

LIVING IT OUT

SESSION 16 LAS MADRES

Read and meditate on Deuteronomy 10:17-19 and Matthew 25:35-40.

The many issues of immigration and border crossings into the United States are complex and extremely divisive. It reflects issues of land, borders, refugees, laws, abundance vs. scarcity beliefs, ownership, desperation, hospitality and search for hope and improved quality of life, not unlike other geography and people around the world.

No matter your political view, the harsh and tragic reality of the deaths border crossers grows in the desert. Groups such as No More Deaths (featured in Session 9's SpiritPractice) are diligently working to provide water stations and transportation to medical attention.

If you haven't already been to their website, read about their work on www.nomoredeaths.org. Consider becoming involved in No More Deaths as part of your spiritual practices.

Artist Valarie James, working with friends and colleagues, created a trio of women made from desert plants and from the clothing, bags and cloth items left by those making the hazardous journey through the desert in hopes of a better life. The women, known as *Las Madres* (The Mothers) stand vigil in the desert grass and represent over 1,000 deaths of women, children and men who have tried to cross the desert. These three life-size figures can be seen at Pima Community College East in Tucson, Arizona. Pictures and background information can be viewed at www.lasmadresproject.org.

Re-read the Deuteronomy and Matthew passages. Spend time in prayer for those who live in desperate situations and for those who would risk their lives for a better way of life for themselves and their families.

– Cynthia Langston Kirk

