



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

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The POWER of Prayer

Moving Heaven and Earth

by Joan Wilson

... and suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind ... Acts 2:2
... suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken ... Acts 16:26
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much ... James 5:16

There's great power released from the very throne of Heaven when God's people get serious concerning prayer! Several weeks ago, the situation along the border took a terrible turn. As the drug cartels keep fighting for control of this lucrative drug corridor, the small villages we minister to were threatened with notices nailed on their homes and businesses that basically told them **"leave or pay with blood"**. Some places were given the deadline of April 4th - Easter Sunday. To make sure people took them seriously, they began burning homes and businesses the week leading up to that date. People from Porvenir to Barreales began to flee by the thousands, some even seeking asylum across on the US side in Ft. Hancock, Tornillo, and Fabens. The only road leading out of the valley up to Juarez was full of trucks and moving vans; people leaving with what few possessions they could carry. Elfi and I made phone calls and alerted many of our supporting churches to be in fervent prayer for our Christian brothers and sisters. We asked these prayer warriors to pray for our safety and also for the believers in Mexico to have the wisdom to know whether the Lord wanted them to get out of harm's way or make a stand against evil. And it's working! Their **prayers have built a "hedge of protection" around these precious people!** Every pastor has brought us stories of having both survived this latest danger and also of being able to help others with spiritual and physical needs. During Easter weekend, one pastor even stuck to their plan of showing a movie to the community and sharing testimonies of how the Lord had changed lives. This pastor told us there were soldiers guarding the rear of the crowd, so they too heard the "Good News" of Jesus Christ!

It's been frustrating how little news coverage this whole "drug war" on the border has gotten. It's like some conspiracy of silence! But after the governor of New Mexico ordered up the state's National Guard to their border and the sheriff of Hudspeth County, Texas (15 miles from Fabens!) recommended area ranchers arm themselves, folks are taking what's happening here seriously. Over 20,000 people have died in the drug violence throughout Mexico in the last three years - and almost half of them have been in the Juarez valley! This is the reality our Christian brothers and sisters are living with every day, yet they have stayed true to the call of Christ to "feed My sheep". If it's possible, they're even more faithful with coming across on Tuesdays to receive beans, rice, and groceries for themselves and all the families they care for.

We've been blessed to see how those who support this ministry have stepped up deliveries and finances to supply even more to help these men and women! **We've got 20 pastors picking up needed food items for 35 locations every week.** For the pastors running "comedors" (feeding stations) we've added flour and powdered milk to their beans and rice. A shipment of instant oatmeal and baby food also came in and went out. All of this is more than "good deeds". It's the result of believing and praying and witnessing how the Lord moves things in place to take care of "the least of these". I recently experienced this first hand, when we went to receive a load being delivered for the pastors - only to find thieves had stolen the electric lines to the warehouse! There's no "logic" to the fear that came over me as I discovered the cut lines at the back of the building. But even in this, the Lord was already at work. It "just so happened" that a couple who'd already planned to come spend that weekend at the dorm arrived within minutes of our discovery - and he's skilled as an electrician!

So to you who've been part of the prayer "hedge" already, a million thanks go out to you - from your "family" in Mexico and from Elfi and me. And to you who are just now joining in we say, "Welcome! Glad to have you!" We've been amazed at how people have called "out of the blue". Someone asking, "How can we pray for you?" Not knowing the circumstances we're dealing with minute by minute. Only knowing the Lord had put us on their minds. But we understand it's not "just praying" that's made this kind of supernatural, protective hedge. It's earnest, dig-down-to-the-depths, grabbing-hold-of-the-Holy Spirit kind of fervent prayer that stirs up holy activity in Heaven and manifests in miraculous ways here on Earth. It's to your account, powerful saints of God, this victory is counted, and for our Lord's Glory! **So keep at your holy work of prayer!**

The smoke of the incense, mixed with the prayers of God's holy people, ascended up to God from the altar ... the angel filled the incense burner with fire from the altar and threw it down upon the earth; and thunder crashed, lightning flashed, and there was a terrible earthquake ... Revelation 8:4, 5

Why We Stay

by Elfi Register

We get letters from our "little sister" Samantha all the time, but these came right before and after the April 4th deadline to the towns. She's one 15 year old girl in a sea of a million frightened people. In the week leading up to Easter, we received quick phone calls from her every day, letting us know where she was and that she was safe. She's heard a rumor that people like her who've lived most their lives over here can apply and get papers to legally re-enter our country. It's a hope she's clinging to.

For every person who calls to say they're praying for us, others have asked, "Why haven't you moved yet?" Because of the upsurge in violence, there's a real danger of it spilling over the border as the cartels pursue anything that gets in their way. Published reports say they've even mounted assaults against the Mexican army. Other missionaries have left from both sides now; why are we still here? When the Lord calls you, you do it with all your heart. Then when things get rough, other people leave but you stand your ground. To men's eyes it's not the right thing to do. But you have to determine to stand in your calling.

Years ago the Lord called us to "step out of the boat" beyond our comfort zones and depend completely on Him. We did and He took care of us. We've ministered in good times and in hard times. We've walked in our calling. Things are way worse than when we began this ministry. Just across the river from us there are no jobs and nowhere for the poor to run. It's these people the pastors minister to; these that are still hungry, still needing the very basics just to stay alive. We have to do what we're called to do and some people may not understand it, but people didn't get what Jesus did, either.

From the beginning, the LORD set us in place for "such a time as this." Mission groups aren't coming to the border and aren't blessing the people like they used to. They're afraid to come anymore. But there are still hurting people, they still have needs. We're positioned by God to take up the slack. By faith we "pray in" everything that comes. We encourage and pray for the pastors still standing their ground. And the kids on Wednesday nights - every one of them is touched by what's happening in Mexico, and we've been placed in their lives to be a source of stability and peace. And praise the Lord, there are others who stand beside us, who keep supplying, keep praying, keep supporting. People like EL & Carolyn Hogg

Elfi and Joan 4/13/10

Hi. How are you, we are fine. Everything over here is calm down. Nothing has happened. Thanks God. Thank you for the Bible and the other things. God bless you. Thank you for helping me and my granma, God bless the church and the beans and the rice. You and Joan are wonderful persons and I know someday we are going to be together over there. My granma says hi. Say hi to the girls and guys, tell them I miss them a lot. Tell them that I am going to be with them someday. We are going to laugh and play together.

P.S. say hi to all the people that remember us.

Elfi and Joan 3/24/10

How are you, we are fine. Writing to see if you're fine. Well Mexico is too hard - all the killing and too many people dead. Well the church of my aunt, some parts burned liked at 4:00 in the morning it was burning. Be praying for the church and for us. The devil is mad. He is everywhere. We have to hear the word of God with these things happening.

P.S. if you have the time send me some gel pens and some notebooks.

Thank you

GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD TAKE CARE OF YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO.

who were led by God to be here BEFORE we knew we'd need their spiritual strength and electrical know-how.

So what about the "spillover" of violence? We're going to handle it as it comes, till the Lord says differently. It's like what Pastor Toño says, "The Lord knew my first day and He knows my last day. This is a terrible time but a beautiful time, too, because people are desperate enough to be open to our Savior." He stuck to holding a community outreach at Easter, and he's keeping their *comedor* open. People are still hungry, and believe it or not, kids still need to go to school. There's Patti and Joel in medical school and Samantha determined to stay in secondary school with her eye on prep school. In spite of the violence, life goes on and we want to stand beside them every step of the way. Which answers another question:

Yes, we are still collecting school supply kits in August!

It's a risk sharing Samantha's letters and the pastors' stories like this. Risky for them and for us, but you need to know the people we love and serve are not our "job," they are like lambs given to us by the Great Shepherd. To abandon them is unthinkable, and giving up on our calling would be disgraceful - not to men's eyes but to HIS! Jesus said only a hireling runs when danger comes. True shepherds are willing to lay down their lives for the flock. I hope you'll stand with us, and help however the Lord leads. And I hope you understand better why we stay.

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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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!

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.

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