



Crossing Borders News

News & Updates on Crossing Borders Ministries - PO Box 35 - Fabens, Texas 79838

Vol. 9 Issue 2

Our mission: to Support, Encourage, and Release Faith in the needy and less fortunate

March / April 2009

Catching Up

by Elfi Register

These days, it seems all we can do is play "catch up". We greatly appreciate everyone who's called or emailed to make sure we're "OK". It seems like every day something else new and dangerous regarding Mexico comes on the news. We even received one email from someone who'd heard that we weren't doing Crossing Borders anymore! Now what was up with that? Let us reassure you that Joan and I are both safe and still working faithfully on the border, praise the Lord, and so are all of the pastors in our ministry network. In fact, we're all busier than ever!

Making Christ known in Mexico

Much has been made of the Mexican military coming to the border region to curb the drug violence. The truth is, the pastors and their churches have been making extra efforts to show the love of Jesus to the soldiers in their towns, even as the support base from visiting US mission teams has sharply declined. They understand why so many American Christians have quit coming, but it's still a hardship on them. Just as the economy is bad here, it's even worse there. Factories (maquilas) all along the Mexico side of the border are closing in stunning numbers. Thousands of the rural poor, who spend many hours riding company buses to work, have lost their jobs with no other means to support their families.

Every Tuesday, when the pastors come to pick up beans and rice to take to their people, they share from their hearts how bad things are - and just how important these food packets really are. The people are crying out, begging the Lord to continue His supply of groceries through this ministry, because there are no food banks, no food stamps, and nowhere else they can go. We've heard countless stories of the pastors giving their own meager incomes to buy even more staple items to keep people from literally starving to death. When it's their turn to preach for our Tuesday service, they pour their hearts out to our workers and visitors, preaching the truth of God more boldly. Even as the swine flu continues to frighten the border peoples, the pastors speak as one man - God will care for those whose hearts are "sold out" to Him. When the government told churches to close and not hold public assemblies, the pastors took the food packets to the people's homes and had prayer services with each family.

In this human crisis, we've taken on providing beans and rice for two more churches - on the condition that the Lord makes the way to do it. No sooner had we made this commitment, than we received a phone call telling us the church that buys most of the beans for us was out of money! Long story short, the LORD made good on His OWN commitment to always supply our need and a surprise donation showed up ONE DAY before the next delivery was due. He will always "make a way" - one "way" or another!

Flowers in the Desert

Every Wednesday night I'm left in awe of how my middle school girls are growing in the things of God. Just a year ago, they wouldn't hardly even sit next to, let alone speak to, each other. Now, they listen to one another's heartaches and frustrations and pray for each other. Actually, they argue over who gets to be in charge of the prayer request journal for the night, and who gets to lead out in prayer! This bond of unity flows over into their school lives, too. After one of the girls gave her heart and life to the Lord, she and another girl from our class began to sing their favorite song (Who Am I) in the school cafeteria. Other kids came over to ask where they'd learned such a cool song! And they've also shared how they're taking their Bibles to school and reading them aloud to other kids! Amazing stuff!

I think their Bibles became more important to them as a direct result of a special craft prepared for them by a group from Lamesa, TX. We got this box FULL of denim purses made from the legs of old jeans. One side folds over to make a flap and is fringed on the edge. The shoulder strap is a man's recycled neck tie. (Also in the box was a tube of glue, shiny spangles, and lots of colored "pony" beads.) When I first saw them I thought, "Bible bag", and so they've been working on these as book bags, beading the fringe and decorating up a storm with the spangles - we call them "bling". The only thing was, we weren't going to start this craft until EVERYONE brought their Bibles to class - the Bibles I'd given them last year & they couldn't seem to find in the dark of their closets now. It took them nearly two months to pull together and everyone bring their Bibles, but the results have been nothing short of miraculous! Their bags

Editor's Note: OK, it's already MAY, but I've been trying to get this newsletter "finished" since mid-April! Hope it's "better late than never" for you! Thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers! Joan

More News to Share

Tuesday March 10, 2009 Crossing Borders Ministries celebrated its 8th Anniversary! It's been so busy there wasn't time to plan a "party", but several pastors and their wives joined us for cake and coffee - and even sang "Happy Birthday" in Spanish to mark the occasion!

Last year we had 20 Thompson Study Bibles donated, and there was one left - waiting for the "right" person. Elfi kept getting a "prompt" from the Lord to give it to one pastor's wife. To be culturally sensitive, she offered it to the husband - who immediately turned and gave it to his wife! With tears in their eyes, they said they'd been asking God to help them afford such a Bible because she is in her second year of seminary study! They never imagined He would provide it for free! The lesson: don't ever limit how the Lord might bless you.

Sadly, we must share the news that two good friends have passed away over the past few months. Lawrence Kennedy of San Angelo, TX and Paul Ryan from Fabens were both men who cared more for others than for themselves. Each in their own way were great supporters of bringing relief to the poor, and the world is a lot colder without them. Please keep their wives and extended families in prayer.

Glen Meadows Baptist in San Angelo made 2 more deliveries to our little warehouse in answer to prayer - and in memory of Lawrence Kennedy. We were able to bless lots of babies with baby foods of all kinds, and send out more venison to feed hungry families.

Even in these tough times, the pastors are doing remarkable works. This small boy dips water from the only well in Zitahuaro, a primitive Tarahumara village above Creel in the mountains of Mexico. He hauls it on a makeshift cart "home" - to a cave in the distant hills. Penuel Bapt. in Col. Esperanza, MX & members from Scotsdale Bapt. in El Paso, TX started work on a deeper, cleaner well in April, & plan to return in July.



are so cool looking, some of the moms have had them ask for them one. My answer is, if they come to class and bring a Bible they can make their own.

My girls - all the kids, really - live in such horrible circumstances. They deal with levels of stress that would crush most adults. Just as an example, there's three kids I give rides home every Wednesday night. Last Wednesday, their little 18 month old brother was run over and killed - and nobody seems to know exactly what happened. What's worse, that brother & 4 others were living with relatives in El Paso, while these three live in Fabens. (Perhaps you can read between the lines here.) I got a call from one of my other girls, their cousin, who told me what happened and she wanted me to pick her up and lets go see how they were. Such bad news travels fast in a small town, so by the time we all arrived at church (it's where they wanted to be) the others were talking about it and demonstrating lots of love toward the 3 siblings. And this is just one example. To see the way my girls all care about each other, and even begin to pray for their "enemies", is a testimony to the realness of God changing their hearts and minds.

I hope this helps you feel "caught up" with what's happening with us. To all you "prayer warriors" who are keeping us, the pastors, and the kids "covered" - keep up your powerful and important work. The Lord's blessings on you all!



Finding Spring

By Joan Wilson

Easter Sunday has always been special to me. One of my favorite family "stories" is about when I was little and we hunted hard-boiled Easter eggs at Valley Forge. At the end of the day, one egg went missing and nobody could find it - even after the grown-ups backtracked themselves all over the place! So the running joke is, "wonder if anybody ever found that egg?" But what I remember about that place and time is the explosion of color from all the fruit trees and forsythia bushes and daffodils and dogwoods. Mostly those dogwoods - because my Mom showed me how they seemed to carry the nail-marks of the Cross on each bloom. She told me their blooms showed the promise of eternal life because of what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross for our sins.

Living here in the desert, I miss Spring sometimes. While there's great beauty to be found in the desert place, Spring for us here is a brief pause between winter and summer, if you get what I mean. It pales in comparison to the real thing. When I get to missing Spring, the Lord has this way - it's kind of hard to describe - a way of reminding me that what I'm really looking for is the "promise" that is Spring. That no matter how barren and dead a season of time is, "Spring" is just around the corner.

Elfi and I have been going non-stop since December. While we know this is part of the "cost" of ministering to the needs of others, it's still drained us dry. March and April were especially rough. There've been so many disruptions, disappointments, and disasters that we've felt we must surely be on the devil's "hit list". The types of trouble we've faced is beyond "natural". I mean, it's been something different every week - and sometimes even every day! Without the tangible realness of the Lord's presence, I really think there were a few days we'd have called it "quits". But we hang in there and press on because we're certain that "Spring" is coming - a time when we will feel refreshed and renewed.

I know it's been a hard few months for many who read this newsletter. You're in places and situations where it looks like "winter" will never end. You're continually in my thoughts and prayers, because I know too well what endless winter feels like. Years ago when my son died, life didn't seem fair, didn't make any sense, and didn't feel like it was worth living. Yet buried deep inside my soul was the promise of "Spring". Because the Lord Jesus is the center of my life, His own Life kept pushing it's way up like some seed underground and breaking through the suffocating cold of that terrible winter season. His own resurrection from the dead kept reminding me that life is so much more than "right now". The Lord's thoughts and plans are always in motion, always drawing our lives through the "winters" into "springs".

The desert place is harsh, dry, barren. How can anyone survive it? Whatever the landscape of your own "desert place" is, however long your "winter season", my heart's prayer is that you will know the realness of God's presence and hang on to His promise of Spring.

Yes, it's already that time again!

Subject: 2009 School Supply Drive

Due Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2008

Kits Need: same items as last year

For a copy of items list and other kit details, you can go to our website at www.crossingbordersministries.com or call us at 915-764-5343

We are praying and planning for another 1500 school kits this year!

The drive was so successful last year, we are able to add a little school of 35 children in San Juanito, a village near where the boy on front lives. We sent school supplies at Christmas time to them. The pastor tells us that before our supplies, they had to do their studies on whatever they could find - sometimes it was nothing more than the flaps off cardboard boxes! Together, we ARE making a difference in the lives of more people than we can imagine!



You've Been Invited

Our pastors are really wanting to "connect" with all who make this ministry possible. They want to encourage you and be encouraged by you. Won't you make arrangements to come meet them some Tuesday for lunch? We can guarantee good conversation and authentic Mexican food. Just give us at least a week's notice so we can get the word out.

Two new churches to the list:

Pastor Jose Patrocinio - El Shaddai - Villa Esperanza

Pastor Tomas Mijares - Mt de los Olivos - Col. Zaragoza

Visit us on the "web" at crossingbordersministries.com

Download back issues of our newsletters and learn more about us!

Crossing Borders is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Fabens, developed and operated by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson. Your financial support is vital to this ministry. When sending your check, please make it payable to:

Fabens First Baptist Church

and attach a note to specify if it is for support of Elfi and/or Joan or for Crossing Borders general fund.

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Thank you for your continued prayers & support!

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