A GLIMPSE FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER

* Intro

1. Thank you for inviting me to speak and my thanks to Jamie for making the power point you will see.
2. Background
3. In 2019, a request for accompaniment was made by Frontera de Cristo to General Assembly of PCUSA who referred it to Presbyterian Peace Foundation who had a an accompaniment program already in Colombia since 2000 where I had already served 2 6 week terms.
4. Geographic placement- Agua Prieta is on the border in high desert across from Douglas AZ
5. The Sonora cartel controlled this area up until 2007. At that time there was a peaceful blending into the Sinaloa cartel through today.
6. The latest violence was in June 2019 which lasted 2 hrs. with quite a few dead.
7. The four main places we functioned in Agua Prieta formed the shape of a rectangle. Inland from the border were: Café Justo and C.A.M.E. immigrant connections. The two closest places to the border were CRM and the Tarp on the border. REFER TO THE SLIDES
8. The liason ecumenical organization is Frontera de Cristo in Douglas.

* 3 individual cases

1. Yugoslavian immigrant-2nd try after TJ
2. Family with two girls 6 and 9-talk with dad while chalk art was going on with Mom. 3rd girl murder in the womb. As my shift ended I referred hid grief to the next shift-2 monks
3. Concerte contracter with 2 children- completed wet job ruined in effort to intimdate cartel membership

1.he made good on the job and moved to her parents town to start over. His business grew so he hired his 15 yr. nephew and got a moped. Cartel found him on his moped boxed him in beat his nephew to death and the contractors nose in an effort to get cartel membership. They left during the night and went to the town of his Grandad to no avail. His grandfather promised safety if he would join the cartel and if not they need to leave and NEVER come back or write where they are . Thus they arrived where I was.

* The best things these Chrisitan entities provide are safety and necessities. The Cartel rules by coercion, intimidation , ransom, violence.
* Our tasks : praying , listening, escorting, doing what our handler asked us to do
* HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Donate to Frontera de Cristo/ memo line :CAME
2. Purchase free trade coffee to support coffee farmers in the Yucatan and local recovering addicts
3. Go for training to be a Christian missionary or donate to PPF

* What they are currently doing in 2020 with COVID

1. Doing ministry on line: stations of the cross, by Zoom ,Posadas without Borders in Advent, weekly our borders prayer vigil, COVID relief in the borderlands-grocery distribution
2. US. Mexico. And Guatemala read 3 books and met authors on line and discussed, Enrichment ,Ministry for children which was one on one via What’s App

* If time: explain functions of each location
* DO YOU HAVE ?’s