



Crossing Borders News

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

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Everything has a Season by Joan Wilson

I cannot believe how swiftly the days blow by! We've barely finished with school supplies, and already everyone wants to know where the Christmas shoebox list is! But I have seen my first leaf turning color, so I guess it really is time to move on to our next "big event".

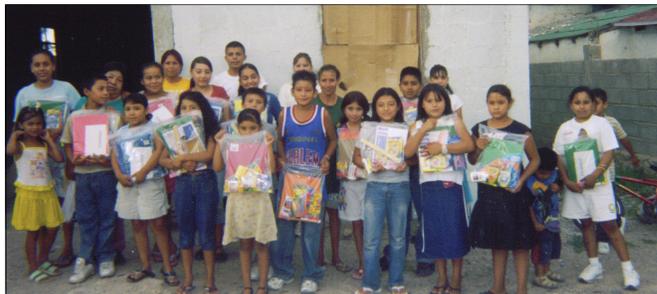
Several "big" things have already been happening, and it is evident that the Lord is doing some moving and shifting in His kingdom. In less than a month's time, two of the pastors from Mexico have been called to churches in the United States. Adriel Lovera had been in Porvenir for 19 years, yet within a week's time his documents were processed and he and his family were moved to a church in Dalton, Georgia. The testimonies of all the behind-the-scenes miracles that accomplished this are too numerous to tell in such a small newsletter! In a similar flurry of miraculous activity, Guadalupe Amaya and his family moved after 18 years at Cristo Redentor Church in Sauzal to a church in Oklahoma.

These moves have left us reeling at CBM. Things happened so quickly we didn't even get to say "good-bye"! And everything "big" has not been what you'd call "good". Enrique Ornelas, David's dad and pastor at Barreales mission, brought us more bad news. David's health has taken another down-turn. He doesn't have the energy to attend school anymore. Also, it looks as if the church in the US that supports their mission will not be able to help pay Enrique's salary anymore. This family needs our thoughts and prayers now more than ever.

All of these are times when faith is tested. When the blessings fall everywhere you look it's wonderful, and the test comes in remembering the One who brought things together for your benefit. But what about when all you can see are your hopes and dreams drying up and blowing away? The test is in remembering the One who can see beyond the storm and lead you through it. Apostle Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am ... both of having abundance and suffering need." (Philippians 4:11,12) We can put our faith in the system, in family and friends, in ourselves - sooner or later, all these fail. The only One who is unchangeable and unmovable is the Lord. Faith in Him may *feel* risky, but personal experience has taught me that He will never fail us or forsake us.

Even in this ministry there are undeniable signs that change is coming. Again. This year's supply drive, for instance, exceeded our goal for the first time (1023 kits!), prompting us to look at ways we can better manage receiving and distribution next year. We continue to have donations of bulk food being dropped off all the time, so there is renewed effort to build us a storage building next to the church's missions dormitory. Anyone who has worked with us knows we are "cubby-holed" all over the place! And we've crossed into Mexico more, using our meager Spanish as the Lord leads us to minister more "hands-on" with people. Also, a shift in responsibilities among our volunteer workers, as well as in the way we want to network with area ministries, means adjustments for everyone involved. Through it all, we continually pray for God to give us wisdom! So no matter what "season" we find ourselves in, we will seek to stay in step with all the Lord is doing.

Thank You! Thanks for helping make our 2006 School Supply Drive a Success! We sent out 1023 kits to 35 locations! Great job everyone!



Changing with the Season by Elfi Register

Talk about change! In July our corner of the desert received unbelievable amounts of rain! It hasn't rained like this in over 30 years - some folks say 50! The Rio Grande has flooded numerous times and is still running high. Lots of friends called to make sure we were OK, especially when El Paso made national news. We were not flooded out at home, BUT we were caught in one downpour at night while driving home in Mexico! Of course being in the desert, the windshield wipers had rotted and just spread the water around instead of out of the way! The "main highway" in the Juarez valley is a two-lane blacktop with ditches for shoulders and no lighting at all. As if this was not stressful enough, we had to detour around road construction and follow a car with faulty tail-lights for miles. What should have taken 30 minutes stretched into a 2-hour adventure! People on both sides of the border are still trying to get back to normal.

In August we were invited to lead both morning services at First Baptist Church in Cloudcroft, NM. This church has been a pillar of support for our ministry since the beginning, and we went to introduce CBM to newer members who had never met us. I grew up in Cloudcroft, and it was wonderful to enjoy a week "home" in cool mountain air at 9000 ft. However, it's strange to meet people who have lived there as many years as I've been gone, and they keep thinking I'm the newcomer! It was great fun making new friends and getting caught up with life-long ones. We were even able to participate in a gospel sing-along way out at the Weed Café!

Right after we got back, the Mexico churches gathered together in Barreales to hold another prayer and praise service on behalf of David Ornelas. The heat and humidity that's followed the rain has been really hard on him. The family came to the front of the church for a while, but they finally had to take David home to cool off. It must have been over a hundred degrees in that packed building! The family has been trying alternative treatments for David's brain cancer off and on, but they seem to be losing hope. They want him to live, but they just don't have the heart to push him to do anything he doesn't feel like doing. Meanwhile, we keep asking God for a miracle. Jesus said, "Keep on asking... for everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks." (Luke 11:9,10) He was teaching His followers about being persistent in our prayers. So we will keep praying and seeking for God to heal David until he is whole or home with the Lord.



If you are in need of prayer, we are here for you. Send us an email at: CrossingBorder@aol.com



Talk about "early birds"! We have already received our first shipment of Christmas shoeboxes! Folks from the BGCT Baptist headquarters in Dallas brought 66 gifts when they came to visit Sept. 12. For us "Bible scholars" that's a really great number (there are 66 books of the Bible). Actual deadline for getting gifts here is

You help us supply food and other needed items to these ministries along the Rio Grande valley in our area. Together we help feed 350 families every week. Please remember all of them in prayer.

1. Pastor Antonio Perea, "Dios Con Nosotros", Praxedis G. Guerrero, MX
2. Their work at "Mision El Millon", El Millon, MX
3. Pastor David Lopez, "Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad", Guadalupe, MX
4. their work in Colonia Francisco Villa, MX
5. Pastor Verulo Garcia, "Iglesia Bautista El Penuel", Colonia Esperanza, MX
6. their work in Centenario, MX
7. their work in Cajoncitos, MX
8. Bro. Reyes Dominguez, "Mision Paredes", Paredes, MX
9. Bro. Alfredo Lira, "Mision Sarabia", Colonia Esperanza, MX
10. Pastor Enrique Ornelas, "Mision Bautista Barreales", Barreales, MX
11. Pastor Lorenzo Pinales, "Iglesia Bautista Mt. Sinai", San Isidro, MX
12. Bro. Froy Rodriguez at "Mision Bautista Loma Blanca", Loma Blanca, MX
13. Pastor Jose Cruz Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Dios es Amor", Sausal, MX
14. Bro. Eduardo Guzman, "Iglesia Bautista Cristo es El Redentor", Sauzal, MX
15. their work in Sauzal Viejo, MX
16. their work in Manuel Valdez, MX
17. Pastor Raymundo Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Esmirna", San Agustin, MX
18. Bro. Daniel Campos, home mission group, Caseta, MX
19. Bro. Urias Lovera, "Iglesia Bautista Maranatha", Porvenir, MX
20. their work in El Faro, MX
21. Bro. Willie Hernandez, Casa Hogar Children's Home, Porvenir, MX
22. Pastor Elias Serrano, "Templo Bethel #2", Colonia Esperanza, MX
23. Bro. Bill Pettit, helps minister to colonias families
24. Dr. Flavio Martinez, Guadalupe, MX Office - eldercare ministry
25. Pastor Ramon Lara, "Centro Familiar Cristiano", Reforma, MX
26. Bro. Israel Guzman, "Mision Roca Eterna", Rancho Nuevo, MX
27. Bro. Norberto Rivas, "Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor", Praxedis, MX
28. Pastor Felix Figueroa, "Templo de Cristo Adonai", La Perla district, MX
29. their area ministries to street children & Tarahumara Indians
30. Pastor Francisco Ramirez, "Templo Agua Viva", El Millon, MX
31. Pastor Fernando & Maria Garcia, "Iglesia Manantiales", Agua Viva, MX
32. Bro. Bernie & Gracie Segura, churches of Pilaes, Lomas, & Porbenir, MX
33. Mision de Iglesia Bautista Bet-Sean, Zaragoza, MX
34. Bro. Jose Lazalde, Mision Bautista Hispana Fabens, Fabens, TX
35. Mission to Tarahumara Indians in Huajumar, Sierra Nevadas, Chihuahua, sponsored by the Mexico Baptist pastors
36. Bro. David & Barbie Lopez, "Tierra Prometida", Sparks, TX
37. Bill & Maggie Paulsen, Manos Para Cristo ministry, Guadalupe, MX
38. Pastor Emanuel Guerrero, "Mision El Mimbres", El Mimbres, MX
39. Bro. Almanza, eldercare ministry, San Elizario, TX
40. Tuesday Bible Study for CBM workers & community, Fabens, TX

Other Prayer Requests and Ministry News

Judi Wright and her family continue to need your prayers. She and husband Ralph operate New Life Border Ministries, caring for children with special needs. Judi has been diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkins lymphoma and is in the midst of chemotherapy.

Joan's sister Tina Elliott is living in a convalescent home for now, still recovering from the multiple strokes she suffered last year. Continue to pray for her and her family.

Elfi's Aunt Elfriede in Salsburg, Austria had knee replacement surgery. Please pray with us for her quick recovery.

Elfi and Joan will be at First Baptist Church in Stamford, Texas on October 1 to participate in their annual mission fair. Stop by and say "hi" if you're in the area.

Buckner Children & Family Services will be exploring possible ministry sites during October, in order to provide community care in El Paso county through their Colonia Program. Crossing Borders may have an opportunity to partner with them. Community ministry is dear to our hearts but difficult for us to administer on our own. Pray for all of us to have wisdom as we seek God's direction.

Missionaries Bill & Maggie Paulsen have given us some exciting news. First, they've given their helps ministry a name: *Manos Para Cristo* - Hands for Christ. They are finally able to begin cooking classes with the dehydrated foods from Hunger Plus. Pray for their health & safety as they go back & forth across the border.

Remember our littlest "bean counter" Bryan Ramirez? He had cranial surgery Sept. 14 to correct his forehead "bump". It lasted 5 hours and left him so swollen he couldn't open his eyes for 2 days. Pray for a speedy and complete recovery.

Pray for our church plant pastor Hugo Garcia as he tries to "connect" with youth in Fabens. Pray also for FBC Fabens & all the churches who help make this ministry possible

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 c/o FBC Fabens
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!

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.

