



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

May/June 2010

Simple Miracles

by Elfi Register

As the violence in Mexico continues, the Lord continues to surround us with showers of blessings for those we minister to here along our stretch of the border. It's a real-time unfolding of "blessings with persecutions" all around us. (See Mark 10:30) No matter what turn the drug war takes, it's always the poor and helpless who get caught in the crossfire. Your love gifts sent this way are nothing short of miracles for these who suffer most.

May was "quiet" compared to what we told you about April. The pastors say things like, "It's been a good week so far - only one or two killed." To those who've been traumatized by dismembered bodies on the street corners, fewer murders and fewer homes burned down is "good". But June is now called the "most violent month on record" for the last 3 years in several news reports - 20 and 30 killed at a time. Lately, the small town of Guadalupe has been hit really hard. The town pharmacist (cousin to one pastor's wife) was murdered - after he'd been kidnapped & released earlier this year with a huge ransom paid to get him back. A few weeks ago, the town's mayor was taken out of his home in the night and murdered in front of his family. And the violence is hitting closer to home all the time. Just last week, one pastor had to go to Juarez to identify and claim the bodies of 2 of his own brothers and a nephew who'd been murdered in San Isidro.

The unrest in the whole valley and devastation to so many families is heartbreaking. All the small villages from Barreales to Porvenir are like ghost towns. Even though people still live there (the ones who can leave have left), you don't see neighbors out visiting and children out playing like it was even 2 years ago. Yet the pastors still tend to those who come to them for help - with the number of people ever increasing. As many as 180 people a day are being fed between the 2 feeding stations we supply, and as many as 400 families each week through the beans and rice all the pastors pick up from us each Tuesday. So you who faithfully support our ministry efforts are making a significant impact in the lives of these who suffer under the curse of poverty and we praise God for you.

The summer groups that still answered God's call to work on the border are using us as a staging area to ship out supplies of every kind for the churches across from us. Even if they can't go across, they still come to do what they can to encourage and bless their Christian family in Mexico. And they've used their "spare" time to tackle many of the needed repairs around these old church buildings with wonderful results. In May, one group set up a health clinic in our church annex for the pastors' families from Mexico and a combined Texas/Oklahoma group held a VBS for us at the end of June.

In fact, our Wednesday kids showed up for the VBS in larger numbers than ever - nearly all of them! Praise the Lord! Folks just don't get what a real miracle this is! Our kids deal with rejection and abandonment in their daily lives, so it's really hard for them to trust "outsiders". One of our girls was hurt so badly by a Spring Break group that promised to come back (but didn't), she still won't come to anything strangers do. On the other hand, the Cisco area team that was just here met our kids last year when they made them snow cones (we call them *raspas*). When we let the kids know the same folks were back to make *raspas* again, they ran in to meet them like they were long lost family! This is a miracle!

Trying to help these kids realize that God desires a great future for their lives is a real labor of love, and it's a blessing when we get to witness even the smallest victories. There's a high school girl whose friends started bringing her to Wednesday nights because they were really worried about her. It's been amazing to see the heavy sadness over her life gradually replaced with the Lord's peace. A few weeks ago another girl and I played "Amazing Grace" as a clarinet duet, and the girls all wanted to sing it so we got out the hymn books. Can you believe it - hymn books! Afterwards, this high schooler came to me, showing me the song "Rock of Ages". She said, "I think I like this song - I like the words. Could I borrow this book and bring it back next week?" Jesus was speaking to her through the words in a hymnal! Of course, I said yes!

Miracles like this surround us every day! Do we just keep ourselves "too busy" to notice when God shows up? What is He trying to say to you these days? We just need to slow down and listen.



In the health clinic sacks of beans & rice became a dental chair to clean teeth & a flashlight was the light for overhead!

Prayers and Praises

The power of fervent prayer is what we press in to these turbulent days. The prayers of those saints who came here to work are joined with your own to keep us under a "hedge" of protection. We believe the evil sweeping back and forth in this region is blinded by that hedge, so we urge you to keep up your holy work of prayer.

- Pray for Samantha in Mexico. She graduated "secundaria" but is now having to rethink further schooling. She feels the need to get a job to take care of her ill grandmom.
- Pray for all border kids going back to school in August. At Samantha's graduation they didn't allow pictures taken because of kidnapping threats. Early this year one principal was snatched & killed as a warning to others. Pray these terror tactics to disrupt "normal" life cease.
- THANK YOU to everyone who's worked on the church buildings! What a difference it's already made! New floor tile at the dorm, roofs patched, coolers running- & much more that the LORD knows! What you've done is surely recorded in HIS Book of Remembrance! (Malachi 3:16)
- We praise the Lord also for all you who've kept supplying the extra beans, rice, & other groceries - you give to God when you give to the poor! Thank you for every phone call & note of encouragement, too. It all means more than you'll ever know!



Joan & some of her class



our Wednesday Kids on a typical night



Elfi & 2 of her girls

Blessings with Persecution

by Joan Wilson

Jesus replied, "I assure you that everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for My sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return, a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property - with persecutions. And in the world to come they will have eternal life." Mark 10:29-30

When you love someone with all your heart, you'll do anything for them. That's what it's like to love Jesus. It's the ultimate love story! I've been condemned for "giving up" things in my life to follow Him - and criticized for enjoying the things He blesses my life with. But when I think of this One I love, it doesn't matter. I just have to accept that some folks simply don't "get it".

Just look at the faces of our Wednesday kids! There are stories behind each one, but only one story that really matters - Jesus loves them and has drawn each one to Himself through us. And through us, He demonstrates that love for them. Loving these kids has cost us - but HE desires to show them a better way of living, and so the cost is worth it. In those pictures are siblings, best friends, mortal enemies, and tormented souls. There's an old nursery rhyme that says, "Wednesday's child is full of woe," and this is so true of our kids. But for two hours every Wednesday night, we're a family - and it shows! As Elfi says, "It's a miracle!"

The same group that did the clinic also put up a chain link fence around the church yard. That Wednesday night after the kids finished supper, they all took off to the street side entrance and we went running after them to get them back inside the building. To our amazement, what they did was run around the outside of the church so they could enter the church yard through their new gate! Playing happily in the "box" made of fence is where we caught up to them!

What we experience on Wednesdays is what I know the pastors live out with their own little flocks. We are all laying down what we might want in our lives for what the Lord wants to give to all these hurting people. As horrible as it is living in a "war zone", they try to keep going. Schools will be starting in Mexico the middle of August, and the school supplies you send for us to distribute will be a ray of HOPE as well as giving them the tools they need for school. Some of our pastors will be taking school kits all the way to the interior & distributing them to the Indian peoples there. The area surrounding Creel has become especially dangerous, but still the pastors will go. Just as with Samantha's graduation, it may be difficult for them to bring us pictures this year, but we know they'll do what is best for the kids there.

We're excited to hear from all the groups working to get the kits ready by August 1! I know the time and sacrifice you put in to each kit will be given back to you in ways you can't imagine! What a blessing they will be to the children - even in the midst of the persecution they experience at the hands of evil men.

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 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.



2010 School Supply Kits Drive

This will be our 10th Annual Supply Drive for the children in Mexico. We expect to ship over 1500 kits this year. For those who can't access this information off our website, here's the lists for each of the three grade groupings. Kits are made by placing one set of items in a 2 gallon size or larger Ziploc bag. Place a full sheet of paper inside that clearly labels which kind of kit it is. This helps the pastors a lot! Please don't send your kits incomplete or add more things to them. We want each child to receive the same thing his or her neighbor gets. **All supply kits should ARRIVE HERE BY AUGUST 1.** For more information call 915-491-7528.

Kits are to contain the following:

Primaria (primary school grades 1 - 6)

- 1- 24 count box of Crayons
- 1- 20 count pkg. #2 Pencils
- 1- pair blunt tip scissors
- 1- big pink eraser
- 1- pencil sharpener
- 1- 12" Ruler with Metric measurements
- 1- 4 oz bottle school glue (Tape lid closed!)
- 1- yellow highlighter
- 2- pocket folders
- 1- spiral notebook - wide rule paper
- 1- 150 count pkg. Loose leaf paper - wide rule

Secundaria (secondary school grades 7 - 9)

- 1- 24 count Colored Pencils
- 1- 20 count pkg. #2 Pencils
- 1- 10 count pkg. Black Pens
- 1- pair child/student scissors (pointed tip OK)
- 1- big pink eraser
- 1- pencil sharpener
- 1- 12" Ruler with Metric measurements
- 1- 4 oz bottle glue (Tape lid closed!)
- 1- yellow highlighter
- 4- pocket folders
- 1- Composition Book
- 1- spiral notebook - college rule paper
- 1- 150 count pkg. Loose leaf paper - college rule

Preparatoria (high school grades 10 - 12)

- 1- 24 count Colored Pencils
- 1- 4 count pkg. Mechanical Pencils
- 1- 10 count pkg. Black Pens
- 1- pair student scissors (pointed tip is OK)
- 1- big pink eraser
- 1- pencil sharpener
- 1- 12" Ruler with Metric measurements
- 1- 4 oz bottle glue (Tape lid closed!)
- 1- 4 pack multi-color highlighters
- 4- pocket folders
- 2- Composition Book
- 2- spiral notebook - college rule paper
- 1- 150 count pkg. Loose leaf paper - college rule

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.