



Crossing Borders News

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

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Extravagant Giving

by Joan Wilson

Sitting across from the offering box, Jesus was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins. He called his disciples over and said, "The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they will never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford - she gave her all." (from THE MESSAGE BIBLE, Mark 12:41-44)

There are many wonderful people who keep this ministry going and growing because of their generous gifts! We are blessed time and again by their love and thoughtfulness toward us and those we minister to. This summer, the Lord kept bringing to our attention just how many people on fixed incomes are helping us fulfill HIS call to care for "the poor, the fatherless, the widow, and the oppressed." Rather than focusing on their own limited resources, they choose to give their all for the Lord. One retired woman comes every year with a volunteer mission team for a week, and she gave an offering for the school supplies. With tears in her eyes she said, "I only wish I could do more. I just love those little ones so much and they have such a rough go of it." A mother and daughter in New Mexico have supported us for years, saving out of their monthly checks to do so. Theirs is extravagant love! Another woman in Tennessee who has never even met us, now confined to a nursing home, has kept us faithfully covered in prayer as if she were as near as next door! She doesn't know it, but she joins her prayers with those of an elderly widow in Minnesota who's been a faithful supporter and "pen pal" of Elfi's - taking up her husband's "pen pal" encouragements after he passed away! Such a blessing!

In late July we received an unexpected "gift". One of the groups that stay in the church mission dorm offered to tackle several projects for our own church, in addition to the work they were doing in Mexico each day. One woman is a professional artist who is in the midst of both a financial and a health struggle. She delayed a medical procedure in order to come to the border and serve the Lord. She volunteered to paint and hang the bathroom door in our new warehouse. What she left behind though was a beautifully decorated bathroom fit for a magazine layout, complete with designer walls and scripture artwork. She didn't even stick around so we could express our "thank you"! (So, Sadie, this is what we pray for you: what you have done as unto the Lord in secret, the Lord will repay you openly - both personally and professionally. Amen!) What extravagance!

Another "extravagant giver" is a tiny woman named Francille. She has been a tireless advocate for our ministry from the very beginning, when Elfi met her at a missions meeting in Alamogordo, NM. This past April we asked Francille to consider making book bags for the school kits her church sent, because we had seen her handiwork before. She was overwhelmed by the thought at first, but by July she had sewn 40 book bags! What a tremendous blessing for the kids!

All those who worked on school supply kits sent over and above anything they had done before. Talk about extravagant! One group of Sunday School kids were so moved by the needs of our children on the border that they generated 100 kits from their own small church. Their kits helped in making a total of more than 1600 school supply kits received for the children of Mexico! Our new building made the perfect place for receiving all the donated kits, sorting them by grade, and then staging them for the pastors to come pick up. In the midst of taking in all those kits, we also had a visit from our friends at Glen Meadows Church who brought more than just kits; they brought a load of food, including an 850# box of granola cereal! Of course, we can't "just" have a supply drive but also managed to receive and ship out two different loads of fresh potatoes in the middle of it all, too!

With all that we've experienced this summer, I think I could "preach a sermon" about "extravagant giving". What Jesus saw in the poor widow was not "quantity" but "quality". Being God in the flesh, He knew the HEART that was behind the giving. He is drawn to the hearts that are like His own, for He is a GOD of extravagance, Who lavishes His love over us all!



Elfi, Joan, and Francille



Children in Colonia Esperanza with book bags from Francille



One of the book bags

Kids at Cristo Redentor Church in Sauzal with their kits



School kits staged & ready for Pastor Antonio of Praxedis. Guy, at left & Samantha, second from right worked as hard as any adults at loading & unloading!

And a Little Child Shall Lead Them

by Elfi Register

Children can be such an inspiration! There's the group of kids that caught the vision and promoted the school supply drive so much in their small church that they were able to donate over 100 school kits. They were part of a larger effort out of Double Mountain Baptist Association in West Texas that resulted in an amazing shipment of 705 kits!



Barbie gives Pastor Antonio a study Bible

Let me tell you, the day that load showed up in the back of a U-Haul was a wonderful example of God's perfect timing! We started the morning by unloading kits brought in from FBC El Paso. Right behind them came donations from the Cleburne, TX churches (more on them later). Then, in came 100 kits from FBC Cloudcroft, NM - who also had kits by way of San Angelo, TX. Boxes began to pile up everywhere! Then, the U-Haul arrived. While most of us adults needed to take a "break", three of "our" kids said, "Where do you want us to put it?" Judy Dalton of Cloudcroft rose to the "challenge" and it was fun watching her in mountain chukka boots wheel her box-dolly in and around those kids! (Two of our kids, Samantha & Guy, are pictured on front) After that, we DID break for lunch, then we had FBC La Luz, NM drop off their 200 kits. The whole day, our crew of kids worked just as hard as the adults. We are so proud of them!

In early summer, Judy Cole from Cleburne told me about another children's group that wanted to purchase Bibles in Spanish with the mission offering they collected during Vacation Bible School. As we discussed the best kind to get, we came up with the need for the pastors to have good study Bibles. But these would cost more than Judy

thought the kids could raise. She said, "We'll have to pray." As a result, they were able to bring 20 Thompson chain-reference study Bibles in Spanish when they came at the end of July to deliver the school kits plus beans and rice. They also stayed long enough to put in "bumper" posts around the warehouse, to help keep the building from the "dings" of people backing into it. That day, they were also able to personally give some of the Bibles to the pastors. One

pastor told them it came just in time; August was "month of the Bible" in their churches in Mexico! The neatest moment came weeks later, though. When Pastor Antonio received the gift Bibles for himself and his missionary daughter Bertha (both pictured on front), it was such a surprise he broke down in tears. He'd come just to pick up the "dispensa", only to find such a valuable gift waiting for him!

Strange as it may seem, we have kids "taking the lead" all the time, especially "our" Samantha. During one potato delivery, she had the "boy next door" help haul small sacks of potatoes on their bikes to people in need. She's often my "right hand" in the midst of our Tuesday rush to pack beans and rice. She also takes charge of setting up the video for the kids to watch during the adult Bible study time. Guy, who's much younger, would rather come pack beans and rice than stay home playing! He's also quick to help the pastors get things out to their cars - though the bags are nearly as tall as he is! Now that school started, we don't get to see "our kids" as much, but they're a great blessing whenever we do!

More Praise Reports & Prayer Needs

The Cloudcroft ladies saw the warehouse needed lots of "little extras". They left & came back with everything from paper towels to a much-needed step ladder. All of it's been a real life-saver!

One pastor's daughter is enrolled in Nursing School in Juarez, and she needed such things as a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, and thermometer. Elfi called a Nurse she knows. Everyone prayed. Weeks went by. On Tuesday, the girl's grandfather (also a pastor) asked if anything had come in yet. No, not yet. But when the girl's mom came later, Elfi felt prompted by God to go check the post office one more time. Everything had arrived - all brand new! Hallelujah!

More surprises have been showing up at the post office in the form of study literature for the pastors. Copies of the "Prayer of Jabez" by Bruce Wilkinson; Bible study lesson booklets; classic pastoral studies from Charles Spurgeon. All of it translated into Spanish! It's like Christmas came early for our pastor friends!

A retired couple, precious friends, gave CBM its own surprise as well - funds for a new chest freezer and refrigerator for the warehouse. Their gift came at just the moment we needed some encouragement! Praise the Lord!

We've been "on the go" all summer, and it's drained us physically and financially. Yet we know the Lord will provide. In Matthew 10, He told us how we are to "go". And we have, knowing what we do is worth a lot to HIM. He has also instructed us to "ask, seek, knock" in Luke 11:5-10. So we're asking you to pray for our health and our monthly support. There is something powerful in persistent praying that matters to the Lord.

Crossing Borders is a ministry of Fabens First Baptist Church, developed and operated by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson. Your financial support is vital to this ministry.

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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!

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