

## FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made! Psalm 139:14a  
Soy una creación maravillosa, y por eso te doy gracias. Salmo 139:14a

*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.* This phrase from Psalm 139 was the central guide and theme for Frontera de Cristo's recent board, staff, family retreat held this year in Puerto Peñasco on the Sonoran coast, July 20-23. This biblical text lived in me as I prepared to join this amazing group of people as their "pastor of the retreat" for this year.

The FdC board chose to make this a non-working retreat, with the group activities being worshipping together, eating together, creating art together through tie-dying t-shirts and engaging in a painting workshop, all while enjoying the beauty of this part of God's creation where the Sonoran desert meets the Gulf of Mexico.

As our multi-generational, multi-lingual group gathered for devotionals in the mornings and evenings, we reflected on some of the following themes:

Psalm 139:13-14 — About God who made us, fearfully and wonderfully, knitting each one of us in our mother's womb.

Psalm 139:7-12 — Where can we go from God's Spirit or flee from God's presence? We reflected about how God is always there for us, even when sometimes we would prefer to hide and not be seen or found. Margaret Wise Brown's *The Runaway Bunny* offered us an image of the mother bunny from whom we can never really "escape" – and who encourages us to "just come home" to that loving mother, to our loving God.

As we reflected on Isaiah 55:12, we celebrated our joys, and we shared our needs and petitions:

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace. The mountains and the hills shall break forth into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Returning to the theme of "fearfully and wonderfully made," in Isaiah 43:1-4a, we heard God telling us that all of us are precious and honored in God's sight, including the migrants who pass through the deserts and the waters and who do not always survive unharmed. Nevertheless, all of us, each one of us is precious and beloved by God.

As we played in the water and ate together, as we engaged in making art, taking walks, or taking naps, the time with the community of FdC became a time to strengthen existing relationships and to build some new ones. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and experience that became a true blessing for me and, I hope, for all who participated in the retreat.

—Rev. Leslie Vogel, PC(USA) Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico