



Crossing Borders News

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

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Walking on Water in the Desert

By Elfi Register



When you respond to the call of God in your life, you step out of the boat and just go - with only a vague idea of where it all might lead. It's the Lord who shapes what it will look like. Just like Peter, you step out on water- you don't know what you're doing or where you're going. You only know there's *something* that compels you to get out of the boat.

When such a call came in March 2001, I just knew I had to write out the vision. Which developed into our mission statement. Which turned into our brochure. Which has become the blueprint for our lives. Across in Mexico and in our area we built relationships with pastors, volunteers, and mission groups. Together we began to minister to widows, orphans, and anyone else who was in need of help. The pastors in Mexico have many more needy people than we can provide for, so we do what we can. Each pastor gets at least 10 "family packs" of beans and rice and he must make decisions every week on who really needs each pack. Pastor Perea told me he meets with his church leadership and they pray over the food he picks up from Crossing Borders. Then they make the tough call on who receives and who does without that week. They really count on our help - *your help* - to meet needs and bring the blessings of food and clothing to people. Some have said our ministry is not "evangelistic" enough, that we need to see "salvations" - people coming to and following Christ. We've been called to help meet needs so that the Lord CAN bring salvation to the soul AFTER they've been saved from starvation! Because language is still a barrier, it's our actions and not words that have communicated God's love to the Mexican people. They are getting their stomachs AND their spirits fed, praise the Lord!

The flip side is, not only are there needy people in Mexico but in Fabens, Tornillo, Ft. Hancock, and other little *colonias* on the US side. Some of these are different needs, different kinds of hunger, but God has caused us to minister to all of these that we can. He has brought us into the paths of kids. Some are "special needs" kids, while others have "needs" not so easily seen. They are outcasts, cast-offs, unlovely to everyone but Jesus. Right now, we're trying to make an eternal difference in the lives of 30 girls who don't have fathers! The men in their lives are either dead, in jail, or otherwise "unavailable" for them. And for some of them even "mom" is the grandmother. Who could know when we began in 2001 we'd be ministering in our own backyard! The week of Easter Break, a youth group from Corinth, Texas came to work with the youth in Fabens. Every afternoon and evening they set up a huge inflatable "obstacle course" in the county park just below where we live and invited kids to hang out and learn about Jesus. It was an awesome week!

Working with these kids in Fabens is a whole new chapter in "walking on water". They come to youth group with no encouragement from their families. They come dressed wrong, act wrong, and speak wrong - but they come because even though they don't realize it, God is calling them to come discover HIS plan for their lives. It's comfortable inside the "four walls" of life, but when you're exposed to their world - stepping into their lives with all of hell breaking loose around you, it's a vulnerable, scary place. One teen girl was beaten up by an angry ex-boyfriend. Three of the boys are already involved in gang activity. They're 11, 12, and 13 years old. A brother and sister were suddenly whisked off to California last week. They'd both just accepted Jesus as their Savior and were thrilled to receive some especially nice gift Bibles. One of our 10 year old girls was able to pray with them before they left. Still another of our 12 year old girls has been taken to Mexico with only a moment's notice. We have people trying to find where she and her mom have gone to. Like I said, a vulnerable, scary place.

James 1:27 reads: *"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."* Caring for hurting people in their distress can be a messy business. It's much easier to "go with the flow". At least, that's what the world has influenced us is easier. Disposable bottles, disposable packaging, disposable everything. Much easier to just not deal with things. But here's what I hope: in spite of it all, you'll open your spiritual ears and hear your own call from God. Come on, don't *you* want to walk on the water with HIM?

Prayers & Praises

- Barbie's mom, Helen Campos, had an aggressive form of cancer caught early and removed last month. She's now cancer free, but still undergoing radiation treatments just to make sure. She & her family need our prayers & encouragement.
- Maria Felix Rodriguez, wife of Pastor Jose Cruz from Dios Es Amor Church in Sauzal, is scheduled for surgery on her right eye May 30, followed by surgery on the other eye in July. They have been saving money for the two surgeries but are \$700 short. She asks for prayer that either the Lord heals her eyes or makes provision for the finances.
- The cost of beans and rice is going up even faster than gas prices! Meanwhile, donations are dwindling. Pray that we'll be able to keep feeding the 300 needy families who depend on this ministry every week. Pray for those who keep 2400# of beans coming through FBC Cloudcroft each month.
 - 50# dry pinto beans = \$25.00
 - 50# bulk white rice = \$15.0050# of each will feed 20 families per week or 3 families per month.
- Pastor Hugo Garcia and the team from Cornerstone Fellowship make the trip from El Paso twice a week to help us reach the kids in Fabens. Lots of gas money for them but lots of thanks from us! Keep them covered in prayer.
- Much love & thanks to Pastor David & Barbie Lopez for all they do behind the scenes to help keep CBM operational. Pray for their health & ministry.
- Many thanks also to Pastor Tom Goss & the men from The Christian Home, who've recently "come on board" to provide the needed "muscle" to unload our monthly shipment from Grace of Giving. That's 3000# rice plus extra groceries for the Mexico pastors each month!
- And pray for Greg Beard (Grace of Giving), as he goes to work overseas in order to keep ministries like ours supplied.
- And there's just not enough room to thank each of you by name who keep this ministry funded & functioning! But the LORD knows! We pray for your health & families & that you might be BLESSED - even as you are such a blessing!

Living on Less

by Joan Wilson

Even with rising gas and food prices, we as Americans still have plenty of "disposable" income. We think we're "giving up" something if we have to switch from a "name brand" to a "store brand"! So here's a real object lesson: on the right are 35 locations totaling 380 families, but we only have enough beans and rice each week for 300. Which 80 families have to "give up" their week's supply?

That's the real-life decisions we and these pastors are faced with each and every week. Please pray for all of us! It's heart-breaking to look an elderly person or a mom with 5 kids in the face and tell them, "I'm sorry. I don't have anything for you today." If the present money crunch is tough on us, just imagine how much tougher it is on them. Only GOD has the answer for how to multiply the little we have so that it's "enough". Please don't take this as a "guilt trip". Your support of this ministry is awesome! Just putting it out there for you to dig deep in prayer.

Dear CBM friends & partners,

This is a reprint of the original vision statement as Elfi first wrote it. Only those who were with us from the beginning can know just how big a statement of faith this was! The Lord has led us each step of the way - in ways of doing ministry that didn't seem possible at the time, and it's awesome to see how HE has kept us on course and in line with the original vision. May it bless and encourage you in your OWN journey of faith with the Lord!

Our Vision

Our vision is to cross border lines of despair and hopelessness in the physical areas of Fabens, Tornillo, Ft. Hancock, Caseta, Guadalupe, & Barreales but also in the spiritual areas of lives, spreading the Love of Jesus in word and deed. We believe in crossing over generational and cultural barriers and caring for the less fortunate. We envision the curse of poverty over this lower valley area of El Paso and Mexico broken by neighbors caring for neighbors. We envision churches on both sides of the border partnering together and filled to capacity with spirit-filled people loving each other and carrying each others burdens. We envision the widows, orphans and homeless having their needs met by Christian brothers and sisters and that no one should ever go to bed hungry. We envision children on both sides of the border being clothed and educated and supplied with the necessary tools to be able to care for themselves and others. Above all, we envision this area on fire for Christ and that this fire will spread - crossing all borders. Because, to Christ, there are no borders. He loves us all equally and we should do the same.

3/06/2001

1. Pastor Antonio Perea, "Dios Con Nosotros", Praxedis:	10 families
2. their mission at El Millon, MX:	10 families
3. their mission at Caseta, MX:	10 families
4. Pastor David Lopez, "La Trinidad", Guadalupe:	10 families
5. their mission at Colonia Francisco Villa:	10 families
6. Pastor Verulo Garcia, "El Penuel", Col. Esperanza:	10 families
7. their mission at Centenario:	5 families
8. their mission at Paredes:	10 families
9. their mission at Sarabia:	10 families
10. Pastor Enrique Ornelas, "Mision Barreales", Barreales:	10 families
11. Pastor Lorenzo Pinales, "Mt. Sinai", San Isidro:	10 families
12. their mission "Getsemani", Loma Blanca:	10 families
13. their mission "Fe, Esperanza, y Amor", Col. Riveras:	5 families
14. their mission "Cristo El Camino Verdadero", Col. Riveras:	5 families
15. their mission "down river" to Cajoncitos:	10 families
16. Pastor Jose Cruz Rodriguez, "Dios es Amor", Sauzal:	10 families
17. Bro. Eduardo Guzman, "Cristo El Redentor", Sauzal:	10 families
18. their mission at Sauzal Viejo:	10 families
19. their mission at Manuel Valdez:	10 families
20. Pastor Raymundo Rodriguez, "Esmirna", San Agustin:	10 families
21. Bro. Urias Lovera, "Maranatha", Porvenir:	10 families
22. their mission at El Faro:	5 families
23. Their mission at Rancho Nuevo:	10 families
24. Pastor Elias Serrano, "Templo Bethel #2", Col. Esperanza:	15 families
25. Bro. Bill Pettit, helps minister to colonias families:	10 families
26. Bro. Filomono Almanza, eldercare ministry, San Elizario:	10 families
27. Pastor Ramon Lara, "Centro Familiar Cristiano", Reforma:	10 families
28. Pastor Francisco Ramirez, "Templo Agua Viva", El Millon:	10 families
29. Bro. Norberto Rivas, "El Buen Pastor", Praxedis:	10 families
30. Pastors Felix & Hilda Figueroa, "Templo Cristo Adonai":	10 families
31. their ministries to street children & Tarahumara Indians:	10 families
32. Pastor David & Barbie Lopez, "Tierra Prometida", Sparks:	15 families
33. Pastor Jose Lira, "Nueva Vida", Tornillo:	10 families
34. Pastor Emanuel Guerrero, "Mision Gerizim", El Mimbre:	10 families
35. Tuesday Distribution, CBM workers & community, Fabens:	<u>50 families</u>
Total: 380 families	

Subject: 2008 School Supply Drive

Due Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Kits Need: same items as last year

For a copy of items list and other kit details, refer to your 2007 list or contact us at:
Crossingborder@aol.com
or call us at 915-764-5343



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

Thank you for your continued prayer & 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.

