We recently recalled what happened on August 22, 2010, where, in a region of the State of Tamaulipas, 72 migrants were murdered, coming from Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and India. Who killed them? Why did they kill them? Questions which have lasted ten years, and still do not have strong and precise answers; organized crime has been blamed, however, the participation of some elements of the Mexican State is not ruled out. The questions multiply, did they have the right to assassinate and tie them up, in that way? Why is justice not done? Why does impunity reign in these cases? Will we have justice at the end of the road? And the questions could continue, the worst, they have no answer. They are just words, words and words.

There were seventy-two migrants, but it is the story of thousands of migrants who dare to cross the southern border of Mexico in order to reach the territory where they hope to fulfill the American dream. History repeats itself over and over again, many succeed, but many others simply add to the lists of missing and murdered along the way.

It should give us pain and sadness as a nation, but also as communities of faith, which we proclaim love through the windows of our houses but in reality we remain silent in the face of these acts of injustice. Jesus himself was a migrant, requiring others to care for him, guide him, and protect him. Matthew 2:13 and 14 reads as follows: When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up", he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

A theological reading, rather than historical, reveals to us that the powerful are always willing to get those who hinder them out of the way, and the worst thing is that always the poor, the marginalized, the dispossessed of this world, the migrants, are the ones that have to suffer.

But all is not lost, we also have signs of the kingdom that motivate us to work for those who leave their country to migrate to other latitudes. In the years 2016 onwards, on our northern border, specifically in the city of Tijuana, thousands of Haitians arrived with the purpose of crossing the other border line that would allow them to reach the United States. The streets were invaded by migrants, without food and nowhere to sleep; several evangelical churches, including some Baptists, opened their doors to migrants: the Camino de Salvación Baptist Church headed by Pastor José Altamirano and the Jesucristo Vive Baptist Church, headed by Pastor Walter Marquéz, just to mention two, were in charge to host, care for, feed the migrant; they had sixty people staying in each of their facilities. Today the city of Tijuana has churches of Haitians who work on behalf of the migrant, I repeat, all is not lost.

El desafío es enorme, los migrantes viajan por todas las naciones, por lo que las comunidades de fe pueden desarrollar un rol trascendente. Termino con unas palabras que dijo el Papa Francisco, en relación a la masacre de los setenta y dos migrantes asesinados en Tamaulipas, México, en 2010:
Today marks the 10th anniversary of the massacre of seventy-two migrants in Mexico. I express my solidarity to the families of the victims who still invoke justice today. The Lord will ask us to account for all the migrants who have fallen on the journeys of hope.

Pastor Jesús Vera Pons
In Response to the Luis Rivera Pagán Conference.
August 29, 2020
Ensenada, Baja California
Bautistas por la Paz