

March-April 2013
(and some of May too!)

Volume 13, Issue 2



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



Elfi & Joan with some of our great volunteers. Through our 12 years, they've helped pack well over 200,000 packets of beans & rice!

Tears and Testimonies

by Joan Wilson

We've been working on this newsletter for weeks! There's just so many stories to share! It's been tough to fit it all in.

We spoke to a Spanish Bible study group at FBC El Paso, and the ladies touched our hearts! Many of them struggle on fixed incomes themselves, yet they desire to develop ways to help us! We all wept together as one woman expressed, "Thank you for not forgetting our people!"

We attended funerals for two faithful men now standing in God's presence. Sad goodbyes, yet we rejoice for them, too. We also rejoice for the 3 people who gave their lives to Christ in our Tuesday services! So we have celebrated both beginning and end of this journey of faith.

The pastors surprised us with a special service on Tuesday, March 12th. We knew something was "up" when more than the usual number of pastors came in with their wives! There were lots of tears as different ones shared what a lifesaver CBM has been for countless thousands of people in these past 12 years. We all marveled at how God had put things in motion back then for "such a time as this"! They pre-

sented us with a plaque to mark the day, that now hangs in the big room we use to distribute from every Tuesday.

We had enough "extras" donated during December (stuff too big for shoeboxes) that we could send each pastor a box of toys for "Día del Niño," which was the last Sunday in April. George Hughes brought chocolates along with eggs and other goods that we also sent out. It was an especially overwhelming blessing for one pastor and his wife. They gave little gifts to all the kids in their church, and she made 2 big cakes out of some baking mix we had given her to try. She's a baker by trade, and was excited to show us pictures of their "big day"!

Our own church celebrated this Mexican holiday for the first time ever. As we've shared before, we have people attending who've taken refuge with us, which is why our services are bilingual now. Everyone had a great time, and the kids even invited friends to come. There were gifts for them, too, and food and games. What an awesome way to invest in this next generation!

We've been in prayer more

than a month for Maria Gerarda, one of our local volunteers. She had cancer years ago, and was concerned it may have returned. This week she and her daughter came with her latest medical results in hand (even X-rays)—and she is cancer free! Praise the Lord, what a miracle! It has stirred up everyone's faith!

Another of our volunteers has been hard-pressed in other ways. She's one of the hardest working people we know, yet struggles to make it day by day. We had an opportunity to bless her with a few dozen eggs along with some other things, and with a tearful smile she told us, "We haven't had eggs in the house for 3 days!" We praised the Lord together that He put us in her life.

In even more untold numbers of ways, Crossing Borders Ministries continues to be a lifeline of provision from the Lord. You who support us through your prayers and giving are truly His instruments of blessing! As we all continue this journey together, we make an eternal difference in the lives of those we minister to!



Pastors ready to help unload another delivery from George Hughes



Día del Niño (Day of the Child) celebration at FBC Fabens



Pastors from Mexico pray for **Cruzando Fronteras** (Crossing Borders) at the 12th Anniversary Celebration, presenting us with a Recognition plaque



2013 School Supply Kit Drive

Deadline is August 1

It will be here before you know it! Groups are already making plans, and so are we. You can now download the newest Supply Drive flyer from our website.

New this year are packing labels to go inside each kit you make. These labels have everything each kit needs listed right on it. Check it out!

Labels and Ziploc bags can be given out through your Bible study or other group gathering and completed kits collected, or you can schedule a "packing party" for your group. However you do it, please encourage everyone to place their label in the bag where it's clearly visible.

As always, if you have questions, give us a call!



As You Have Done for the Least of These...

by Elfi Register

We have been collecting school supplies for the children for many years. In Mexico, when children don't have school supplies, they are not allowed to attend school. In fact these children are only required to attend school through the 6th grade! When a child is able to attend secondary (our middle school) and preparatory (high school) it is quite an accomplishment.

The violence in Mexico has resulted in thousands of children being orphaned. Many of these children are being raised by aunts, uncles, grandparents, and are even in orphanages. This fact came to me once again as we were looking through the pictures of the kids receiving their supplies last year. I noticed one picture of a grandmother and a young boy and couldn't get that picture out of my mind. I have found myself praying for this grandmother and all the others who have taken children in because of the horrible circumstances of this violence that still plagues Mexico.

I would ask you to join us in prayer as well. Just think how much encouragement a packet of school supplies brings. It brings hope in place of despair, and joy unspeakable!

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me.

*I was in prison, and you visited me
And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:35, 36, 40 NLT)*



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We're on the WEB at 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 missionary 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.



And still MORE news!

- ◆ Crossing Borders Ministries was covered in a two-page spread in the March issue of "Common Call" magazine (formerly the Baptist Standard). How neat that the Lord arranged it to coincide with our 12th Anniversary! We're already seeing new doors open from it.
- ◆ Thanks to the friends who came to visit with the pastors on several Tuesdays, which has been such a blessing to everyone! Among them are the Fosters from Amarillo who brought two women from their church with them. Also the Boyles of Cloudcroft and the Peñas of Farmington. It's hard to say who's more blessed—our friends or the pastors they come and minister to. As one pastor said, "There aren't words to tell you what it means to meet face to face."
- ◆ And we've already made a few quick trips as well, meeting with supporters. We will be "on the road again" in June to visit supporting churches, so hope to see some of you soon!
- ◆ July will be VBS month, with mission teams staying at the church dorm to put on area Bible schools on this side of the border—the last one being the team from Oklahoma who leads the VBS here in Fabens.
- ◆ Please be in prayer for the Mexico churches, who also have VBS in July. They will minister to thousands of kids, but their resources are severely limited. We are accepting donations to help them conduct their own VBS programs.
- ◆ Last but not least, we want to give a quick "shout out" to the Lamesa team that's in the middle of tackling some major repairs to the church dorm, even as we go to publish this newsletter. You guys & gals are an awesome gift from God!