



Crossing Borders News

News & Updates on Crossing Borders Ministries—FBC Fabens—PO Box 35—at 318 N. Fabens St.—Fabens, TX 79838

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Planting and Watering

by Joan Wilson

Now, some folks don't know this, but the pecan tree is a native of Texas. I've seen them growing wild in the Texas Hill Country. But here? They are strictly grown as a commercial crop. A pecan tree produces for many years, but as it ages the nuts become fewer, smaller and harder. In a word - unprofitable. So in Spring, the farmer comes along and cuts off all its branches and digs it up by the root and puts it in a different field. There it's painted white so it won't blister in the desert sun, watered in, and left - looking more like a tombstone than a tree. For a whole year, maybe two, it stands there showing no signs of life. All the while, unseen, the roots are spreading and growing because dead as it seems, the tree is hanging on to life. And in time, branches and leaves re-emerge, and most miraculous of all, begins to grow larger, meatier nuts - producing a crop like it did in its prime.

In Psalm 1 we are told that those who love the Lord are like trees planted by the riverbank. Their leaves don't wither during a drought and they are productive every season. Looking at the pecan trees, I think about that the trees didn't have a say in where they were planted. In fact, if trees have feelings, I would say that they went through terrible fear and pain in the uprooting and replanting process. But the farmer is very pleased with his trees, and he knows he has helped them get back to doing what they were created to do.

I can imagine how the trees must feel, because five years ago Elfi and I were just like them, "uprooted and planted" in the ministry that we called "Crossing Borders". At first, we weren't sure what God was leading us to do, but as we "rooted around" in the unseen things of God, our mission and purpose became clear and the various ministries we've launched are the visible fruit. The great joy of being more than trees is that we get to work alongside the Lord as farmers. And that's where you, our friends, are such a blessing! We plant a ministry of food, or school supplies, or blankets, or Bible study - and you come along and water it. You send prayers to cover it, and finances to support it, and even volunteer your time to help our ministries succeed. All the while, though, God is the

The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose... We work together as partners who belong to God. 1 Corinthians 3:8,9



one behind the scenes taking all we do and working it out as an expression of His great love for the poorest and most defenseless of people.

The most recent example of this God-directed process is just now taking shape. At the beginning of the year, we received an awesome shipment of 300 dozen eggs and thousands of pounds of dehydrated foods - instant potatoes, powdered eggs, cheese, green beans, and TVP (soy that has been made to look and taste like ham, chicken, or beef). It was a wonderful donation, though we had to get "creative" in how to store it all. We distributed all those fresh eggs and dried potatoes quickly. The other dried foods have been a bit of a different situation. It is GREAT food but the people in Mexico are not sure how to use it. Several ladies, near and far, are working on recipes that will help. However, one woman has taken this to a whole new level.

Maggie and Bill Paulson are a missionary couple from Minnesota who chose Fabens as their new home, in part, because their son Jacob is on staff at 3M Orphanage in Guadalupe, MX. And they chose First Baptist as the place to worship. God opened up an opportunity for them to work with a feeding station for children, and Maggie's desire has been to teach the mothers how to prepare healthy meals at home. We gave her a case of each item to experiment with, and she has happily reported that her first cooking class was such a success that the women eagerly took home some of the dried foods. Also, she and the cook at the feeding station plan to use the same recipes for the kids. There are times when nothing is on hand to feed them with, so this food is proving an even bigger blessing than we hoped and prayed for. And now, the donors of that first shipment are working on a plan to send loads regularly to Crossing Borders. If only we can work out the issue of storage space! I'm sure the Lord has something in mind ... Just look how far we've come in five years.



Five Years and Counting

by Elfi Register

Can you believe it? Crossing Borders had it's **5th Anniversary** on March 10. Where has the time gone? When we started, these two little helpers weren't even born! Now they come with their moms every Tuesday to help sack the rice and beans. (you can see the sacks behind them). Claudia's job is opening the plastic baggies for the ladies, and little Bryan makes sure every bean goes in a bag. He gets very upset when one falls on the floor! After work is through, they



Claudia (4) & Bryan (3)
two of our youngest volunteers

come grab me by the hand, and we head off to watch Veggie Tales while the adults have Bible study and prayer. (this has been an experience in itself!) We've known Bryan since he was 2 weeks old. His mom came to us in tears because she couldn't afford his medications. He was born with very serious birth defects and the doctors were concerned that he might not be able to walk or talk. Every time his mom came for Bible study, we offered to keep him awhile. We would rock him and pray that God would heal him. Miraculously, Bryan not only walked, but the other day when he came in, I said, "Hola, Bryan. Como estas?" (Hi, Bryan, how are you?) and he casually chirped, "Fine." In English! It didn't mean a thing to him but it meant everything to me!

Of course, another of "my" kids is David Ornelas. His doctor's visit in March still showed a small "speck" in the same place the tumor once was. They'll be watching this closely and have scheduled his next visit for June. He's been feeling great and has returned to school which is a miracle in itself. Please continue to pray for him and for his family.

You've probably heard about our latest border problems on the news. The drug traffickers are getting bolder - and more desperate. This is partly because the ports of entry both leaving and coming are getting stricter. It's made crossing for the pastors on Tuesday much more difficult. And between people being scared to come to the border and funds being sent for Gulf Coast recovery efforts, our pastors as well as ministries like feeding stations and orphanages are suffering from dramatic cuts in donations. In faith, we have started giving rice and beans to 3 more ministries, raising our commitment to feed 330 families a week, even though our contributions are also down. We really believe the arrival of the dehydrated foods AND the Paulson family at the same time is a "God-thing". And even though the numbers don't seem to add up, we keep having enough. Sometimes, you just have to climb out of the boat and "walk on water". After all, we believe Easter is more than an excuse for a new outfit - it's a celebration of the real Jesus, who was really dead, and who really came to life again. He is the only Person we KNOW who can feed the hungry and heal the sick!

We now send out a monthly email newsletter that gives a one-page update on what's going on behind the scenes and let's us share prayer concerns in greater detail. If you would like to be included on our e-list, please send us an "Include Me" note to our email address:

CrossingBorder@aol.com

Please notice... there is no "s" at the end of our e-address!

How You Can Help

Every Tuesday, we set up a Distribution Day in our church's annex for pastors and missionaries. They count on us to be there between 9:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. with beans, rice, and other needed items, both for their own families and for needy families in their communities. We are feeding 330 families a week through 38 ministries.

- WE COLLECT THESE ALL THE TIME:
All-purpose Flour Sugar Instant Coffee
Powdered Milk Bar bath Soap
Toothpaste Shampoo Paper Towels
Toilet Paper Tomato Sauce
Canned Vegetables Canned Fruits
Pasta Canned Chicken / Tuna
Peanut Butter Bulk Pinto Beans
Bulk White Rice
- We can always use volunteers to help on Tuesdays, plus whenever we have a special emphasis such as our School Supplies Drive in July & August, or the Christmas Shoebox Gifts in December.
- MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS ALWAYS NEEDED. Donations to CROSSING BORDERS helps buy the rice, beans, and other items we distribute. SUPPORT FOR ELFI OR JOAN HELPS THEM IN THEIR MISSION CALL. They are full-time Mission Service Corps missionaries who do not receive any state or national funding, but must depend on churches & individuals to support them on the mission field.
- PRAYER IS ALWAYS NEEDED! Please continue to pray for our church, our families, our volunteers, & our health. Also for our Mexico pastors, David & Barbie Lopez in Sparks, our storage issues, & the Tuesday Bible study

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 c/o FBC Fabens

PO Box 35 ♦ Fabens, TX 79838

Phones: cell# 915-491-7528 ♦ office # 915-764-5343

email: CrossingBorder@aol.com

Thank you for your continued prayer & support!

Elfi & Joan are Mission Service Corps missionaries out of FBC Fabens. MSC is under the North American Mission Board.

