



Crossing Borders News

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

Vol. 9 Issue 5

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

Sept / Oct / Nov 2009



Thanks For Giving!

by Joan Wilson

The holidays are fast approaching and already we're scrambling to keep it from overwhelming us! This will be our 9th annual shoebox drive for Christmas, and the project has taken on a life of its own over the years. Behind the scenes, in churches and homes from as far away as Pennsylvania and Wyoming, there's folks who've made this one event a year-long pursuit.

They save boxes, buy toys and things when they're on sale - the whole bit! One woman shops on e-bay, buying & selling the dolls she puts in her church's boxes! How wonderful it all is, and unless you're involved yourself, you really don't know just how many HOURS go into each of the 1400 boxes we'll process at this end for sending out. It used to be we started working at our end after Thanksgiving weekend. Now, we've already had FOUR groups drop off their boxes! Our thanks to the Weatherford BSM (especially Director Mark Nelson) for coming to help set up our church's mission-team dormitory for its transformation into "Christmas Shoebox Central". Other teams are already scheduled for work days throughout December. I hope you'll take a minute to look over the Schedule on page 2. So if you're looking for something "hands on" for Christmas, call us and we'll plug you in to one of the work days in December.

We so appreciate all you who've kept us in prayer as we've worked with our community kids on Wednesdays. Your prayers have been effective to date - so keep on praying! New troubles come to these kids' lives all the time! We're very grateful to Pastor Hugo Garcia and his Cornerstone Fellowship from El Paso for helping establish our current work with some 50 kids. Their time here's come to a close and we're taking on another "phase" of ministry, going bilingual in our Sunday morning worship service. It's a "stretch" for all of us, but what a GOD-led adventure we're on! Wow! We surely need your prayers as we "expand our territory" to minister to even more people along the border.

We've had a crazy-busy Fall, receiving and shipping all manner of things for the poor across the border. Just some of the folks to thank for keeping this ministry supplied include: Grace of Giving Ministry for rice and groceries; FBC La Luz & others who help make that financially possible; Tom Goss & the El Paso Christian Men's Home for their help unloading it all; the unfailing support of FBC Cloudcroft all these years with beans & more, and the Steinhoffs who deliver it every other Monday; Bill Thrash for his seemingly endless supply of zip-close baggies; the Murtlands from FBC El Paso & Drex Clonts from Scotsdale Baptist who deliver monthly food collections from their various Sunday School classes. And how could any of it come about if you who support Elfi & me as missionaries were not standing behind us in this ministry? Truly, we're all woven together by our Lord to make up this work we call Crossing Borders Ministries!

Going The Extra Mile

by Elfi Register

I'm sure you've heard the news: Juarez now has been named the most violent city on the planet - "officially" worse than Miami, FL during the 1980's. One pastor we work with was carjacked at gun-point this month. I don't know what scared him worse - the gun to his head or the one pointed at his wife. Thank the Lord, no one was killed and they recovered their vehicle, but it will be months before they can replace their visas and years before the memories fade. As Americans, we can choose not to cross into this danger zone, but for those who live just 7 miles away, there IS no choice. The gruesome scenes we read and hear about are in their own front yards! Those who can afford it have already moved their families and their businesses to the US. A few pastors have finally been forced to move as well. But the majority are standing their ground in Jesus' name, staying and ministering to those too poor to flee.

Last time, we shared about the one church opening its doors to feed the needy and we've learned another pastor and his congregation have started their own community feeding station (comedor). This pastor shared a heartbreaking encounter he had with one of the ladies of his church that we know. She used to live in Fabens but had to go back to Mexico when her documents expired. He stopped in to visit and jokingly asked "what's for lunch?" He was crushed when she told him she only had one can of vegetables in the house. Unfortunately, she's not the only one in such a bind,

and so they started their *comedor*. As their partners, we're supplying beans & rice to help out. The violence has taken an uncounted toll on the lives of people out of work and living under the "shadow of death" because of closed factories and the "domino-effect" this has on their local economy.

Here on the border, the violence hits close to home every day. Not one of the kids we work with on Wednesdays has escaped being affected - they've all lost at least one family member in this "drug war". A couple of my girls are very worried over their estranged father who's now "gone missing". Around here, the longer someone's missing, the worse the news is going to be when (or if) they're found. I share all these tragic stories that you might begin to understand the emotional burden we carry on our shoulders 24 / 7. These hurting people need someone to lean on. And our Lord Jesus walks beside us each step of the way, asking us to be His hands & feet to the needy and less fortunate. And you're right there, too. Your letters of encouragement, your prayers, your donations and financial gifts support us with each step. ¡Muchas gracias, amigos!



Prayers & Praises

• We are SO excited to share our latest news! Nov. 1 was our first Sunday to have David Lopez, Jr. as our new Pastor. Yes, Barbie's husband David! He will lead us into integrating our Spanish and English speaking congregations into a united, bilingual body of believers. Please keep him, us, and all our leadership in prayer as we seek to follow God's leading down this new path!

• The cost of beans and rice continues to fluctuate as badly as fuel prices! Still, we've "stepped up" how many locations we ship to, so that as many as 380 needy families are helped EACH WEEK! Pray for those who keep 600# of beans coming through FBC Cloudcroft each week, & consider making a monthly commitment to help us purchase the extra we need to keep families and feeding stations supplied.

50# dry pinto beans = \$26.00

50# bulk white rice = \$13.00

50# of each will feed 20 families per week or 3 families per month.

• Special thanks to Pastor David & Barbie Lopez - all their family in fact! We appreciate all they do behind the scenes to help keep CBM operational. Pray for their health & ministry.

• Many thanks to each one of you who keeps this ministry funded & functioning! We couldn't stay on the mission field without your support. The LORD knows you each by name! We pray for your health & families & that you might be BLESSED - even as you're such a blessing!

Muchas Gracias

In 2009, you helped to supply food, clothes, school supplies, and many other needed items to all of these ministries along the Rio Grande - and beyond! Between 350 to 380 families are fed per week, depending on what's been supplied - that's over 2200 people every week! Together we ARE making a difference! Praise the Lord! Everyone here along the border has asked us to say "Thank You!" for all you have done for them, in the Name of the Lord Jesus!

1. Pastor Antonio Perea, "Iglesia Bautista Dios Con Nosotros", Praxedis G.G., MX
2. Their church's feeding station ministry at Praxedis G.G. MX
3. Their church's mission at Caseta, MX
4. Pastor David Lopez Sr., "Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad", Guadalupe, MX
5. Their church's mission at Colonia Francisco Villa, MX
6. Pastor Verulo Garcia, "Iglesia Bautista El Penuel", Colonia Esperanza, MX
7. Their church's mission at Centenario, MX
8. Their church's mission at Paredes, MX
9. Their church's mission at Sarabia, MX
10. Their church's ministry to the Tarahumara Indians of Zitauaro, MX
11. Pastor Enrique Ornelas, "Mision Bautista Barreales", Barreales, MX
12. Pastor Lorenzo Pinales, "Iglesia Bautista Mt. Sinai", San Isidro, MX
13. Their church's "Mision Getsemani" at Loma Blanca, MX
14. Their church's "Mision Fe, Esperanza, y Amor" at Colonia Riveras, MX
15. Their church's "Mision Cristo El Camino Verdadero" at Colonia Riveras, MX
16. Their church's helps ministry with Angelica Escandon, Caborachi, MX
17. Pastor Jose P. Ambrocio, "Templo Bautista El Shaddai", Villa Esperanza, MX
18. Bro. Eduardo Guzman, "Iglesia Bautista Cristo El Redentor", Sauzal, MX
19. Bro. Eliseo Pena, "Mision Sauzal Viejo", Sauzal, MX
20. Bro. Guadalupe Amaya, "Mision Manuel Valdez", Col. Manuel Valdez, MX
21. Pastor Raymundo Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Esmirna", San Agustin, MX
22. Bro. Urias Lovera, "Iglesia Bautista Maranatha", Porvenir, MX
23. Their church's mission at El Faro, MX
24. Pastor Elias Serrano, "Templo Bethel #2", Colonia Esperanza, MX
25. Pastor Elias Serrano, "Templo Betesda", Agua Dulce, TX
26. Pastor Francisco & Rosa Ramirez, "Templo Agua Viva", Jesus Carranza, MX
27. Pastor Ramon Lara, "Centro Familiar Cristiano", Reforma, MX
28. Their church's feeding station, Reforma, MX
29. Bro. Norberto Rivas, "Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor", Praxedis, MX
30. Pastors Felix & Hilda Figueroa, "Templo Cristo Adonai", Col. La Perla, MX
31. The Figueroas' area ministries to street children & Tarahumara Indians
32. The Figueroas' ministry to the Sierra Tarahumara Indian peoples
33. Pastor Eugenio Guerrero, "Mision Gerizim", El Mimbres, MX
34. Pastor Guerrero's ministry to Tarahumara Indians mission - Choquita, Chih., MX
35. Bro. Tranquilino Polito, Mision Almeras, south of Cd. Juarez, MX
36. Rancho 3-M Children's Home, Guadalupe, MX
37. Pastor David & Barbie Lopez, local ministry to Fabens & Sparks, TX
38. Bro. Filomono Almanza, eldercare ministry, San Elizario, TX
39. Pastor Jose Lira, "Nueva Vida", Tornillo, TX
40. Pastor Tomas Mijares, "Iglesia Bautista Mt. de los Olivos", Juarez, MX
41. Charlie Knaack, "Voice of Mexico", Del Rio, TX
42. Margie & Lee Ball, children's border ministry, Terlingua, TX
- 43-50 The Ball's distribution ministry to 8 villages along the Rio Grande
51. Pastor Galindo Loaeza Garcia, "Mision Cristiana Sion", Cd. Juarez, MX
52. Pastor Noe Beltran, "Iglesia Jehova Provera", Fronteriza Baja, MX
53. CBM Tuesday Bible Study & community families, Fabens, TX

Thank You

November / December Schedule

Delivery Days

Nov. 23 & 24

Regular Mon. & Tues. delivery schedule

Nov. 30 - Dec. 5 Shoebox Gifts arrive

Please call to schedule your deliveries

Dec. 7 - 23 Working/Shipping Gifts

Please call to schedule your deliveries

Days We're Closed for Holidays

Nov. 25 - 29

No Deliveries

Closed for Thanksgiving

Dec. 24 - 27

No Deliveries

Closed for Christmas Break

Dec. 28 - Jan. 3

Ministry Closed

Only scheduled deliveries received

2009 Christmas Shoebox Drive

Our 9th annual gift drive for needy children along our border region.

At least 1400 boxes are needed!

Complete box-making directions and other details are on-line at:
www.crossingbordersministries.com
under "Special Projects"

No internet?

Call for a copy at 915-491-7528

**Boxes due the week of
December 1st, 2009**

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.
Send to: Crossing Borders Ministries
PO Box 35 ♦ Fabens, TX 79838
Phones: cell# 915-491-7528 ♦ office # 915-764-5343
email: CrossingBorder@aol.com
website: crossingbordersministries.com
Thank you for your continued prayers & support!

Elfi & Joan are Mission Service Corps missionaries out of FBC Fabens. MSC is part of the North American Mission Board, whose members must provide their own finances.

Print additional copies of this & other CBM newsletters from our website at crossingbordersministries.com. The site also provides details of this ministry, including "Ways You Can Help", and how to participate in our annual School Supply Drive and Christmas Shoebox Drive.