

# Crossing Borders News

Our mission: to support, encourage, and release FAITH in the needy and less fortunate

## Sacred Trust

### Keeping the Vision

by Joan Wilson

*This charge I commit to you ... that you may wage the good warfare - 1 Timothy 1:18*



**Barefooted in the cold. A young Tarahumara receives a shoebox gift given by missionaries bringing food to her tribe.**

“Write the vision and make it plain ... though it tarries, wait for it; for it will surely come.”  
(Habakkuk 2:2-3)

When Elfi first sat down to write out the vision the Lord had sown in her heart, no one but God Himself had any idea how it would all unfold. That was March 2001, and the written vision became the basis for Crossing Borders Ministries. The mission statement at the top of this letter is that vision in a nutshell. The vision came before nearly 10,000 people had been murdered along our border, before the economies of several nations collapsed, before September 11.

The 11th anniversary of CBM (March 10) came and went without much fanfare because the need is greater than ever, and the effort to meet that need consumes most of our time. In fact, this letter's been “on hold” for 2 months because of all the activity surrounding us.

Last year's drought both in Mexico and the US has affected grocery prices across the board, but especially bean prices! The

presidenta of DIF in Praxedis said she can hardly find beans anywhere—and when she does, it's at \$1.50 a pound. The cost from our suppliers is about \$.72 a pound.

The scarcity of beans and rice has had a devastating effect on Mexico's poor. With tears, one pastor from the Sierra Tarahumara revealed that things were so desperate among the Indians that he knew one mother had thrown her baby off the cliff to end its suffering from hunger. This is hunger of Biblical magnitude. In response, the Mexican government flew air drops into these remote areas. But this pastor says its still not enough. We praise God He supplied broken beans and rice through an unexpected donation, and CBM was able to send most of it to this interior region through a network of missionaries.

One of our longtime pastoral friends passed away in January of a heart attack. Brother Norberto was such a blessing to the elderly in his community—and his wife, Conchita, is continuing their work alone. She doesn't drive much, but

she wants to be a part of our volunteer team that works on Tuesdays. She waits at the bridge each week to catch a ride with the first pastor who crosses over so she can “be of help.”

We've also taken in one pastor and his family who've fled Mexico. He brought three orphaned children with them. They've gone through an enormous amount of “red tape” as they seek legal avenues to remain in the US—and Elfi and I have walked every step of the journey with them. It's a privilege but also an added responsibility.

I don't know how we would've survived the last few months without the prayer covering of our “warriors” out there (you know who you are!) And we thank God for you who've come to volunteer lately! You've shouldered maintenance burdens so we can take on more pressing ones. We also want to thank all of our supporters who believe in us and this ministry, and kept sending support—even without a newsletter! The Lord bless you all!

## Wage the Good Warfare

by Elfi Register

There's a reason the Bible often compares ministry to warfare—because it is! I find myself saying out loud all the time, “Why does it have to be so hard?!” Of course, I know the answer: we have an unseen adversary who hates everything we stand for, and he'll stop at nothing to try to destroy us! And if he can't get to us, he'll go after those around us.

Our work with the youth in Fabens is a perfect example. For the past 5 years, we've been building a youth group out of “street kids.” We've watched these kids reach the place where they wanted to get serious in their relationship with Christ. At the beginning of this school year, we had 70 kids from 4th-12th grade involved! Wednesday nights have been averaging 35 to 40 kids. My high school group, especially, has been growing every week.

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### Prayers and Praises

- ◆ We are deeply grateful and praise the Lord for every one of you who have purposed in your hearts to support us and this ministry! Your check in the mail and your note of encouragement brings a jolt of strength every time! It always feels like you're standing right there beside us! Thank you, Jesus, for your faithful army of saints!
- ◆ Many of you hear conflicting information about the violence along the border. We even hear contradictory reporting on our local broadcasts. You can find online reporting closer to the truth at [elpasotimes.com/juarez](http://elpasotimes.com/juarez).
- ◆ Please keep us in prayer. We need continual wisdom and protection. We've shared a lot, but there's more things we can't share because of confidentiality and safety issues.
- ◆ Many thanks to the Turnbows and others who have helped us around the church and ministry with all sorts of needed maintenance projects! Anyone else who "has a mind to work" can come any Tuesday at 9AM. Just call ahead and let us know you're coming! It's always a great encouragement to us and the pastors!

#### **2000 Gifts went out in 2011!**

*Christmas Shoebox DVDs were sent as a thank you to every church & group that delivered gifts. We hope you've had a chance to see ALL the many faces you blessed!*



Some of the 2000 children who received shoe box gifts! These are at a ministry center.

#### **Beans & Rice Price Alert!**

*Bean and rice prices continue to rise  
In December we reported  
Beans: \$31.50 & Rice \$17.38 / 50#*

#### **Current Costs:**

**Beans: \$35.75 / 50# bag**

**Rice: \$18.23 / 50# bag**

*Current distribution of 1000# of each per week is \$1079—a week!*

*Please pray for everyone who helps make these purchases possible.*



Our own youth performed the drama "God is God" for Easter Sunday! The original can be seen on you tube.



### **Warfare - continued**

But after the kids came back from Christmas break, we started having some new ones come who we suspected were there just to stir up trouble. Then we learned the truth. New gangs called "crews" were forming in the schools. Many are girl gangs. It's so bad, half of Fabens' school kids were at juvenile court one day! One "crew" is actively recruiting my girls. Right before Spring Break, things came to a head on Wednesday night, and we had to deal with it. It resulted in almost all of our 12 and under kids leaving our group, and half of my girls.

The good news, however, is that we've had 6 young people accept Christ as their Savior in the "aftermath"! Others are close to it! So the Lord is working in ways we can't see right now. It reminds me of the time in John 6 when many of Jesus' followers turned away from Him, but the ones who remained ended up changing the world! The same ones who left this time have left before when gang activity increased in the schools. But they end up coming back. We don't think the last chapter has been written about our "wayward lambs." It's the timeless war between light and darkness—a spiritual fight for their souls.

We've also been waging spiritual warfare alongside the pastors in Mexico. They're in a desperate situation. Many pastors have to have a part-time job to help make ends meet at home. Now, the

violence along the border has cost many thousands of jobs. They've had church members killed, and others have fled. So the few faithful Christians who remain have a hard time paying utilities and any kind of pastoral salary.

The valley pastors met together and are praying for some sort of emergency funds to help them remain in their churches. They've identified 11 pastors who need financial assistance. They're praying for \$100 a month for each for one year. The terrible truth is, if these pastors are forced to leave their positions, they will probably lose the church facilities to fire, theft, and cartel gangs who will take over their buildings. It's already happened to private home and business owners, so the danger is real. Thirty years of Baptist river ministry work could be stolen from these men of God.

We also stand in prayer with friends and supporters who've come under attack in their physical bodies. Carolyn was bedridden for over a month with a protruding disk in her back. Pastor Don suffered a stroke and stands in faith for healing and recovery. Linda fell and broke her hip and needed hip replacement. Phyllis has stood in supernatural healing but has been diagnosed with cancer again. These are just a few of those we stand with in prayer. We need them in the fight!

Ministry and prayer IS warfare! When you remember us in prayer or support, you're encouraging our strength beyond your understanding!

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#### **We're on the WEB at [crossingbordersministries.com](http://crossingbordersministries.com)**

a ministry out of First Baptist Church of Fabens - developed and operated by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of this ministry!

Donations made through FBC Fabens are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to:

#### Fabens First Baptist Church

attach a note to specify if it is for support of Elfi and/or Joan or for Crossing Borders General Fund.

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.

