



Ready to Reap Joy

by Joan Wilson

Since the first of the year, we have constantly juggled and shuffled our various donations from one spot to another. What happens is, summer things get donated in winter and winter things in summer, and ends up taking up space we need for larger donations that need to be stored temporarily. In January, the mission dorm's freezer was full of pork and loaf bread & we had baby juices & foods, fresh eggs & potatoes, popcorn, cereals, and other boxed and bagged items in the dorm as well. We managed to get (almost) everything out just before a mission team was due to use the facilities. Then in February, we were offered 600# of frozen venison. Thankfully, we were able to work it out so that they brought the load in on a Tuesday and the pastors could pick up as it was off-loaded, so that we only had to store about 100# of it. At the end of the month, in came another load of potatoes, eggs, and boxes of flour and pancake mixes. After some mental gymnastics on where THAT donation could be stored, we opted for the parsonage garage! Praise the Lord for the Farmington men who put a new roof on THAT building last summer! We are SO needing a storage building! We can't keep this juggling act up forever!

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy ... Psalm 126:5

We've also had to juggle and shift in the way we conduct our Tuesday morning Bible study and prayer time. Danny Campos was leading our study, but mid-January he had a series of heart attacks that left him with only 20% heart function. We asked the Mexico pastors to lead the morning study in his place. Danny had given the past 6 years to us and these men, and it was only right for them to now "fill the gap" in his absence.

Knowing he was growing weaker by the day, we had a special luncheon for him in February. Many, many pastors and ministry friends were able to come, and there was lots of singing and lots of tears. As things drew to a close, the load of venison arrived and everyone was able to celebrate with "take-home" bags full of meat! It was the perfect way to bless the tired heart of a true servant of God. We had hoped to have Danny put his knee-prints in the floor of our new building but the Lord had other plans - taking him home to Heaven March 12. His family had a memorial service for him at our church March 19, which would have been Danny's 70th birthday.

Danny's passing is only one more in a long line of friends and family we've had to say "goodbye" to lately. Taking time to grieve with those who grieve is an important part of ministry, and some days the sorrows have seemed ready to bury us. In Danny's case, he used to tell us, "I'm not missing you when I'm gone! You know why? Because I know I'm seeing you soon!" I picture him telling us this and I have to smile. How wonderful to think on that time when we will not be separated anymore!

I am the Resurrection and the Life ... John 11:25

Our Lord Jesus IS the Resurrection and the Life for every believer who puts their faith and hope in HIM. HE is the one who said, "I am going to prepare a place for you - so that you will always be with Me where I am." (Look in John 14!) EASTER is the time we believers celebrate His Resurrection from the dead. NOTHING is too hard for Someone who even defeated Death! Most certainly, not something as small as a 24 x 24 building! And most certainly not whatever troubles you might face. Whatever it is, HE - Jesus Himself - is the Answer!

There have been many things that have weighed heavy on us this year alone, but the one thing we keep our eyes fixed on is JESUS. He calms the storms in our minds, soothes the aches in our hearts (and in our bodies, too!), and He knows our needs even BEFORE we do. We are ever amazed at how He already has the "supply" for some unseen need coming - so that it arrives just in time! I know this building is coming in HIS perfect time, so for now we'll keep juggling the donations and reaping His Joy in the labor!



Daniel Campos at his mission in Caseta, MX



Elfi & Pastor Enrique Ornelas during Tuesday morning Bible study

Updates & Prayer Needs

We now have a team committed to frame & pour the pad for our new building. Pray for them to have good weather & clear schedules to be able to get this done by May 1st. Also, we are praying for \$3000 to finish plumbing, electrical, heating, & cooling.

We're already getting calls about the school supply drive - which usually starts in June! This year we will ask everyone to assemble the supply kits and then send it on to us - similar to how we do the Christmas shoebox drive.

Bro. Danny Campos is now home with the Lord, but his family misses him deeply. Please keep them in prayer.

Continue to pray for the Ornelas family also, whose son David died in December. It will take a long time to adjust to life without him.

Joan's dad, Ralph Teague, had a defibrillator implanted in March. He is facing more serious surgery as early as May, to operate on an aneurism in his aorta. Please keep him in prayer.

Blessing after Blessing

by Elfi Register

The Tuesday before Easter, we had a fun time with the pastors' wives. We had received a large donation of new summer shoes for ladies and children. So often we have things for the children - which is such a blessing - but to be able to bless these ladies with new shoes and sandals was a delight. As they rummaged through the boxes they were laughing and praising God and wearing their new shoes out the door! It amazes us how God continues to supply this ministry with the food, clothing, school supplies, Christmas boxes, and financial support to keep us on the mission field. We know God "owns the cattle on a thousand hills" and is truly a God of all resources. Still, it's an amazing thing to see Him in action!

A couple of weeks ago I took Pastor Enrique to the bank to cash a check and work on my Spanish in the process. It's always a challenge for me and I'm still praying that the Lord would give me the gift of Spanish! During our conversation Pastor Enrique told me that Frank Foster of Amarillo is going to be in charge of getting a crew together to lay the concrete slab for our storage building and wanted Enrique to find five men to help. The first thing out of Enrique's mouth was, "Sure! We'll get the pastors to do it!" That afternoon all of our pastors were so excited and wanted to know "When?" So, we're all waiting for God's time - expectantly. It was so funny, because

"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"

- Malachi 3:3

This verse of scripture puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, as to burn away all impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, as she thought again about the verse that says, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver".

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked him, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled and answered, "Oh that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

Hope this story taken from the internet blesses you as much as it blessed

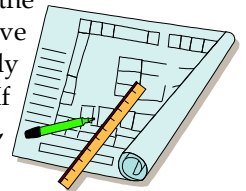
Barbie Lopez (our translator and ministry partner) came up to me soon after and asked, "What did you tell Enrique?? What's this about the building? Did you really discuss this with him??" We all laughed, especially because I was able to do all this in Spanish by myself. Hey, maybe the gift is coming!

Speaking of gifts, we are so thankful for the people that are taking charge of this building project. Greg Beard of "Grace of Giving" and his son-in-law have taken this project head on. At this time they are approximately \$3000 short for the plumbing, electrical, heating, and air conditioning for the building. Our good friend Brian Hill is working alongside Greg and the folks at Glen Meadows Baptist who have already purchased the metal building. Brian will help tie in to the existing utilities at the mission dorm, and be a great on-site person during construction. Our hope is that all will be in place by the time our school supply project begins. It will be wonderful having our own place to work from!

In fact, we've had several groups already pressing for school supply lists!!! We didn't even want to begin thinking about this until June, but we've come up with the "battle plan" for this year. Last year, we put together 1000 school supply kits for the Mexico pastors to give out, and found it to be an overwhelming task. The success of this supply drive has exceeded our capacity to assemble at this end, so we've come up with a plan similar to the Christmas shoebox drive. If you are one of those "early birds" who want to jump on this already, just contact us and we'll forward you the information. Deadline for getting the kits to us is August 1.

STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A good friend & long-time supporter has blessed us with a **WEBSITE**! He & the web designer for his business have put a lot of man-hours in already and are still fine-tuning things. If you're connected to the internet, please give it a look at:



www.crossingbordersministries.com

Crossing Borders is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Fabens, developed and operated by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson.

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Thank you for your continued prayer & support!

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