

BEYOND THE BORDER

CONTINUING YOUR JUSTICE JOURNEY POST-BORDER ENCOUNTER

CONVERSATION TIPS

● Use the Socratic Method

- This involves trying to understand / respect the other person's perspective, then framing your disagreements in the form of questions, rather than statements.

● Body Language & Tone

- Keeping your voice neutral, not raising your voice when the person

● Keep Reasonable Expectations

- We shouldn't expect someone to change their mind after one conversation. The goal is to get the other person thinking from a new perspective or create some doubt to induce self-reflection. We cannot expect ourselves to change the hearts of everyone, as God is the one who ultimately changes hearts.

● Learn Something New

- We can never be right all the time, no matter how much we research. If you enter a conversation with a humbled mind, you're much more likely to have a positive result. Every interaction is a learning experience.

● Re-Entry

- After a border encounter experience, feelings of dissonance and "burnout" are common when we return home and begin to pursue advocacy. We should give ourselves plenty of proper care and time to process.

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Points of Dissonance

- Feeling guilty for comforts back home
- Confusion or discouragement
- Reacting differently to news & media
- Quick change of routine responsibilities
- Apparent lack of concern from fellow Christians

Symptoms of Burnout

- Believing taking on more = strength
- Isolating yourself
- Feeling a sense of numbness or sadness
- Fatigue, insomnia, or a lack of motivation
- Being unable to say “no”
- Anger, irritability, or anxiety

How to Address

- Know your border encounter as part of who you are now: it will affect you, the way you perceive your home culture, and the way you see God
- Remember your accomplishments, growth, and weaknesses that God has shown you
- Talk to someone you trust about your experience or how you're feeling
- Learn when to step back. Learn healthy outlets to recharge yourself.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Having an Accountability Partner or group is a great way to ensure advocacy work continues beyond the border encounter. Use this guide to start engaging with an accountability partner:

Reflect on each of your border encounter experiences and share. What did you see & learn? Who did you meet? What was God telling you?

How will you stay in touch? Call, text, social media, coffee dates, attending church/ online church together? Schedule some times this month to meet/call.

What are some goals you want to pursue together? Diversifying your media, reading a book together, meeting up to discuss news, recognizing burnout?

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CONVERSATION TIPS

STATISTICS

- [Ask Fact Check](#)
- [Center for Immigration Studies](#)
- [Debunking Immigration Myths](#)
- [Figures at a Glance - Immigration Data and Statistics](#)
- [Immigration - USAFacts](#)
- [Key Global Migration Figures \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Migration Data Portal](#)
- [Mexican Migration Project](#)
- [Migration Policy Institute](#)
- [Pew Research Center](#)
- [Puente News Collaborative](#)
- [Radio Bilingue – National Latino Public Radio Network](#)
- [Refugees International](#)
- [UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center](#)
- [U.S. Immigration Statistics](#)
- [World Migration Report 2020](#)
- [74% favor legal status for immigrants brought to US as children](#)

RE-ENTRY GOALS

With others and independently, create some short-term and long-term re-entry goals. Think about resting, processing, sharing accountability groups, service work, continued education, etc.

In the first days back home, I want to...

During the first week back home, I will..

In the first few months back home, I will...

Over the next year, I want to...

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PCUSA

- [Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson, II on Immigration](#)
- [El Vía Crucis - The Way of the Cross Holy Week](#)
- [Genesis of Exodus – PCUSA documentary](#)
- [Office of Immigration Issues](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Family Care Plan](#)
- [DREAMers and DACA](#)

CONTEXT

- [Common Terms - Immigration](#)
- [Virtual Border Exhibit](#)
- [Stories of Immigration Detention](#)
- [A Culture War At The Border](#)
- [General Chapman's Last Stand – a history of the wall](#)
- [The World Is Witnessing a Rapid Proliferation of Border Walls](#)
- [Why Cities Need to Prepare for Climate Migration](#)
- [Love Undocumented](#)
- [Border Tuner](#)
- [Root Causes of Migration](#)
- [We Welcome Refugees](#)
- [Rio Grande](#)
- [There's an Immigration Crisis](#)
- [Migration Portal](#)
- [Real Needs Hampered by the Pandemic](#)
- [Shortfalls Limit the Response](#)
- [What is Happening at the U.S. Southern Border](#)
- [There's an Immigration Crisis](#)
- [Let's Not Confuse the Real Threats](#)
- [Climate change driving increased migration](#)
- [Sarah Quezada](#)
- [Everything You Need to Know About Unaccompanied Minors at the Border](#)
- [What's Driving The Surge At The Southern Border?](#)
- [Ways to Support Ministry to Migrants](#)
- [Iniciativa Causas Raíz](#)
- [Ukrainians Are Getting Across the US-Mexico Border. But Russians Fleeing Putin Are Not](#)

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FAITH

- [Against all Odds](#)
- [A Theology from the Border](#)
- [Hospitality, Pilgrimage, and Church on the Move](#)
- [Migration and the Prophets](#)
- [Re/Imagining New Redemptive Ways](#)
- [True Privilege - What is Home](#)
- [Presence is Everything](#)
- [What is Brown Church?](#)
- [Story Table: Sandra Maria Van Opstal](#)
- [Colombia Welcomed 1.7 Million Venezuelans](#)
- [The Significance of the Cross in Latino/a Perspective](#)
- [El Camino – The Way - Sermons](#)
- [CCDA – Immigration](#)