



Mexico is now the deadliest conflict zone in the world after Syria, an actual war zone. The war on and between drug gangs killed 23,000 people last year, more than died violently in Iraq or Afghanistan. According to John Chipman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, which chronicles conflicts around the world.

What does this mean for us? It means we must continue to walk the streets of the colonias, bring aid to the poor, and continue to make critical and life-changing medical care available to the children of the poor.

Walking the streets of the colonias is the best way to demonstrate our commitment and feelings for these people. As the working poor struggle amidst the violence and corruption and in the middle of so many hateful words by leaders in America, it is essential that we provide evidence of our commitment to the working poor of the colonias.

*A few years ago, a high-school student told us an interesting story. She said that a teacher told the class that the people of the United States hated Mexico, Mexicans and all things Mexican. She said that after class some of her friends gathered and they talked about the class. The teacher had displayed headlines from U.S. news, blog-sites, and websites as evidence of the hate in America. However, several of the students said, "Everyone in America cannot hate us. How could anyone explain Paper Houses Across the Border? People from the United States pay for surgeries and medical care and they deliver food to the people right here, in Mexico. They even send money to help the people at the shelters. No, the professor is wrong."*

Today, our media is filled with evidence that continues to suggest that all of America hates Mexico. Our presence in Mexico may be as important as the help we provide. Our primary focus remains in Acuna, but we intentionally visit other border areas when news reports of violence arrives. The poor need to know that we are still with them.