



# CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries \* established 2001

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## Celebrating 18 Years for Crossing Borders Ministries



Elfi Register & Joan Wilson  
Founders of CBM



Greg Beard, Elfi, Judy & John Dalton,  
Joan, Keith Blanton

Elena Ornelas  
Yoli Caro &  
Pastor  
Enrique Ornelas



CBM Anniversary Party with Pastors &  
Volunteers—March 12, 2019

## 18 Years and Counting

What's in a name? In order to begin our ministry, we had to present FBC Fabens with a name for it along with mission & vision statements. Elfi wrote the statements down in a day as the Lord birthed it in her heart on March 6, 2001. The name "Crossing Borders" came from part of the statement that said, "we envision crossing borderlines of despair and hopelessness not only in physical areas ... but also in the spiritual areas of lives, spreading the love of Jesus in word and deed." (see page 2)

Recently, the political atmosphere has caused questions about that name. We even received a phone call wanting to know how to cross illegally—something we've never supported! We minister along an international border as a ministry of helps, crossing borders of despair and differences to support, encourage and release FAITH in the needy and less fortunate. That's how God led us to begin, and that's the path we're committed to follow to the end.

This March we celebrated 18 years of ministry through CBM with friends, pastors, and volunteers, everyone recounting their own stories of how this ministry has impacted them. We were thrilled to have Greg & Keith join us from Grace of Giving. They were able to share how God connected us some 15 years earlier with a phone call. They deliver food once a month, and it was their truck and trailer that were totaled in an accident last July. God made it possible for them to start rolling again—just in time to join us! John & Judy from Cloudcroft, NM were also able to be with us. They deliver beans bought by FBC Cloudcroft, driving down every two weeks. They also went the "extra mile" and pitched in to haul the food Grace of Giving was unable to deliver for the past 7 months. It was a great time for them to finally meet!

Though we are the founders and directors of CBM, the ministry has grown over the years to where we really depend on our "army" of volunteers to keep the Tuesday distribution operation moving smoothly. We've had a lot of good people come and go through the years. We're so blessed now to have Pastor Enrique and Elena taking charge of setting up and organizing the Tuesday crew. Yoli Caro has been a blessing as well. She translates, ministers, and fills in wherever she sees a need. These three have been an answer to prayer! They are co-laborers we can trust to carry much of the responsibilities for Tuesdays.

Meanwhile, we have a travel schedule already filling up the calendar with opportunities to speak, to sing, and to share with friends new and old. School supply activities are in motion around the nation, and some folks are already working on Christmas Boxes!! You'll find these events on page 2, along with urgent prayer requests that weigh heavily on our hearts right now.



### **School Supplies & Other Dates to Remember**

The school kit drive began with pencils & crayons donated by a GA group from Lamesa, TX. It was the seed of an idea that grew to life in Porvenir, MX on the tail of a pickup. Elfi had reunited with her pastor from her teen years, growing up in Cloudcroft, NM. Calvin Gray was inspired by her stories of ways we were helping children in Mexico go to school. He took that vision back home and today Double Mountain Baptist Association is one of the biggest supporters of the annual School Supply Drive. In fact, they have already raised the money needed to assemble over 400 kits! Hallelujah! This year, we're hoping for 2500 kits in all. We know others are already at work as well, so we praise God for so many faithful friends!

#### ♦ **July 30**, School Supply Due Date

FYI, information on how to make both the School Supply Kits and Christmas Shoebox Gifts are on our website listed below.



### **On the Road Again .....**

Elfi and Joan will be travelling once again this year. Please keep them in prayer as they share what God is doing on the border. Here's the dates:

- ♦ **May 14**, Lueders Baptist Camp 9AM—12 Noon  
(Tri-County Baptist Association, Texas)
- ♦ **May 26**, Camp at Cloudcroft RV Park 2:00 PM  
Mayhill, New Mexico
- ♦ **June 7**, La Luz Bible Church Retreat  
Cloudcroft, New Mexico

**The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who trust in Him.**

**- Nahum 1:7**

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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.



### **Crossing Borders Ministries**

**OUR MISSION** is to Support, Encourage, and Release **FAITH** in the needy and less fortunate.

**WE ENVISION** crossing borderlines of despair and hopelessness not only in the physical areas surrounding our border town of Fabens, TX but also in the spiritual areas of lives, spreading the love of Jesus in word and deed. We believe in crossing over generational, cultural and religious barriers in order to care for the less fortunate.

### **Urgent Call to Prayer**

We already knew it was going to be an eventful year, with so many things rushing at us since the beginning of January. The biggest concern by far has been the long wait to learn if our own Pastor, Enrique Ornelas, was going to finally be granted asylum and begin his process toward US citizenship. We were all given a terrible shock at the beginning of April when we heard he had been denied! Until now, we've only shared his story with a few people, but he agrees the time has come to share his plight with our supporters. The more people we have praying the better!

Enrique was one of the first pastors we began to network with when we started CBM in 2001. He was preaching in the Tuesday night Spanish service that met at FBC. Through the years, we developed a special bond with him and his family. We sang at their revival services, and at their daughter's quinceañera, and walked beside them through their son's battle with a brain tumor that took his life. When a new drug lord started moving into his village of Barreales, he had families fleeing the violence come find us in Fabens so we could help care for them until they got settled. By January 2012, his sister, niece, and their husbands had been murdered, and a *sicario* (hit man) came to his home and told them to leave or they were next. He called to ask if we had a place they could stay. We drove to the Port of Entry and waited for hours while they spoke to officials before entering legally with visas they finally had to surrender. They moved into the vacant church parsonage, joining our CBM team, and before long our church called Enrique as pastor of FBC Fabens.

We have prayed in secret for the Ornelas family, and now call all prayer warriors to join us in praying for this "mountain to be removed." The first half of the funds necessary to file an appeal came through donations. His attorney has begun the appeal process, which can take 3 to 6 months we're told. Until the appeal is resolved, Enrique can remain in the US. Returning to Mexico is a death sentence for them. We're praying that God will go before his documents of appeal and give Pastor Enrique a favorable ruling. Jesus promised that even "faith the size of a mustard seed" could move a mountain into the sea. Please pray with us for them.

### **Prayer for more of our Friends .....**

Fred Keith, Tri-County Association, is home recovering from a serious bone infection in his foot. Along with his wife Nannette, they bring a work team twice a year for our school kit & shoebox gift projects. Their prayer is he will be well enough to continue those trips. Please pray for a full recovery!

Roy Merworth, Mayhill NM, is a bluegrass professional who took us under his wing. His wife Tommie suffered a massive stroke Easter Sunday and died a few days after. We know she's rejoicing in Heaven with the Lord; the place and Person she sang about for so many years. Please join us in praying for Roy & their family as they grieve.

**CBM IS A MINISTRY OF HELPS, CROSSING "BORDERS" OF DESPAIR & DIFFERENCES TO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, & RELEASE FAITH IN THE NEEDY & LESS FORTUNATE**  
**ISSUES OF CROSSING BORDERS NEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER "NEWSLETTERS"**