Justo y Mas. First, make your ice cubes out of Café Justo (a great way to use up the last of the pot!), and then follow [Febe's instructions](#). Your smile will be as big as hers when you drink it!

Coffee, Conversation, & Compassion

More Conversations

First Thursdays at 4pm (AZ/Sonora)

Join the conversations by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88683455600>

June 2 de junio

**Choosing Welcome in the Face of Rejection:
Migration in the Borderlands**

July 7 de julio

**The Border as a Place of Encounter:
Life and Faith of Frontera de Cristo**



Chiapas, Here I Come! Everyone who joins at least one of our Thursday "conversations" on Zoom between February 3 and July 7 will have their name entered into a raffle for a \$700 scholarship to attend our Border-to-Border Delegation to Chiapas in November (see the flyer below). Participate in two: get your name entered two times. Four? Get your name entered four times. Just one prize will be awarded, but you still have two more chances! Join us on June 2nd for a look at migration in the borderlands and why We Choose Welcome.

Save the Dates for the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of our Border-to-Border Delegation

**20 Years! It's a reason to celebrate,
and celebrate we will!**

**November 5th in Agua Prieta
November 11th in Chiapas**

Save those dates and stay tuned for more information about the celebrations. To download the delegation flyer, click on the image.

To save your spot, fill out this [registration form](#) and mail it in with your \$200 deposit, or you can [register online](#).

2022 BORDER-TO-BORDER DELEGATION:
Coffee, Migration & Faith

Join with Café Justo and persons from both sides of the border on a pilgrimage from the US/Mexico Border to the Mexico/Guatemala border, exploring the connections between coffee, migration, and faith.

From Douglas, Arizona & Agua Prieta, Sonora to Salvador Urbina, Chiapas

- Walk the trails on which many coffee farmers have migrated
- Visit the Just Coffee roasting facility
- Get an overview of the U.S. border policy
- Have conversations with ranching families affected by migration
- Tour the Douglas Border Patrol Station
- Enjoy fellowship and meals with families who have migrated from Chiapas
- Spend time in biblical reflection and prayer
- Have fun at the festa with members of the Just Coffee Cooperative
- Participate in harvesting coffee

- Enjoy fellowship and meals with the families of the cooperative
- Visit the new Café Justo El Aguila Cooperative
- Have conversations with parents whose children have migrated
- Participate in a granger meeting
- Tour the Mexico/Guatemala Border
- Visit the Guadalupe Migrant Center in Tapachula
- Visit local Mayan ruins and butterfly sanctuary
- Visit local markets
- See local waterfalls and popular sites
- Drink lots of great coffee

November 4-12, 2022

- Cost: \$1,700
- \$200 to reserve a spot
- \$800 due September 15
- \$700 due October 15
- Limit 15 participants per trip

For more information or to register, contact Mark at 520-364-9257 or mark@fronteradecristo.org

All expenses included from Douglas, except for two meals on travel days. Based on roundtrip airfares from Hermosillo to Tapachula. We can arrange for a flight back to the airport of your choice with the difference in airfare added to the fee.

Building Relationships Across Borders With a Delicious Cup of Coffee



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[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)