

Coracle: Guatemala and US Border Mission Pilgrimage - October 2019

## Daily Prayer and Reflection for the Journey with the Psalms of Ascents

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Team prepares to leave.

### *Read and Reflect*

**Psalm 120**

**Deliver me, O Lord**

In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

Deliver me, O LORD,  
from lying lips,  
from a deceitful tongue.

What shall be given to you,  
and what more shall be done to you,  
you deceitful tongue?

A warrior's sharp arrows,  
with glowing coals of the broom tree!

Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech,  
that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

Too long have I had my dwelling  
among those who hate peace.

I am for peace,  
but when I speak, they are for war!

### ***Silence***

As the team begins preparations for this journey, may they and we, praying with them, turn our hearts to the spiritual discipline of peacemaking. As this trip serves as an exploratory/education trip, may both the participants and those who support them in prayer hope to become like Jesus, people of peace.

**Pray** Lord, help us to be peacemakers. May we practice peace in our homes and workplaces. Help us especially to be peacemakers as we journey one with the other and to all those we meet along the way. Your word reminds us, that you will keep in perfect peace whose mind is fixed on you. (Isaiah 26:3-4) And may it be true of us, *I am for peace*. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

Team members arrive Guatemala City.

***Read and Reflect***

**Psalm 121**

**My Help Comes from the Lord**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep  
Your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

***Silence***

**Pray** For the team to adjust to altitude, culture and language changes. For energy, strength, courage and openness to learn. Pray for cultural awareness and sensitivity and for unity as the team gathers. Pray for cohesion and singleheartedness and to know that *the Lord will keep* them. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

## **Monday, October 21, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Guatemala City General Cemetery as lens into societal wounds.
- Perspective on garbage dump and those who make their 'living' there
- Walk the community in smaller groups
- See some of their work with families and youth
- See artisans making beautiful works from trash
- Forensic Anthropological Foundation of Guatemala
- Witness the process of reconstruction of human remains recovered from clandestine common graves at massacres sites from civil war
- Visit site in Zone 1 of the martyrdom of Bishop Juan Gerardi
- Night in Guatemala City

### ***Read and Reflect***

#### **Psalm 123**

#### **Our Eyes Look to the Lord Our God**

To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maidservant  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Our soul has had more than enough  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.

### ***Silence***

***Pray*** For the team as they see the sadness, the heaviness, the suffering of others. May they not lose sight of the hope of Christ in the darkness of the world. Sometimes the best prayers are the simplest: *Help, and Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.* (Please now add your own intercessions).

**AMEN**

## **Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Walking tour of Zone 1 sites around main plaza (“Parque Central”)
- CONFREGUA (Center for Catholic Religious Orders and Congregations of Guatemala)
- Meet with key leaders of “Centinelas” and the “Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation” dimension of the Franciscans and all the religious orders of Guatemala.
- Travel to Lake Atitlan
- Stop in Sumpango to see Innerchange missionaries
- Arrive in Panajachel, Lake Atitlan
- Night in Panajachel

### ***Read and Reflect***

#### **Psalm 124**

#### **Our Help is in the Name of the Lord**

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—  
let Israel now say—

if it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
when people rose up against us,

then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;

then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;

then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth!

We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped!

Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

### ***Silence***

**Pray** for the team to know that *Our help is in the name of the Lord*, it is God who is our strength, and makes our feet like the deer and to tread on high places (Habakkuk 3:19). May every place the team walks today be a blessing to the land and to the people in the land. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Santiago Atitlan, Panajachel visit and transfer to Xela.
- Night in Xela

***Read and Reflect***

**Psalm 125**

**The Lord Surrounds His People**

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people,  
from this time forth and forevermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
lest the righteous stretch out  
their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!  
Peace be upon Israel!

***Silence***

***Pray*** Energy, strength and good health for the team. Pray for supernatural discernment and the ears to hear God's voice. May they know that *God surrounds his people*. Thank God for the ways in which God is present. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- See Xela through the eyes of InnerChange missionaries
- Visit detention center where deported unaccompanied minors are held until their family members pick them up.
- Night in Xela

***Read and Reflect***

**Psalm 126**

**Restore Our Fortunes O Lord**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

***Silence***

***Pray*** Lord, as the team visits the detention center, give them prayers to pray for those incarcerated that they will be treated with justice and dignity, remembering that Peter and Paul suffered in prison as well. May our team have a glimpse into daily life for those in search of hope. May those who *sow in tears reap with shouts of joy*. Help the team not fear but rather enter into lament for those who have experienced suffering and injustice. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**Friday, October 25, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Antigua

***Read and Reflect***

**Psalm 131**

**I have Calmed and Quieted My Soul**

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore.

***Silence***

**Pray** For all that the team has seen and experienced in the last week, help them not be overwhelmed by need. Help them remember that in you all things hold together. May they learn, like the Psalmist, how to *calm and quiet their soul* as they trust in you. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**On the Border Mexico and El Paso, Texas**

Acts 18 tells the story of Paul's journey from Athens to Corinth, that great port of the ancient world. Goods could easily cross the narrow isthmus there, facilitating trade more easily around the eastern Mediterranean. It was an ideal location for Paul's strategy of urban evangelism radiating out across the Roman Empire. While there, he met Aquila and Priscilla, one of the most remarkable early Christian couples. These leaders of the faith were, in fact, refugees: the text states clearly that "Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently came from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome." We don't know Priscilla's city of origin, but her husband Aquila was from Pontus, so he had travelled twice -- once to Rome, presumably to seek his fortune, and then to Corinth, nearly as far as he had come.

There are two important things to notice. First, this couple worked with Paul, both in evangelism and as business partners, because they were both tentmakers. Refugees had the right to work, and this couple took full advantage of that. They maintained their dignity and were able to use the resources they gained to help spread the Gospel. Second, later in the chapter, Priscilla and Aquila are now traveling with Paul and came to Ephesus, a major city of Asia Minor. While there, they heard Apollos, "an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures," preach about God. He knew many things about Jesus but

"only the baptism of John" -- his gospel was at that point incomplete. Fortunately, "when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

Think of it: without these refugees and their witness for Jesus, error would have been spread in the early Church. As we listen to the stories of refugees and migrants, what can we learn from them, from their Christian stories? In what ways can we thus learn "the way of God more accurately"? And how can we pray that God will bless the church from the witness and presence of migrants and refugees, both now and for generations to come?

### **Saturday, October 26, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Transfer to Juarez/El Paso, dinner and overnight in El Paso

### ***Read and Reflect***

#### **Psalm 130**

#### **My Soul Waits for the Lord**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

### ***Silence***

***Pray*** O Lord, *hear our voices, hear our pleas for mercy* over El Paso and the Mexican border town Ciudad Juarez. May the Lord strengthen our team this day and give them wisdom to see what is true, give them your heart for justice. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**



## **Sunday, October 27, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Worship service at the border fence - guided meditation, prayers
- Visit border fence in different locations, privately built fence, drive along border highway, El Camino Real landmark (first Spanish crossing into what is now the U.S.)
- Session: Rev. Bethany Rivera Molinar - The Bible and Migration
- Session: Sami DiPasquale - current realities on the US-Mexico border
- Visit migrant shelter in El Paso (depending on numbers of asylum seekers being released)
- Dinner made by Ciudad Nueva neighborhood mom

### ***Read and Reflect***

#### **Psalm 132**

#### **The Lord Has Chosen Zion**

Remember, O LORD, in David's favor,  
all the hardships he endured,

how he swore to the LORD  
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,

"I will not enter my house  
or get into my bed,

I will not give sleep to my eyes  
or slumber to my eyelids,

until I find a place for the LORD,  
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;  
we found it in the fields of Jaar.

"Let us go to his dwelling place;  
let us worship at his footstool!"

Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place,  
you and the ark of your might.

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,  
and let your saints shout for joy.

For the sake of your servant David,  
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

The LORD swore to David a sure oath  
from which he will not turn back:

One of the sons of your body  
I will set on your throne.

If your sons keep my covenant  
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,  
their sons also forever  
shall sit on your throne.”

For the LORD has chosen Zion;  
he has desired it for his dwelling place:

“This is my resting place forever;  
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions;  
I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Her priests I will clothe with salvation,  
and her saints will shout for joy.

There I will make a horn to sprout for David;  
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

His enemies I will clothe with shame,  
but on him his crown will shine.”

***Silence***

***Pray*** Lord, we ask that you would abundantly bless EL Paso and the border area with *your provisions*; will you *satisfy her poor with bread*, that you would heal this city and this region that has suffered such grievous violence and that what was meant for evil may draw people in both nations closer to each other and to you. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

## **Monday, October 28, 2019**

Tentative schedule:

- Visit with Border Patrol at border fence
- Session: Claudia Chavez de la Pena - US Immigration Law 101
- Hope Border Institute - current data on border/migration or Taylor Levy - immigration lawyer - worked on many of the family reunification cases, currently assessing asylum claims at shelters in Ciudad Juarez
- Visit migrant shelter in Ciudad Juarez

### ***Read and Reflect***

#### **Psalm 133**

#### **When Brothers Dwell in Zion**

Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.

### ***Silence***

**Pray** Father, may these sessions today add to knowledge and discernment as to what you are calling your people to do to help those in need on the border. Be with those who are fleeing, those seeking asylum and their families and all those who hold these precious people in their hearts. We pray that those in law enforcement in both countries will do their work with justice and integrity, respecting the full human dignity of those with whom they come into contact. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019**

Team returns home

***Read and Reflect***

**Psalm 134**

**Come, Bless the Lord**

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless the LORD!

May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
he who made heaven and earth!

***Silence***

***Pray*** Lord, we thank you for being with your team on this journey of education, discernment, prayer and worship. Help them now as they travel home to share the love and peace of Christ with others. Give them words to communicate to their friends, family and colleagues all that they experienced as a witness to you. May their worship of you increase. (Please now add your own intercessions.) **AMEN**

**SPACE FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER**