



LAS NOTICIAS

Weekly Missive

Purple Christians on the Border B.E.N.D

We seem to share agreement that it is God's call for us, as God's people, to do justice (Hebrew: *tzedakah*)! Justice as *tzedakah* signifies in the Old Testament the active presence of social equality—both of rights and resources—and the absence of gross, economic inequalities that weigh more heavily on the poor and marginalized. Justice as *tzedekah* is a foundational command in Scripture that promises hope for all of God's people: from the least to the greatest we are all deserving personal dignity and social wellness. *Tzedekah* appears to be an interest all affirm as I have had zero push back about living according to *tzedakah*.



But last week when I highlighted the helpfulness of interest-based dialogue, two readers responded with interests that, at first blush, appear contradictory.

- "Diminish the probability of terrorists sneaking through the border with the asylum seekers."
- "Treat all people with respect as human beings with God-given dignity."

Knowing these two individuals personally, I can report the first statement was spoken by someone who advocates for a robust militarization of the border and for building the wall. The second statement was spoken by someone who opposes the wall and seems to advocate positions that effectively create an open-border policy. Is there any way these two Christians can be reconciled in their views?

Maybe not but perhaps so. Consider the acronym B.E.N.D.

B.E.N.D. describes a process of coming to terms with multiple, competing interests toward the goal of finding a common path forward. The rhythm of B.E.N.D. conversations is to allow the conversational process to begin as if one is painting in the style of Jackson Pollock, continues with the clarity of parents engaging their teenager in robust dialogue, before acting like Congress back in the days when they would horse-trade all day before going to dinner together with their spouses. For those of you who find this mixed metaphor a bit too flowery, B.E.N.D. is an acronym for **Brainstorm, Evaluate, Negotiate, Decide**.

Perhaps a better metaphor is to imagine B.E.N.D. as a funnel: starting at the brim with the width of creative brainstorming of ideas before funneling into a common position. As I ponder the competing interests articulated above, I imagine several ideas with the possibility of bridging the gap. For instance,

- Modernizing our ports of entry both decreases the "need" or "temptation" for asylum seekers to cross the desert and improves law enforcement's ability to interdict drug and human trafficking. Additionally, modernization creates efficiencies in cross-border trade.

- Using existing funding to hire child welfare, medical and language professionals trained in trauma care and trauma-informed interviewing might also decrease the number of asylum seekers crossing the desert while allowing Border Patrol to reallocate resources toward criminal law enforcement. Are the above ideas perfect? Of course not. Do they move the conversation forward in helpful ways? Possibly. Is there a need to continue the conversation? Definitely. Ultimately, after evaluation and negotiation of ideas occurs, a decision must be made: a choice. We will each make our choice in our own way by the ideas we support and the actions we take. The question to which we must all give a response is this: do our choices lead to God's *tzedakah*?

This is hard work but worth doing...together,
Brad Munroe

[Click here to read this and past missives](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Native American Presbyterian Women's Conference Cedar Canyon Camp, Rapid City, SD Friday, July 14 th – Sunday, July 16 th

[FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE](#)

STOP THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Dates: May 30 and June 19

Location: WEBINAR

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm Eastern Standard Time

Those interested can participate in one or more of the remaining webinars even if you did not participate in the first webinar. Each webinar session will be on a different theme.

Sign up to join the Self-Development of People webinar **The Least of These: Engaging in the Work of Preventing and Alleviating Poverty** as together we seek to stop the cycle of poverty.

To register, or for more information, [email nina.lewis@pcusa.org](mailto:nina.lewis@pcusa.org)



Montlure Summer staff and volunteer applications are open for 2019! Applications can be found at Montlure.CampBrainStaff.com

Register for Overnight and Traveling Day Camps at Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com

Overnight Camps:

Senior High: June 2-7

Junior High: June 23-28

Juniors: July 7 -11

Day Camps:

Phoenix/Orangewood Presbyterian : June 3-8

Phx East Valley/Gilbert Presbyterian: June 10-14

Casa Grande/First Presbyterian: June 17-21

Green Valley/Valley Presbyterian: June 24-28

Tucson/Christ Presbyterian Church: June 24-28

More to announce, soon!

More details at: Montlure.org

CHURCH NEWS

IMMANUEL

You are cordially invited to join us as we learn more about poverty and hunger in our communities - Part 3 of "The Least of These" Thursday, May 30th at 9:00am in Towner Hall Room 5

FAITH

will host a Mental Health First Aid 8 Hour Course Anne Olson, Instructor Stevenson Hall Friday, June 7 12:30 - 4:30 pm Saturday, June 8 9:00 - 1:00 pm Cost is \$18.95 Scholarships are Available Certificates provided for people who attend all 8 hours. Contact the church to register.

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

hosts PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY- Do you have old family photos stored away in boxes? What happens to them when you are gone? Does the next generation know who these people are? At 10:00 am on May 29th, Dave Smith will present a slideshow on how to convert photos into photo albums. On June 5th, he will demonstrate how to convert your photos into Snapfish then how to use a free genealogy website, Family Research, where you can preserve your family history. Questions – call Dave Smith at (520) 818-9239 or email dsmith@wbhsi.net.

PENTECOST OFFERING

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:



- [Young Adult Volunteers](#)
 - [Ministries for Youth](#)
 - [Children-at-Risk](#)
 - [Pentecost Offering Financials](#)
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Healthy Pastors Healthy Congregation Initiative



To help PCUSA pastors address the growing financial challenges to ministry, the Board of Pensions has developed Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations. This initiative, designed to help ministers and congregations work together for financial stability, provides education and financial resources. This program combines pastor and congregational leader education with grants up to \$10,000 to qualifying pastors.

[Click here for a brochure with more info](#)



A new way to support Triennium online!
There is a link on the de Cristo homepage WWW.PRESBYTERYDECRISTO.ORG along the right-hand edge. Click on the Link "Donate to Triennium 2019" or [CLICK HERE!](#)



Please keep the following in your prayers:

- This note of thanksgiving from Divine Grace in Miami: "Divine Grace took in six new members on Easter Sunday. We are also continuing our current building repairs, recently installed new coolers, thanks to the generous help of our sister church - Christ Pres.Church in Tucson. The Lord has been more than faithful as we work to heal the tragedy that struck our congregation last fall."
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Job Opportunities- New listings

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 24

The Big Event/Presbytery- Mission del Sol

OCTOBER

4-6 PWS Fall Gathering- [Registration](#)

[THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

[ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES](#)

Visit our Website

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