

## CHOOSING WELCOME OR CRUSHING DREAMS

by Mark Adams, Coordinator, Frontera de Cristo

Our border and immigration policies are not guided by the values of welcoming the foreigner/stranger/alien—a value rooted in the Scriptures and embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Since 1994, we as a nation have increasingly made entering the US more dangerous and deadly and we have made fear, disdain, dehumanization, and demonization the guiding lights of our border and immigration policy.

For more than 30 years, our border and immigration policy has been not guided by the values represented in the image of the Statue of Liberty nor the words of Emma Lazarus' poem engraved thereon, but rather by an increasing fear of what Pat Buchanan wrongly described during his 1992 Presidential primary campaign in racially charged and offensive language as a "brown wave" invading our nation.

Our current administration continues to escalate this policy and has declared a national emergency even though the number of people crossing the border is lower than it has been since the 1960s. In an unprecedented move, the administration has authorized the military to take control over public land on the border, creating "military installations," and is exploring the possibility of using the Insurrection of 1807 to allow the military to become enforcement agents for civil laws.

As we are confronted with government policies that are increasingly hostile toward the foreigner/stranger/alien and are spending billions of dollars to crush the dreams of the most vulnerable among us, it is imperative for people of faith to choose welcome, to find concrete ways to accompany those living in fear and targeted by xenophobic policies, and to speak truth to power. (Adapted from Mark's blog [The Cross and the Border Wall](#))

**Learn More:** Read "Crushed Dreams," a report of the impact of current policies on persons in transit in which our partners CAME played a part in developing.

[hopeborder.org/files/ugd/e07ba9\\_b4a32ac776b743d7a1ead331d5b77813.pdf](https://hopeborder.org/files/ugd/e07ba9_b4a32ac776b743d7a1ead331d5b77813.pdf)

Read: [WOLA's report on the \\$160 billion in the reconciliation bill to detain and deport](#)

**Take Action:** Call your Senators (202-224-3121) and let them know that you want them to resist spending billions of dollars to terrorize immigrant communities and to focus on increasing legal avenues to migration and addressing root causes of migration working toward the day that as our partners at Café Justo say: "people can stay on their lands and can migrate if they want to, not because they have to."

**Switchboard phone numbers for Senate and House of Representatives:**

**Senate (202) 224-3121. House (202) 225-3121.**