



CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries — established 2001

March-April Volume 20 Issue 2



A new ceiling & fixtures
for the dining hall



Happy reunion with our
'Saint James' from
Lake Leon, TX



50# sacks of beans are
now costing us
\$33.00 a sack &
prices are climbing!

For Such A Time As This

Just like news from the rest of the world, ours keeps changing daily due to the spread of Covid-19. Still, we want to share with you what's happening with CBM, the pastors, volunteers, and delivery network. The operative word for us these days is "essential."

es-sen-tial/ *what is absolutely necessary or extremely important*

Up to this point, we have explored ways to keep distributing needed food and other resources while running into multiple roadblocks. You've undoubtedly heard the border to Mexico is closed to everyone except essential crossings. That means approved commercial traffic as well as legal permanent residents or US citizens who have legitimate reasons to cross. Food banks are designated "essential" so we've discussed creative ways to get things across to the pastors.

Hard to believe that just over a month ago, in mid-February, we were visiting churches and friends around Cloudcroft, NM (Elfi's hometown) and getting ready for a busy March. We took part in the dedication of Weed Baptist's new church building and then headed back to Fabens to meet with a construction team from Tri-County Association who tackled a ton of repair projects around our church facilities. They replaced the dorm dining hall ceiling, completely rewired lights and fans, painted all the outside of the dorm plus trim on the parsonage, replaced & refinished doors to the church sanctuary, lots of cleaning up, and even went to the local park to serve snow cones, crafts, play soccer, and show the love of Jesus to kids and their families. Three days after they left, the nation learned about "social distancing" and a week later New Mexico, El Paso County, and many cities and states issued "stay at home" orders.

Consulting with Omar, Luly's, and the other pastors, we decided CBM should be on "vacation" with Luly's taking charge of coordinating those who could cross groceries to a central location in Reforma, Mexico for the pastors to pick up. As long as it's possible to travel, we can continue to get smaller quantities of food across to the pastors and their families in need. Crossing the bags of beans and rice isn't permitted for the moment but the ladies that are taking groceries will keep "asking, seeking, knocking" until God opens the door to take everything across to the pastors or He shows us a different plan.

Speaking of God's plans, He couldn't have given us a better missionary partner than Luly's during these extraordinary times! Being a registered nurse, she's uniquely qualified in both ministry and health arenas. She advised us to operate CBM remotely as much as possible, so we are heeding her wisdom. God has also given us a great partner in our web master, Nathan, who's made it possible to download our School Supply & Christmas Boxes videos. He's posted our 2020 instruction flyers for these projects, too, so we encourage you to go to our site and take a look. Praise the Lord for ALL our faithful partners!

Meanwhile, we're staying in contact with our delivery partners such as the Daltons from First Baptist Cloudcroft and the Beards of Grace of Giving. Again, as long as we're all allowed to travel we can schedule deliveries and Luly's will arrange for people to be there to unload. If you're planning to drop off items for Crossing Borders please contact Elfi or Joan by text, phone, or email and we can coordinate with Luly's and her little army of friends and family. We also ask you to pray for our tentative speaking schedule in May. Those trips are in flux with this current crisis. We know times are difficult, which makes us eternally grateful for you who still support us through prayer and giving. We pray for you daily, so thankful God has joined us together to be His provision for the neediest among us. Truly we are banded together for such a time as this. The Lord bless and keep you in amazing ways!

A Mother's Prayer

In our last meeting with Luly's, we talked about some N95 commercial masks we found stored away from when we had housed a Texas Baptist Disaster Relief crew. We thought she should have them for her, Omar & others working with them. She was stunned and held back tears as she shared her prayers for her daughter and son-in-law, both working at hospitals in El Paso. They were working without adequate protective gear and she had prayed we might have a way to help them! She said those masks were "gold" and she was praising the Lord for how He had used us unawares to answer her prayer.

We pray you, too, will be the answer to someone's prayer in this time of crisis!

Update on the Ornelas Family

Enrique and Nena have run into another closed door. Their second attempt at appealing for asylum has been denied. Our helping them apply for religious visa doesn't seem likely at this time, either. He was told he would have to wait 10 years!

Since their asylum was denied and they had to self-deport, the law says they can't return to the US for 10 years. Their only option is to file for a pardon, which would allow them to reapply for their valid visas they had to surrender when they entered the asylum process. If granted, getting their new visas will take a year or two.

We remain in contact & have committed to help until all avenues are exhausted, supporting them with fees and other expenses as they arise. Of course, the world crisis makes everything much harder but they are safe, healthy, and hopeful that God has a purpose in all of this.

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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.



Prayer for the Pastors in Mexico

*In this time of crisis, it's important that we continue to lift our brothers & sisters of Mexico in prayer.
Here again are their names and where they serve.*

Enrique & Elena Ornelas, FBC Fabens (still waiting in MX)
Eduardo & Mrs. Guzmán, Iglesia Bautista Cristo Redentor
Eliseo & Tabitha Peña, area missions of Cristo Redentor
Nieves & Griselda Mares, Iglesia Bautista Mt. Sinai
Jose Cruz Rodriguez, Iglesia Bautista Dios Es Amor
Pedro & Laura Rodriguez, Dios Es Amor & area missions
Luis & Mrs. Garcia, Iglesia Bautista El Penuel
Eugenio & Isabel Guerrero, Mision Gerizim & Choquita
Gabriela Tarango, Centro Familiar Cristiano
David Lopez, Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad
Omar & Luly's Lara, FBC Fabens, Misiones Anapra, Etapa & Delicias
Tomas & Adriana Mijares, Iglesia Bautista Sol de Justicia
Patrocinio & Evie Ambrocio, Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva
Luis & Mrs. Pisté, Iglesia Oasis de Amor
Pablo & Sara Gonzalez, Iglesia Bautista Antioquia & Comedor BAN
Lucio & Rosa Ontiveros, Templo Agua Viva
Antonio & Eva Perea, Iglesia Bautista Dios Con Nosotros
Raymundo & SanJuana Rodriguez, Iglesia Esmirna
Isidoro & Mrs. Villela, Templo Elim
Ramon Lara, Comedor Senderos del Sol
Ismael & Mrs. Chavez, Templo Buen Pastor (Elder Care Ministry)
Mr. & Mrs. Filomono Almanza, Clint community elder care

CBM 19th Anniversary

Last but not least, we want to thank God for guiding us all these years as we serve Him and others through Crossing Borders Ministries. We had our celebration March 10 with all the pastors sharing how CBM has impacted their lives and ministries. We were also honored that the Daltons, Greg Beard, and our rancher friends were able to be there, as well as the team from Tri-County. Add in our volunteers, and we had about 90 people there!

Hard to fathom how just one week later, we met with our pastors to lay out contingency plans if the border closed, and the week after that it did. Praise the Lord for Luly's and others who will continue to cross necessities to them every two weeks until this crisis passes. Please pray for their health and safety for they are all praying for you!

Pray for us to know God's will for May, too. The plan was:

- May 2, Lubbock, TX
South Park Baptist
- May 10, San Angelo, TX
Mother's Day
- May 24-July 11
Churches & Events in the
Cloudcroft, NM area



**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"**