



Crossing Borders News

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

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

Jan / Feb 2009

1500 Gifts! And that's not all ...

By Elfi Register

We never cease to be amazed at our Awesome God and how He works through all of us! Even as the need increases because of these tough economic times, the Lord is faithful to care for the poor. They suffer that much more when generosity begins to dry up. But we praise our Lord for you, our friends and supporters! You have NOT forgotten the poor or this ministry, and because of that the pastors and the needy families they help have continued to be fed and blessed. The response from the last newsletter produced a large number of coats, sweaters, and blankets - all of it going out as quickly as it came in! We've given away more warm baby blankets and clothes than ever, too, so that even the smallest and most helpless are having their needs met. The Hughes' from Clovis, NM have been able to bring down donated baby foods and juices a couple of times this season which has literally been a life-saver for some of these little ones. Pastors and their wives get tears in their eyes, telling us that all the other is good and needed, but the baby food's a blessing that can't be measured!

Back in October, we mentioned that 7 airline wheelchairs were donated. Pastor Antonio Perea, who'd been praying for just such a blessing, continues to find people in need of them. Another donation of venison came in from Glen Meadows Baptist of San Angelo, TX, along with cold medication, and even food for our Wednesday night youth group. And Rosa Ramirez, a friend and pastor's wife who lives in San Elizario, TX brought us a huge crate of Swedish Goldfish gummy candies that filled 34 "banana boxes". And Ryan Supply of Fabens invited us to put gift requests on their annual Christmas Giving Tree again, so that 30 needy people in all were blessed.

We were also overjoyed to see more local churches wanting to participate in our ministry projects this season. Scotsdale Baptist and First Baptist of El Paso have been collecting and delivering various staple goods on a monthly basis, and also brought Christmas shoebox gifts and extra goodies. The adult WOW group from Scotsdale also chose to work through CBM to help several needy Fabens families with Christmas. The WMU ladies from "La Primera" Baptist Church (where we spoke in December) joined the ranks this year of those who made shoebox gifts. By now we shouldn't be surprised (yet always are!), but when a last minute request for over 200 gifts for a mission way down in Creel, Mexico came, wouldn't you know it that we got a phone call from Pastor Ron Fox at Valley View Baptist, who had 100 gifts he needed to find a place for. (Guess how many gifts we were going to be short? Yep -100!)

All of these local folks were in addition to the out-of-town churches who've made the shoebox drive a success for years, and together they put us "over the top" one more time with 1500 shoebox gifts! How we got it all done - unloaded, counted, processed, packed, shipped out, and safely across the border - is a story all to itself! So topping our list of "heroes" are the 4 work teams from among our New Mexico friends who took time from their own busy schedules and helped us get it all done! Without their help, there's no way the two of us could have processed such overwhelming numbers.

So in the final tally, 20 organizations here in the U.S. bought, stuffed, wrapped & shipped those 1500 gifts that helped children in 40 communities in Mexico have a joyous Christmas. And not one request had to be turned down! Hallelujah! Each and every gift was needed! And so was each person who participated along the whole network these gifts traveled through to get here. You're ALL heroes to us! We're confident the Lord will bless every person who put their hands to every gift! He knows you by name! So from the children and from us, our heartfelt "Thank You!"



Children from Iglesia El Penuel & Mision Paredes can't wait to open their gifts!



Little smiles make all the work worth it!



In Praxedis, not every gift came in a box! New life for an old wheelchair

Children from Sauzal, Sauzal Viejo & Manuel Valdez all celebrated at Cristo Redentor Church



Feed My Lambs

by Joan Wilson

Jesus said: "Do you love Me? Feed My lambs." (John 21:15)

I'm not sure when it first began. Was it when one of the girls asked Elfi for something, anything, to eat because her stomach hurt? She hadn't eaten all day, and it was 8:00 at night. Was it the night Pastor Hugo said, "Middle School girls, go sit at the table with Elfi"? Or was it the first time they heard her play guitar? Whenever it was, there's a wonderful bond between her & her girls. One's even graduated to high school, but asked that she might stay with Elfi. No answer to that except "yes".

The desire to feed the kids every Wednesday night was a vision birthed in Elfi from that first hungry stomach. Out of that, the weekly meals have grown to be an "expected" event. The first question from the first kid in the door is, "What's for supper?" In the beginning, we tried following meals with praise and worship, but the younger ones just weren't that "into it" and got disruptive. So now, we break to our different groups after meals and Elfi's girls are thrilled to sing "just them".

It was music that helped draw Elfi to the Lord, and now she's feeding this group of girls something more filling than hot dogs or nachos. The words they sing together, the burdens they share during prayer time, the healing prayers that follow - it's all food you can't see but is even more nourishing. Jesus told the woman at the well, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty." (John 4:13-14 NCV)

Just the other day, some of the girls showed up at the house. For the next few hours, they weren't getting high or wandering the streets. They were climbing the tree in the front yard and eating grilled cheese, "Goldfishes", and pudding instead. You just never know when you'll have lambs to feed.

Prayers for Mexico

"Tell them not to forget us!" was the plea from one pastor's wife. "Please! Pray for us!" The war between competing drug cartels is still rampant and unchecked in our border region. The "official" death toll for 2008 was 1600, but this doesn't include the additional dead and missing from the other little towns south and east of Juarez. People kidnapped from their homes in the night turn up brutally murdered days or weeks later. Some families still don't know what became of their loved ones. Sometimes, it's because they were on the payroll of the competition. But the latest murders have been those of policemen taking a stand to stop the violence - and paying for it with their lives. Their severed heads are left on the precinct steps as a threat to the others. This past week, 7 officers were killed in one day, with Guadalupe being hit the hardest. Think about what courage it's taking just to put on a uniform every day - for both men and women. Now more than ever, the people of Mexico need our prayers and encouragement.

Mission teams that have crossed over to work in Mexican villages for years are canceling their trips. We can understand their concern for safety. But Lamesa Baptist Association came up with an alternate plan last summer. Even though it wasn't safe to go across, they brought Bible school & craft materials here, along with other necessities, and were able to arrange with the pastors for them to come pick up in Fabens. The men and women who live & work among the poor, staying in their callings in the face of torture and death, need us to stand beside them in this terrible time.

Please join us in praying for our neighbors in Mexico, especially for those who are our Christian family. We cannot turn our backs on them, now that it's no longer a "convenient" place to go. Pray, too, for those teams that want to keep promises they've made to these people in the past - even if they have to develop "creative" ways to fulfill them. Crossing Borders Ministries is committed to helping our partner churches stay connected to their sister churches in Mexico, so we appreciate your prayers for us, too.

To read more on the violence in Juarez, go to www.elpasotimes.com/juarez



Prayers and Praises

Thanks to all of you who've sent "kid-friendly" food for us to feed the "gang" on Wednesday nights! Keep it coming! They're loving it and bringing their friends! The last few weeks, we've been running over 40 attending on even the chilliest nights. And that's minus all our "regulars" who can't come because of basket- and volleyball commitments. Keep praying for us and them - lots of family "problems" are weighing heavy on many of our kids.

We were privileged to again participate in Ryan Supply's annual Giving Tree program. 30 needy people in and around Fabens were blessed with a gift from an anonymous giver through the program. It requires a lot of behind-the-scenes work on the part of owners Paul & Kit Ryan. We deeply appreciate their generosity - and that of the supporters of the program! Thanks to all of you!

Praise and thanks to Ralph & Judi Wright also, for their allowing us to partner with their New Life Border Ministries in order to expand our own ministry to the Fabens community. Their compassion for the "rejected" and "forsaken" is unmatched! Through their monthly food box distribution, we're able to help meet the needs of 5 local families each month. Keep praying for Judi - she's still getting "good" reports from the oncologist, but her immune system sure needs to recover so she'll be able to resist every cold and flu germ that wants to take up residence!

Please pray with us for a dear missionary friend. (Name withheld for privacy) Her "mission field" for the past 10 years was caring for an elderly woman, who's recently passed away. This missionary is now faced with fixing up an old house in order to have a place to live, even as she grieves for her friend and seeks what the Lord has for her next. We pray she have a peaceful transition time, & offer ourselves to the Lord to be used to bless her as she's blessed us.

Also we're asking prayer for a precious brother in Christ, Lawrence Kennedy, from San Angelo, TX. He's had two major health setbacks - diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer & suffered a stroke, for which he's still in the hospital. Men from his church stay with him every night, & his wife Helen says God's given them both a deep peace. They're trusting Him no matter what happens.



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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:
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Thank you for your continued prayers & support!

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