



# CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries ♦ established 2001

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Bro. Enrique & his boys help John Dalton unload more beans from FBC Cloudcroft, who've been delivering to us since 2001



Bro. Patrocinio hauls rice & groceries delivered by Grace of Giving Ministries to us every month since 2004



Pastors, supporters, & volunteers all pitch in to help unload a delivery that arrives on a Tuesday

## *CHANGE Happens, but our HOPE is in the LORD*

*by Elfi Register*

Over the past several years we have seen many changes to our ministry we call "Crossing Borders." Most recently, it's been the completion of the latest super bridge which began construction in 2001 at the same time we established Crossing Borders. This bridge, taking the place of the old Fabens-Caseta bridge, will now accommodate the same type of traffic the bridges in El Paso have had for years. This being said, our pastors are facing more obstacles by the border guards as they take their beans and rice into Mexico each Tuesday. As we shared last Fall, the excuse given is that beans and rice are classified as "seeds" and can no longer cross.

We know they are being targeted by the enemy, as other non-religious groups are being given the go ahead, but our pastors are challenged and even turned back. This has increased our prayer life immensely! The people our pastors are ministering to are in dire need of these provisions and the pastors tell us time and time again how just a bag of beans and rice have literally saved people from starving to death, and have brought entire families to our Lord Jesus! There is one thing we are certain of — the provision is still coming and, therefore, the Lord will make a way for our beans and rice to make it across that border! We are in this together, family, and we ask that you keep our pastors in your prayers as they continue to take the beans and rice to their people.

We have also seen several of our pastors called to churches out of our region. It certainly leaves a void, but other Godly men have taken over to continue the ministry these men leave behind. The churches are still going strong and we are so blessed to be able to help as the Lord provides. In addition, we are now helping provide food for four feeding stations that prepare hot meals for children on a regular basis!

Our annual School Supply Drive is just around the corner! We have set the deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup> to receive your packets. Please go to our web site for instructions and package labels @[www.crossingbordersministries.com](http://www.crossingbordersministries.com). In Mexico, if you aren't able to buy the supplies for your child, your child isn't allowed to remain enrolled in school. The school supplies help encourage kids to attend school and make good grades. We have been told of many children that have gone on to attend high school and college because we helped them by providing the supplies their parents couldn't afford. We've even seen one become a doctor! Praise the Lord!

Thank you so much for your continued support, gifts, and prayers. Without you, this ministry wouldn't exist. We stand in awe of our Lord and of the continuous provision He sends through our ministry. When we began Crossing Borders, our prayer was "God, if you want us to start this ministry, we are asking You to always supply." He has indeed answered our prayers over and over again! And He has used YOU, His people, to bring this to pass!

*We wait in HOPE for the Lord; He is our help  
and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in His holy Name.  
May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,  
even as we put our HOPE in You.*

*Psalms 33:20-22*

## More News & Prayer Requests

- Pray for the family of Dr. Marco Samaniego, founder of Hands of Luke Medical Ministries. He passed away on April 10 after a long battle with post-op complications. In June 2001 he had his brother Leo contact us after we'd taken a load of beans to his clinic in Anapra. Leo asked us about adopting pastors in the valley who were in genuine need.
- We (Elfi & Joan) will be visiting churches in the Cloudcroft area again this June. Please keep us in prayer as we share what God is doing on the border.
- Pray for Barbie's mom, Helen Campos, recuperating from gall bladder surgery. Barbie is our interpreter and our "right arm" on Tuesdays.
- Pray for Joan's dad, Ralph Teague, struggling with continued health issues.
- The pastors continue to have problems crossing back into Mexico. Pray for these bold men and women who keep crossing anyway so they can minister to the poor. Here's a list to pray for them by name.

### Church Pastors:

J Patrocinio Ambrocio	Felix & Hilda Figueroa
Luis Garcia	Pablo Gonzalez
Eugenio Guerrero	Eduardo Guzman
Omar & Lourdes Lara	Ramon & Gabriela Lara
David Lopez	Tomas Mijares
Lucio & Rosa Ontiveros	Enrique Ornelas
Antonio Perea	Hno. Nieves
Jose Cruz Rodriguez	Isidoro Villela

### Mission Pastors:

Pedro Contreras	Ernesto Baxin
Alfredo Holguin	Alfredo Lira
Ricardo Lopez	Arturo Montes
Eliseo Pena	Jose Prieto

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

CBM is God's commission to missionaries Elfi Register and Joan Wilson - to support, encourage, and release FAITH in the needy and less fortunate. CBM operates out of First Baptist Church of Fabens.

Donations made through FBC Fabens are tax deductible, so please make your check payable to:

Fabens First Baptist Church

Include a note to specify your gift for missionary support of Elfi and/or Joan or for CBM's General Fund

Elfi & Joan are Mission Service Corps missionaries out of FBC Fabens. MSC is part of the North American Mission Board. These missionaries raise their own finances.



## Moving Forward, Thinking Back

by Joan Wilson

Greetings once again from the El Paso/Juarez border! Hard as it is to believe, we've started our 16th year of Crossing Borders Ministries! Many of you have supported and walked beside us from day one and we are eternally grateful! I was looking through our archives to find when we first reported on the new bridge project, (it was issue #2), and saw this caption in the very first newsletter: **"CBM will be a gateway to bring hope and renew faith."** We had no idea how prophetic that would become when the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001 shocked us all. A border that had been freely crossed for generations suddenly had stricter regulations from both Mexico and the USA. We soon had the 6 pastors we were working with double to 12. That first year we learned just how great the need was.

As the number of pastors grew, so did the Lord's provision. Whenever we were asked, "Can you help us, too?" an increase in provision Divinely matched the need! Then things took a really bad turn when competing drug cartels turned this region into a war zone. Between this and the financial collapse of 2008, the border economy in Mexico was in shambles. The Lord led us to understand He wanted us to "throw open the doors and see what I will pour out." Financial gifts and donated goods poured in after that, proving that the Lord is always as good as His word! The generosity of God's people made CBM like a modern-day reflection of Joseph in Egypt, keeping many thousands of people alive, clothed, fed, and hopeful.

Over the years, we've expanded our network to 20 pastors & beyond. In turn they have branched out to establish missions, feeding stations, and more. In March they and our local volunteers honored us with a fiesta to celebrate our 15th anniversary, complete with delicious Mexican food. Many people shared as to how CBM has blessed them and their people. Bro. Pablo spoke about the day he came with letter in hand back in 2011, hoping to find any help we could give to keep the doors of their "comedor" (feeding station) open. (We still have that letter!) He and his wife have been amazed ever since! Bro. Patrocinio recalled when his son needed new shoes for school, but he didn't have the money. But there in a bag of new clothes were shoes exactly his son's size! Several more shared how in their churches they pray and give thanks to God for all those in the US who support this ministry. In other words, they pray for YOU! How great our God is, and how faithful all of you are! Muchas gracias!

## Folks are already calling about School Supply Kits!

It's never too soon to talk about our School Supply Drive in August. We all agree we want to give the kinds of supplies kids actually NEED for school. In Mexico, if you don't have supplies, you don't go to school! Please visit our website for an EXACT list of what goes in each kit.

**Deadline for getting kits to Fabens is August 1st.**



**THIS AND OTHER BACK ISSUES OF CROSSING BORDERS NEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE. LOOK FOR THEM UNDER "NEWSLETTERS"**