

News from México

March 2016

My favorite Spanish dicho (saying):

Barriga llena, corazón contento=
Full stomach, happy heart.

I have my fair share of full stomachs in Mexico. Between the tortillas, pan dulce, and carne con salsa, I am well fed here! Although not all Mexicans love spicy food, my host dad has slowly taught me to love it! My heart is indeed happy.



Milanesa, squash, and of course tortillas and Coke!

Palabras en la montaña

The past couple of months, I have been busy helping set up a little library with La Jugarreta. The library project is called Palabras en la Montaña, or Words in the Mountain. The aim is to allow children and adults to check out books and promote literacy in Tepoztlán and surrounding communities. Twice a week, we bring books to children in different neighborhoods, like a moving library! The kids get to keep the books for a week (or two), and check out new ones when we return the following week. While this project has been in the works long since my arrival in Tepoztlán, I have been able to help move and organize almost 2,000 books with my coworkers!



My friend and coworker Izette and I organize books!



Humanitarian groups leave water in the desert to try and save lives of migrants making their journey up north



El Muro, The Wall, that divides Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Mexico

La Frontera

In February, the YAGMéxico group traveled to Arizona to renew visas and learn about complex immigration issues. While most of my afternoons in Tepoztlán are filled with laughter and joy, I was reminded of the serious social justice issues that are occurring right now between two countries that I love. We had the privilege to see the wall that divides the two countries, attend a prayer vigil remembering those who have died in the desert, talk to countless organizations who are fighting for the lives of migrants, witness the heartbreaking injustices in the U.S. court system while watching Operation Streamline, and a visit to the Border Patrol Station in Douglas, Arizona. This newsletter can only cover a little bit of what I saw. If you are interested, I invite you to ask me more questions about my experience at the border!

Presente

One evening on our border retreat, we had the opportunity to remember the lives of those who have died in the Arizona desert while crossing the border.

Every week, organizers from Douglas, Arizona hold a vigil for the almost 300 men, women, and children who have died while trying to cross the border in Cochise County.

As we stood outside, holding the names of those who have died, we made sure that they were still “present,” or present and not forgotten.

As we remember the names of those who have died searching for a better life, let it be a reminder to love the stranger and create justice for all.

Peace and love,
Catherine



Crosses with names of those who have died crossing the desert

As always, thank you for helping me come this far! I appreciate the continued support through your prayers and encouragement. Please, continue to follow my journey through my blog at <https://catherinegoestomexico.wordpress.com/>