

MISSION PRESBYTERY IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR PROJECT MATAMOROS -

2019 HOLIDAY CARD CAMPAIGN



During this Advent season, the Mission Presbytery Immigration Task Force invites you or your church to host a Holiday Card Party! If you or your congregation want to send cards to asylum seekers waiting in the camps because of MPP, you may send them First Presbyterian Church, 435 Palm Blvd, Brownsville, TX, 78520, Attn: Project Matamoros. Once your letters are received at First Brownsville, MPITF committee member, Rosie Campos, will deliver the cards to the Matamoros encampment.

As we await the coming of the Holy One during Advent, our migrant siblings in Matamoros are awaiting their immigration proceedings. Our cards may help asylum seekers in Matamoros feel that they have not been forgotten during the holidays, that they are not alone, and that their lives have value.

Guidelines

1. **Not everyone who is detained is Christian**, so it's best to keep the language of the cards and notes more along the lines of lifting people's spirits and general holiday wishes rather than sending the wishes of a blessed Christmas season.
2. **Please do not write false hope**. Again, well wishes are encouraged but please do not write that someone will win their case, that everything will be fine, that they will be protected, etc. I know this sounds counterintuitive, but **false hope can actually be more damaging in the long-run**.
3. **Spanish is spoken by most people**. That being said, a beautiful card with a kind message written in English can bring a bit of happiness to someone even if they cannot read the message. (There are also people who could probably translate the card for them.)
4. **Please write the language of the card on the outside of the envelope**, so we can match the language with someone who speaks that language when delivering them.

Helpful Phrases

You are strong! / *¡Ud. es fuerte!*

You are brave. / *Ud. es valiente.*

You are not alone. / *No está solo/a.*

Keep fighting for your dreams. / *Siga luchando por sus sueños.*

God Bless You / *Dios le bendiga*

I hope you feel God's presence during this difficult time. / *Espero que pueda sentir la presencia de Dios en estos tiempos difíciles.*

Please know that you are not alone or forgotten. I am praying for you. / *Por favor sepa esto, no está solo ni consignedo al olvido. Yo estoy orando por usted.*

Wishing you peace this holiday season. / *Le deseo paz en estas fiestas.*

(feel free to add your own...)

Questions? Contact one of the following:

Rosie Campos: rosiecampos@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Meagan Ludwig: pastor.fpcbee@gmail.com

Rev. Chad Lawson: pastor@canyonlakepres.org

Advent Blessings,

Mission Presbytery Immigration Task Force