



Crossing Borders News

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

2007 Issue 1

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One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13,14)



Pressing On

by Elfi Register

We have not even finished packing away the odds & ends of our Christmas rush and here it is 2007 already! The scripture printed above has been our meditation, reminding us there are always greater things ahead as we serve the Lord. We won't "win the prize" until we see HIM face to face. November and December were very eventful for Joan and me. It was hard to stay focused on the shoebox gifts because foremost in our thoughts was our "little starfish" David Ornelas. We felt led by the Lord to commit our Friday afternoons to visit him and his family, and Barbie confirmed the Lord had also put this idea in her mind. Things got really hectic as we juggled our visits with them and the steady traffic of shoebox gifts coming in, being sorted, and going out again. But we pressed on through, knowing that this family looked forward to our coming.

These times with David will always be precious to us. For two years we've prayed with him and for him, encouraged him and his family, and been challenged by the strength of his faith in the Lord. We've kept you updated on the many medical procedures to try and destroy the brain cancer that threatened his life. Many of you have taken this boy into your hearts as you've prayed for him. A year ago we were thrilled that his cancer was in remission. Now, we have the sad task of telling you that David went home to be with the Lord Jesus on Sunday, December 17. We were able to be with him during his final days. We witnessed him literally fight Death in a testimony of the realness and power of his faith. Though it was hard for him to communicate, he was able to signal that he understood what loved ones said to him. Those eventful days have quickened our own faith as we gained deeper insight into what "Resurrection Life" really means. We left his graveside firmly convinced that there is still more "life" in this young soldier of the Lord than in most of us walking and talking in this realm.

So we Dedicate this to David ...

In contrast to his failing body, David's courage and unwavering faith in the Lord only grew stronger. We closed our thank you letter to the shoebox donors with a special dedication - In David's memory, and for the glory of God, we dedicated this Christmas Shoebox Drive 2006 to David. We were able to send out some 1100 gift boxes through 35 locations along our Texas-Mexico section of the border. There were 18 different organizations that supplied all these wrapped and overflowing gift boxes. Many of you are part of those groups, and we want to be sure to say "Thank You" to each of you from all of us here on the border. If you stop and think about just how many hours went into the purchasing, wrapping, and filling of each box, the total time and effort is overwhelming. Some boxes had special notes placed in them by families that made up the gifts; one had a note that said "in memory of my grandchild". There was even one box made especially for a "left-handed" baseball player! There was a lot of love and prayer also stuffed into those boxes!

We are also grateful to those who sent money to help us buy candies and other goodies to finish making some of the gift boxes, and to the 6 work teams that gave us their time and energy to sort and pack the gifts to match the requests made by the pastors. It's a physical impossibility for us to do this huge task by ourselves! At the end of one work day, we asked a small child to pray over the gifts they had worked on. The awesome prayer she prayed brought us all to tears. She even prayed that the children would take good care of the toys that were in the box! Like her, we pray for YOU, that the Lord will take care of your every need, and will show you His desired goal for you in 2007.

2007

News Clips & Prayer Needs

The first Tuesday of the year, we had SNOW! We opened the courtyard door in the fellowship hall at church so everyone packing beans & rice could see it. It was like opening the door to another world! We all oohed & aahed at the sight. Unfortunately, it kept a lot of the pastors from coming, but our transplanted "snowbirds" (the Paulsens) felt like a piece of "home" had come to visit! Ralph & Judi Wright were also out & about in it, stopping in to say hello. She & her family thank you for keeping her in prayer. They await the prognosis of how the lymphoma has responded to the chemo.

Our friends at Glen Meadows Baptist Church in San Angelo, TX have ordered a 24x24 building for us. Now we need someone who will take care of the concrete pad. Greg Beard is coordinating all the construction issues. He asks prayer for wisdom & finances as he heads up this project for us.

Barbie Lopez had to have surgery to correct problems she's had for several years. Join us in praying for her quick recovery. We can't function TOO long without her!

Bro. Danny Campos is home from the hospital where he was treated for a blood clot in his heart. Pray for his quick recovery.

Keep the Ornelas family in prayer by name: parents Enrique & Elena, and sisters Patti, 18 & Elisabeth, 15.



David Enrique Ornelas
July 8, 1997 - December 17, 2006
A Warrior for the Lord!

Believing and Speaking

by Joan Wilson

Years ago, I heard a preacher talk about what "faith" really meant. In a nutshell, he said it was "believing and speaking" those things that only GOD is able to accomplish. In January 2001, before there ever was such a thing as "Crossing Borders Ministries", Elfi wrote out what she believed was her call- and our mission- from the Lord. We were to support, encourage, and release "faith" in the needy and less fortunate. It sounded pretty lofty six years ago. We didn't have any idea how we were supposed to put "feet" to such a calling. We only knew we were supposed to "step out in faith" on it. Believing and speaking.

Someone asked me, "Do people actually send you *money* to do what you do?" "Yes," I answered, "because they believe we're called by God to do it." And so we have been living and serving 24/7 as missionaries for the Lord on the border. We are faithfully cared for by the Lord and all of those who believe His call in our lives. We trust in knowing that HE is our Source, and you who support us in prayer and finances are as much a part of this ministry as those who work beside us every day. We obey what the Lord tells us, we speak what He shows us, and rejoice when people respond in faith. Believing and speaking.

On the Sunday that David passed out of this life, I was getting ready for the morning service at church, singing songs to the Lord and having a running "monologue" of prayer. The night before, as Elfi & I had sat by David's bedside, he'd gripped my hand with the left hand that had been paralyzed for the past two years. Later, asleep or awake I don't know, he raised BOTH arms up toward the ceiling. These were miracles of themselves, so I was praying for the impossible to happen, for the Lord to heal David.

A Look Back at 2006

- Over 50,000 # of beans: Most were purchases made through Cloudcroft FBC & Cloudcroft Methodist. Hans Steinhoff faithfully delivers these every 2 weeks! A big "tote" came in June from Farmington, NM. Then in October, Hans arranged for a large donation from a Deming, NM grower.
- Over 42,000 # of rice: Most came as purchases made through the contributions of FBC La Luz, NM and Grace of Giving Ministries near Waco, TX. Greg Beard hauled all but 2000# of this himself, along with grocery items for the pastors!
- 10,000 # of Potatoes: We were blessed with loads of potatoes and other goods brought to us courtesy of the Smiths, George Hughes, and other donors from the Panhandle of Texas.
- School Supplies for over 1000 children: Tons of supplies poured in to bless the children along the border. The Lord alone knows each donor by name!
- Over 1100 shoeboxes filled with Christmas blessings: Gifts came in from Texas, New Mexico, & beyond!
- Cooking Classes given by Maggie Paulsen. She's taught others to fix tasty dishes with the dried foods from Hunger Plus.
- Lots & Lots of Other Donations: Dick & Pat Murland come monthly with items collected from El Paso FBC, Scotsdale Baptist, & other great folks. Hans also brings items donated from friends around Alamogordo throughout the year. We are SO blessed!

Note to Self:

Next year, DO NOT put soap in the boxes! Deodorant soaps were the most offensive, but even Ivory was pungent! Who wants to eat soap-flavored candy?!?



As I was getting ready, I heard the sound of drums far off. The rhythm was so intense that it interrupted my singing, and I caught myself keeping time to their beat instead. Then, as the sound grew nearer I heard trumpets, and a sustained perfect note that vibrated in the air. Or more rightly in my spirit. I realized I was not hearing all this in my ears, but from that "place" where the Lord speaks to us who follow Him. It was so overwhelming, I thought for a moment that the "end of the age" had come, and that the Lord was coming for us all. I stretched my hands instinctively up toward the ceiling, then felt a sort of confusion as the whole sound began to move away. Even as it faded and I began to comprehend what I was hearing, I heard the phone ring in Elfi's room. Then a knock on my door. Friends were calling from Mexico to say that David had just died. "Yes, I know," I told her, "I heard the Lord come for him and it was glorious! It was the Lord dressed in battle array and leading a Conqueror's Song for him!"

Now, I know some of you may find this experience hard to believe. It isn't the kind of thing you hear about every day. Yet it is exactly what the Lord Jesus promised His followers would happen when He said, "I go and prepare a place for you (and) I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3) It is one of the greatest promises we have as followers of Jesus. To be given the privilege of hearing Him come for David is something meant to be shared so that others may believe and be encouraged. It's not believing if you're not speaking.

I am looking forward to this new year! 2007 marks our 10th year as border missionaries. CBM celebrates it's 6th anniversary in March. In August we'll have our 7th annual School Supply Drive; in December, our 7th Christmas Drive. What other amazing things will we see and hear that the Lord is doing? I sense there will be some obstacles ahead as the Lord continually guides us to stretch and grow in ministry, but they will be real opportunities to demonstrate our faith in Him.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each one of you who keeps us in your prayers. Your faith encourages us, even as our faith encourages you. Together we believe and speak that marvelous truth of God's great love for all people, but especially for those who have no voice and no hope.



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.

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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.

