
A Prayer Guide for the Overlooked

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CARL SPAIN CENTER

RACE STUDIES & SPIRITUAL ACTION



US - Mexico Border Camps

& Immigration Centers

"Nationwide, there are nearly 800 confirmed cases inside immigration detention centers. More than 1 in 4 of those cases are in Texas. But the number is likely higher as Immigration and Customs Enforcement has tested only about 5% of its detained population. More than half of those have tested positive."

- The Texas Tribune/Propublica Investigative Unit



US-Mexico Border Camps

The recent move to [expel 10,000 asylum seekers](#) from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) facilities at the U.S.-Mexico border is no act of generosity. These individuals, families and children have left violence and poverty behind them and furtively travelled thousands of miles seeking safety and opportunity in the U.S. For them, there is no way forward, and no way back. As COVID-19 statistics skyrocket across the globe, undocumented asylum seekers are particularly at risk. In many ways, this mass expulsion does not change matters for asylum seekers. Whether they are located in informal settlements and shelters in Mexico or confined in detention centers in the U.S., they are at very high risk of contracting COVID-19. There is no possibility of social distancing. Here in the U.S., the [“Remain in Mexico”](#) policy has driven thousands of asylum seekers to stay in informal settlements and shelters in Mexico under foul conditions that increase their chances of becoming infected with COVID-19. If there ever was a time to re-evaluate our treatment of asylum

seekers and how we establish and maintain public health standards in detention facilities, it is now. (Excerpts from [The Hill](#))

Immigration Centers

Most detained migrants are held in privately owned facilities, which have come under fire for allegations of poor treatment and conditions. Over the last couple of months, half a dozen asylum seekers have told ProPublica/Texas Tribune about not having enough cleaning supplies, masks and gloves, their inability to stay the recommended six feet apart, holding those who test positive together in rooms with poor ventilation and hygiene they say have helped spread the virus. One of the country's largest immigration detention centers is located in South Texas, 60 miles from San Antonio. The entire county only has three ventilators and 48 hospital beds. [A model](#) from researchers in the U.S. and Canada, including Traci Green, an epidemiologist at Brandeis University, estimated that the South Texas ICE Processing Center could have up to 1,345 detainees contract the virus over 90 days under the most optimistic scenario. In a [yet to be published article](#) in the Journal of Urban Health, a peer-reviewed publication that focuses on urban health and epidemiology, the group's model projected that between 72% and nearly 100% of ICE detainees could contract the virus in a 90-day period given conditions inside the centers and average populations. (Excerpts from the [Texas Tribune](#))

As we continue in our social distancing, may we not overlook migrants in border camps and immigration center's who face increased health threats due to COVID-19.



Prayer and Lament are not inaction, it's work. When we pray and lament, we do so to a sovereign, omnipotent and omniscient God. Over the next week, we encourage you to practice total stillness and silence while making your sorrow

and requests known to God (Philippians 4:6-7).

Prayers for US-Mexico Border Camps & Immigration Centers:

1. The Gospel would bring them comfort & hope in a time of despair.
2. Protection from the spread of the virus for migrants and workers in camps & immigration centers.
3. Access to quality and accessible healthcare for those who are sick.
4. Access to protective & hygiene supplies.
5. Relief from poor treatment & conditions.
6. Testing would be made readily available.
7. Policies would be enacted and enforced to better protect those held in immigration centers.
8. Continued support and advocacy from the church and the government after the pandemic ends to address the conditions of both US-Mexico border camps and immigration centers.

Prayers for yourself:

1. That the posture of your heart would be humble & empathetic towards migrants & their experiences.
2. For a desire to relieve all types of suffering on earth, especially eternal suffering.
3. For opportunity to build relationships with migrants in the US.
4. To better love migrants.
5. To advocate for migrants.



The Center aims to share its emphasis on scholarly research by providing materials, educational opportunities, and other relevant resources to any who have a desire to deepen their understanding on race and its function in the

church and broader society. Each prayer guide we will include recommended resources that we believe will help inform the work we are doing at the Carl Spain Center and the work you are doing with us.

- On Lament: [Dare to Hope in God](#)
- 42 [confirmed](#) cases of COVID-19 in the Bluebonnet Migrant center in Anson, TX. 6th highest number of confirmed cases out of 30+ facilities documented in the US.
- [The Changing Legal Situation in Mexico for Asylum Seekers](#)
- [GEARING UP FOR COVID-19 AMONG ASYLUM SEEKERS RETURNED TO MEXICO](#)
- [UN Stresses Urgent Need to Protect Refugees During COVID-19 Crisis](#)

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