



Crossing Borders News

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

Vol. 10 Issue 4

Our mission: to Support, Encourage, and Release Faith in the needy and less fortunate

July - September 2010

Back to School

by Elfi

If a picture's worth a thousand words, then these faces should speak volumes! In spite of hardships, Mexico's children have gone back to school - and your gifts of school supply kits helped get them there! Over **1600 school kits** went to the neediest kids. **1600!** Wow! We've said it before, but kids without school supplies aren't allowed to stay in school after the first two weeks. So your kits actually helped keep 1600 kids in school! Praise the Lord!

These kids sure need all the encouragement they can get. Juarez has become one of the world's most dangerous cities amid a turf war between the "Sinaloa" and "Juarez" cartels. And that war moves up and down the Juarez valley, so that no one knows where the violence will break out next. This summer these kids witnessed homes burned, neighbors and family murdered, stores in their small towns boarded up forever. Two weeks ago there was a report that estimated some 10,000 children are now orphaned in Mexico because of the drug-related violence. As shocking as that sounds, chances are that number's low. The level of terror kids still face in Mexico is unfathomable. At school, they've started having emergency drills where everyone hits the floor at the first sound of gunfire. The kids are being taught to stay on the floor till they're given the "all clear". Don't get up and don't go outside - not even to go for help if you or a friend's injured. One Mexico official is against such drills, saying he thinks it's too "traumatizing" for the children. As if they're not already traumatized! Yet the resilience of children is amazing. Just look at their precious faces!

For all the evil out there we've had answered prayer - "our" Samantha went back to school, too! Graduating from secundaria (our grades 7-9) was a really big deal for her since most poor families do good to keep their kids in school through 6th grade. We don't realize, but in Mexico your last 3 years of "high school" are very expensive and difficult to get accepted into. You have to apply to either a technical or preparatory school and have to keep up a good grade average to stay in. Fees have to be paid up front as well as throughout the school year. Miss a payment or fail to have the right school supplies and uniforms, and you're "out". It's really more like going to junior college. Sam's thinking about going into social work, so she can help other people. There's a whole generation of children who already suffer from PTSD like a soldier from the battlefield. So you can see how the Lord might use her. Please keep Samantha and all these children covered in prayer. They're really walking through the "valley of the shadow of death".

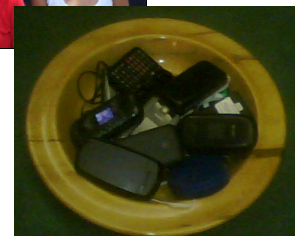
Of course, it's "back to school" on this side of the border, too! We gave out over 60 kits to the kids here that we minister to on a regular basis. In my class of middle school girls, our "homework" for the first 21 days of September was to read the book of 1 John, all of it, every day. I told them that if they read it every day for all 21 days it would change their lives. One girl actually read it **11 times** and another made it 6. Several others managed a time or two. That may not sound like a victory to you, but the changes already happening in them is pretty awesome. On Sept. 22 we took on another 21 day challenge with the book of James. Just as we did with 1 John, the goal is to read it beginning to end every day. To help the girls stick to it, I typed the whole book in letter form, in paragraphs without verse numbers. After all, that's how James wrote it in the 1st Century AD. And we use the New Century Version so they can understand what they read. Whatever confuses them, excites them, or stirs up questions, we get together every Wednesday and talk about it. I'll tell you - I got excited when one of my girls texted me less than a half-hour after getting home that night. She wrote, *"I just finished reading what you gave me. I like it. And I'm trying hard to stay out of trouble and do good in school."*

These are the same girls that used to fight me about putting their cell phones and mp3's in the offering plate each week before class starts, giving one hour to God, and now a picture of that plate full of stuff is the watermark for our copies of James - cool, huh! So if a bunch of preteen girls can do it, how about you? After all, it takes less time to read James than to watch a 30 minute sitcom. I'm telling you, reading a chunk of the Bible repeatedly so that it sinks down deep will change your life. Come on, join us on this faith quest, and see if your own world doesn't make an amazing shift! After all, we're never too old to go "back to school" with GOD!



These are just a small glimpse at the more than 1600 kids you helped with school supply kits!

Elfi & some of her girls ... and their weekly cell phone offering



Christmas Shoe Box Drive 2010

by Joan Wilson

It's already that time again, CBM Family - can you believe it?!? We haven't packed away all our school supply "stuff" and there's groups already calling to set up work days for the Shoebox Drive! This will be the **tenth time** we have partnered together to bring Christmas Joy to needy children along the Texas-Mexico border and we estimate needing **1600 shoebox gifts!** Our efforts (yours and ours) over these past years have helped the pastors of Mexico impact many lives with the love and generosity of Jesus Christ (the One whose birthday we celebrate!) This Christmas, we will again collect Gift Boxes for them and the impoverished children they minister to in Mexico. We will be asking our pastor friends to give us the names of truly needy children in their communities—children who will have nothing for Christmas except what they receive through this ministry effort.

With so much bad news coming out of Mexico, it's all the more reason to extend the Good News of Jesus through these little bundles of love. But we can't do it all by ourselves. We need all of you to help us "pray in" these boxed gifts, put "hands" to those prayers by doing what you're able in assembling gift boxes at home or church, and add your "feet" by bringing your gifts and hanging around to help us sort them to the different pastors. If you've never come to help before, it goes something like this: The church's mission dormitory is vacant in December, so it's the perfect place for us to work. As the boxes come in we sort them on long shelves lining the dorm dining hall by "niños" (boys) or "niñas" (girls) and also by the different age groups. Then we take the lists the pastors give us and count out how many each list needs. Finally, these counted boxes go into shipping boxes for the pastors to pick up the following Tuesday when they come for beans and rice. It's quite an undertaking, but after so many years we pretty well have the whole process down to a "science".

The "shipping window" is very limited this year, with most of the churches planning their Christmas gatherings for Sunday, December 19th. This leaves us only two weeks to get all the boxes ready for shipping into Mexico. The ones going to mission points in the Sierra Tarahumara have to ship the week of our deadline in fact! So we need everyone's cooperation in getting your boxes to us as close to our deadline as possible. And as soon as you have an idea of when you can bring your gifts, please give us a call so we can write you into our schedule and count on your boxes for these shipments. And thanks to everybody in advance for helping us make this a wonderful Christmas season for our "family" in Mexico!

For complete instructions on wrapping, filling, & shipping shoebox gifts visit our website below. Also, **9-12 & 13-16** aged gift boxes always run out first & we have to "age up" the younger kids' boxes for them. It would help out a lot if you make more gifts for older kids in your groups!

DELIVERY DEADLINE IS THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2010.

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.



Prayer Requests

There is continued need for prayer on behalf of all of us still called to minister along the border between the US and Mexico. But there are some particular requests we want to ask for by name:

- The Pinales family needs our prayers for strength and peace. Their oldest daughter died under suspicious circumstances and it doesn't seem they're going to find justice through their broken system of law. They also seek prayer concerning future custody of their young grandson.
- The Perea family needs prayer for wisdom and God's guidance as violence escalates around them. Their church is a refuge for out of work and traumatized men, women, and children.
- The Garcia family has received death threats and now spend the night away from their own home as a precaution. The gangs' preferred method is to pull people from their beds and terrorize the whole neighborhood in the process. This pastor feels caught choosing between his own family's safety and the many desperate souls flocking to the church and to Christ. Pray that he hears the Lord clearly, as they may need to flee quickly.
- The towns of Praxedis G Guerrero and Colonia Esperanza, about 20 miles downriver from us on the Mexico side, are the most recent targets of turf war activity between the drug gangs. Kidnapping, torture, murder, and arson are rampant. Those who are able to run have already done so, leaving the poor, the widowed, and the elderly even more vulnerable. Pray for God to blind the enemy's eyes from seeing these helpless victims.
- Our local kids were stunned when a beloved principal died after her truck was hit by a train last week. Ms. Segura had been a counselor in Clint schools, vice-principal at Fabens Middle School, & just moved to Tornillo Middle School as principal. Please keep these grieving kids in prayer and also the Segura family.



Thank You

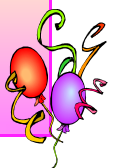


A special Thank You to all the wonderful folks at HUNGER PLUS including JB Roberts, all his staff and volunteers, our good friends Harold, Don, and Roberta Smith, and especially George and Joyce Hughes - who drive many miles to bring us potatoes, canned and boxed foods, and much, much more! What you all do in secret, we pray our Heavenly Father will reward you openly!

October is Birthday Month!

Elfi's birthday is Oct. 7

Joan's birthday is Oct. 18



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.