



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

July/August 2009

Above & Beyond

by Elfi Register

2000 Kits!

Wow! Can you believe it!?! We're blown away by your generosity and GOD's great favor toward the poor! About 1800 of the school supply kits you sent are already in the hands of the kids who need them, with the rest waiting for an opportunity to cross the border into Mexico! We estimate over \$15,000 in supplies have been sent to us for children who literally would not be allowed to attend school without them! Truly you've gone "above and beyond" what we could think to ask for!

You have no idea how your gifts of love have brought hope! Whole communities are being held hostage in their own hometowns by all the violence that's made any sort of "normal" life impossible. The horrors even the youngest children are being subjected to is beyond our comprehension. What would you do if your child saw a mutilated body dumped at the bus stop? Nobody feels safe to even talk about what nightmares they've witnessed for fear they will be targeted next for execution. Shop owners, school teachers, and more are kidnapped every day now and held for ransom, hopefully to be returned to their families alive. But that's not always the outcome. How they need our prayers!

In spite of all this (or maybe because of it) the pastors and churches we work with in Mexico have stretched out their own meager resources to extend a helping hand to others. One such group has taken the bold step to open up their church as a "comedor" (feeding station) every Monday through Friday. The pews are pushed back against the walls in the sanctuary to make room for tables and chairs. Every day they feed a meal to almost 100 needy men, women, and children. And they're doing this at a time when most of them are out of work themselves! Talk about going "above and beyond"! For our part, we've committed extra beans and rice each week to help them, along with whatever flour, sugar, and such that we can spare. Their act of compassionate faith has stirred up other pastors and churches to find their own ways to feed the hungry. It's truly the Lord's light shining in the darkness of these frightening days!

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good - Romans 12:21

Last newsletter, we "opened up" and shared about being buried under with work. Well after that went out, we were "buried" in offers of help! Joan and I were blessed by many friends who went "above and beyond", making time to come relieve some of that overload. Between those who did kit sorting and packing, shelf cleaning and organizing, and even a few "manly men" who took care of needed building maintenance, we felt "free" enough to take that time off we hoped and prayed for. Thank you so much, each and every one of you! (You know who you are-and so does our Lord!) Our vacation was a wonderful retreat to the mountains of my own home of Cloudcroft, NM where everyone "pretended" we weren't there and blessed us with quiet time for rest and reflection on where we've been and where we see the Lord leading in future.

We also had an open door at Glen Meadows Baptist in San Angelo, TX to introduce this ministry to their church - and thanks to everyone who took care of us there! They were most interested in ways they can partner with us in ministering to the Wednesday night youth group. Since no single church can "do it all", we continue to marvel at how the Lord connects the different churches to the different ministries He's directed us to "plug in" to. One of the first things we hope to develop together is a "pen pal" ministry between our kids and theirs, to build relationships that are meaningful and God-centered. Perhaps next year, we can get the two groups together, because "my girls" especially need as many positive influences as we can nurture. For instance, while I was away, one of my girls managed to



When have you seen a child look at pencils and paper like it was Christmas?

Kids from 49 different locations were able to go to school thanks to your generosity



These are just a few of the many faces that now have hope for a better future!



"somehow" be in her sister's car and ("my-foot-wasn't-even-on-the-gas!") smash it into the neighbor's car, wrecking both of them! Now she's got to work off the damages. But knowing her situation, she was probably the "oldest" person around who was in charge of younger siblings at the time, and was trying to make adult decisions that were waaaay over her head.

As you know, we deal with stuff like this every day. But whether it's good or bad, we're committed to go wherever the Lord leads us. And let me tell you, the blessings far outweigh the obstacles! Praise the Lord! Speaking of blessings, the Lord has brought our home church to the next turn of transitioning from what "was" to what "will be". While we know it's going to have a few "bumps" along the way, we're moving to expand services to unite our English and Spanish speaking adults into one congregation. Even as we do this, we recognize we can't let it "disrupt" our 3 year investment in our youth work. They're the future of our community as well as our church - they need us and we need them! So please keep all of us here in your prayers!!! We look forward to sharing more details in the next newsletter of how the Lord is challenging us to go "above and beyond" our "comfortable" ways of worshipping HIM!

Going to the Source

By Joan Wilson

In these precarious times, you don't always know who to believe - who to trust. An uncertain economy, violence and unrest around every corner - it's easy to get "lost" in the turmoil. Whose advice you take and what path you choose matter more than ever. All this came "home" to me during a "misadventure" Elfi & I experienced during our vacation in August.

We'd missed our turn on a forest road, and found ourselves wandering an ever-increasingly rough and desolate mountain track. A fire from years before had burned up any trail markers and all we saw were dead trees, dried stream beds, and no wildlife. It was like the end of the world! The road was so rocky and narrow there was no turning around, and our forest map was no help since there were no markers. We seemed to go from bad to worse when we came across dead animals - a wild boar, a buzzard, a deer. Then - hallelujah! - we spotted the local 2 lane highway and were back in "civilization"! We were 20 miles off course, but were at least headed in the right direction once again!

Along that highway runs a small but active stream, the source of which is high and far away in the Sacramento Mountains. So as we were rolling along, a small doe surprised us as she came up from the stream and ran across the road. Now, it was far too early for deer to be "out and about", but her thirst had overridden her sense of time and danger, and she had gone to get a drink. All of a sudden, I thought about the Bible verse that says, "As the deer ..." and it set my thinking along spiritual lines. How like that deer we are - that what we long for rules our decisions. How like our misadventure life is - that all of us have precious memories, tragic events, wrong turns, and new beginnings.

What's stayed with me from that contemplation is, it's not good enough to just "drink from the stream" and go on about life. The source of that roadside stream is well known to me - it's one of my favorite places on earth. And just as I prefer that "source" to the stream further down, so I find my inner strength from not just "drinking in" the beautiful things God has made or given me. I want to see, hear, taste, touch the very "Source" of my existence. It is from HIM I draw strength and direction. Not "religion" or "philosophies", but a genuine RELATIONSHIP! It's that kind of "living at the Source" that keeps me from "wrong turns" and "getting lost", because God is a *rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6)*.

I know from what they've said, these pastors we work with have this same kind of "Source" that keeps them going about their lives and ministries - even in the face of direct conflict with the "drug lords". Even the ones whose names are now on so-called "hit lists". We've all been "drinking" at the very "Source" of creation. One of His many titles is: Living Water. We're confident that *whether we live or die, we are the Lord's (Rom. 14:8)*. This might all sound crazy to you, but there you have it. So my parting thought to you is: where are you drinking from, and what's its source? Mine invites you to *taste and see that the Lord is good! (Ps. 34:8)*

2009 Christmas Shoebox Drive

This will be our **9th annual** gift drive for needy children along our border region. Every year folks from Texas, New Mexico, and beyond get together to decorate shoeboxes and fill them with goodies for children who are so poor these boxes may be all they get. Last year, we blessed over 1300 kids - so we'll **need at least 1400 boxes** this year! Please pray with us that no child will have to be disappointed!

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

THESE DIRECTIONS HAVE BEEN UPDATED and include a page of labels for you to print, cut apart, and use to label each box you make.

No internet?

Call for a copy at 915-491-7528

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

***As the deer longs for streams
of water, so my soul thirsts for
You, oh Lord God
.... Psalm 42:1***

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.