



CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

June-August 2014 Volume 14, Issue 3



Pastors Past & Present

John & Margaret Shugart with Enrique & Elena Ornelas by the pulpit at FBC Fabens this past March. Bro. John went home to be with the Lord on June 13th at age 96. He pastored at FBC Fabens twice in the 50's & 60's, and pioneered several works just across the Rio in Guadalupe.



Legacy of Worship in Music

Shirley Stone Akers & Marie Rogers at the 5th Sunday sing in Weed Baptist Church. Shirley played mandolin & sang a song she learned as a girl. "Matthew 24" could've been written today! Marie is a champion yodeler, who sang for the first time since losing her voice after throat surgery! These gals are an inspiration to us!

FRUIT THAT LASTS

by Elfi Register

It's hard to believe it's August already and we're in the midst of our annual School Supply Drive. As of last count we will ship over 1800 school supply kits to the children of Mexico and surrounding areas this year! Even though this project takes many man hours to complete, this was the most organized year yet. Everyone who sent their kits did an awesome job! We were also blessed to have two teams come especially to help us with processing the requests from the pastors. One was a combined team from Mayhill Baptist in Mayhill, New Mexico and Tri-County Association in the Eastland, Texas area. The other was our friends Larry and Judy Cole who drove from Arkansas to spend a week helping us finish up. They did all the shopping for us and pampered us for the week. It's a lot of work, but willing helpers made the job much easier.

These supplies are such a blessing to so many children and families. In Mexico, if you don't have supplies you aren't able to go to school. Some families choose which child can attend school and which one should go to work because they can't afford supplies for a family of kids. What a hard decision it must be for parents who love all their children and want the best for each one. These supplies are making a difference, a difference for eternity in the name of Jesus! So, we send our thanks to every one of you who have put your hands to the work for these kids. The Lord will surely reward you for your caring hearts!

This past June, Joan and I were once again able to make our annual trip to the Cloudcroft, New Mexico area to visit churches who support this ministry, as well as make new contacts along the way. We were surely refreshed being in the cool of the mountains visiting with folks, playing our guitars and singing to our Lord. We visited First Baptist in Cloudcroft, Mountain of the Lord, Mayhill Baptist, Rio Penasco RV Park, La Luz Bible Church's annual retreat in Cloudcroft and Weed Baptist. We even participated in home Bible studies. Joan's dad and step mom came up the week we were scheduled to sing at the RV park. Joan's dad loves to sing so we asked him to sing with us. It was the highlight of the night! We sang two of his favorite songs "Mansion over the Hilltop" and "I'll Fly Away." What precious memories were made that evening!

We had a 5th Sunday sing at Weed Baptist Church where all the churches in the area get together for an evening of music. Joan and I sang several songs and when it was time for The Cowboy Church from Alamogordo to sing, the guitarist asked us if we would accompany him. This man is a converted Muslim from India. The first thing he said to us was that he's a Christian and that there is only one true God and that is Jesus! What an awesome night that was as well!

Our one regret was not being able to be with Margaret Shugart for her husband, Bro. John's, funeral service. How we wished we could be two places at once. She said, "I know you'll be here in spirit," and truly we were. And what an honor they named Crossing Borders as the recipient in lieu of flowers. How we'll miss his monthly letters of encouragement!

Upon returning we geared up for VBS for our church. Pittsburg Association from McAlester, OK has been coming to help us for the last 5 years and they are such a blessing! It was a great success, with over 100+ children and adults in classes. Our prayer is that this time of fun will result in many coming to Christ, with a lifetime commitment to following Him.

I've been speaking with my little Samantha who was sent to Mexico when she was in 7th grade. She has graduated school and is now working in Juarez, Mexico at a candy factory. It's her first real job making her own money. She's working in a dangerous area and asked for prayer for her safety since she has to ride the bus to and from work in the evenings. She's saved enough to buy a little car and she uses it to take her grandma to the doctor on her days off. (even though she doesn't have a license!) She's also saving money so she will be able to obtain her visa and come over here to visit us. I can't believe she'll be 20 on the 5th of September, time has sure flown! She always asks about VBS and if the kids were having fun. VBS is special to me as well. It's when I asked Jesus in my heart when I was 12 years old.

The Lord uses all of us in so many ways. Some to plant seeds, some to water those seeds and some that actually see the harvest. We may never know how many people have come to the Lord because of our seed planting, but we do know the harvest will come...in due season, in the name of Jesus!

5/21/14

Dear Crossing Borders Ministries,

This year I did a project on "What the World Needs Now." My project was based on helping people who are hungry. When I was little I remember Ms. Register coming and talking to my church about her organization. For my project I collected \$88.50. I hosted a fundraiser where it was \$1.00 to throw a pie in our principal's face. I hope this money is used to bless many people in the lower Juarez valley. I would also like to thank you. During this project, I realized how much I take for granted and how greedy people are. I am thankful that God has helped your organization prosper to give to the less fortunate. Thank you for doing all that you do. Your work is amazing, and it's shining the light of God in many ways.

Sincerely,
Marisol P-
Mrs. Miller 8th grade



Praises, Prayer Requests and Updates

Pray for Mrs. Margarita Lopez, wife of Pastor Lopez in Guadalupe. Cancer treatment has been unsuccessful & she needs a miracle.

Pray for Pastor Don Randall, our friend who now lives in Smith Lake, NM in the Navajo Nation. He had another stroke, and we pray for another full recovery.

Pray for Samantha, who asks prayer for her safety as she rides the bus to work at night.

Praise the Lord for the summer mission teams who served in our area!

July 12-18, Lamesa Baptist Association worked 2 VBS's, supplied materials for works in Mexico & donations for CBM.

July 19-25, Pittsburg Bapt. Assoc., OK put a roof on a church in Mexico, led the VBS here at Fabens & helped other area VBS's.

July 26-Aug 1, Tri County Bapt. Assoc. teamed with Mayhill Baptist youth to help with our own school supply drive, and ministered to kids in the park each afternoon.

Aug 2-8, Larry & Judy Cole picked up where the last team left off in processing the school kits for the pastors in Mexico.

Special Thanks to . . .

The Cloudcroft area churches in New Mexico and our many good friends who made us feel at home while we visited them in June. Thank you to Cloudcroft FBC, La Luz Bible Church, Mayhill Baptist, Mountain of the Lord Fellowship, Rio Peñasco RV Park, and Weed Baptist, and to everyone who treated us to fellowship and food!

Billy Anders, who has just published a book entitled **Foxtrot, We're On the Way! (San Antonio, Texas Police Department Helicopter Stories, a Memoir)**. It is available through Amazon and other booksellers. He and his wife Cynthia have been good friends to us & this ministry for many years, and the profits of this book are to be donated to Crossing Borders Ministries. What a legacy of love these two have sown into our lives!

Leaving a Legacy

by Joan Wilson

Leg-a-cy: something transmitted by or received from a predecessor or from the past

Losing loved ones is pain at its deepest. It leaves a hole in your heart. We think we will never laugh again because it feels like a betrayal somehow. In Bro. John Shugart's case, right now it doesn't matter that his was a rich, full life lived for the Lord. His passing has left a big hole for all who've known and loved him. But he has also left a legacy—one that's still unfolding every day here along the border. La Trinidad Baptist Church in Guadalupe came out of a VBS Bro. John organized many years ago. He also was the force behind 3M Orphanage outside of Guadalupe. Before his death, he sent us a copy of some chapters from his unpublished stories of ministry along the border, how he purchased cows to provide fresh milk for the children, and the trouble he ran into getting an old tractor across so they could grow vegetables as well. He's the one who brought Sister Irene on staff, and eventually turned the work over to her. A lot of folks have always assumed Sister Irene started the orphanage. I know his exploits are written in the Lord's book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16) and the legacy he has left upon the earth will continue to bless numberless lives.

As I think of how we are standing in the legacy of this precious man of God, it reminds me of how many others we have the privilege to know, others who are also laying the foundations of a legacy of faith. Among them is Cecil Simpson, a Christian brother in Cloudcroft, who's a chemist, scientist, photographer, writer, and observer of God's creative wonder. Last year he gave us a copy of his book "Light Designs." It's a book of photographs, poems, and prose. Through his experimentation with light in motion and then with the patterns music makes on a harmonograph, he connects the precise patterns, or designs, to the Creator. "Amazingly," he says, "God's hand can be seen in everything—even in a swinging light in total darkness."

Cecil's work made me think about our own lives as Christians in these dark days. Are we lights shining in the darkness, or have we let the darkness dim our light? Every generation must build upon the legacy of faith left by those who've gone before them. One by one the Lord is calling his old saints "home." Their passing can leave us feeling like we're in the midst of a storm. But we must shine on, even while we feel like we're just "going through the motions." There is a "design" we can't always see, a purpose we don't always understand.

Just today, Ernest Harmon, a missionary based in Clint, told about a 15 year old street kid from 20 years ago. Ernie was trying to lead a man and his wife to the Lord but they weren't interested. But this kid had been listening, and asked if he could give his life to Jesus Christ instead. After 5 weeks, the kid showed him a list of names he was keeping. It was everyone this boy had led to the Lord. There were 100 names on that list! God had a purpose bigger than Ernie realized that day. Twenty years later, that young man is still loving God and leading people to Jesus.

Right now, we're shipping out supply kits so children in Mexico can attend school. In trying to get that done, we've battled grief, fatigue, illness, injury, and leaky roofs. Yet we press on with our volunteers. We heard from one group that they met a man working in a store where they were buying supplies, who said he was a recipient of one such kit when he was still living in Mexico. It had impacted his life, and his story blessed theirs. Even a simple bag of school supplies can be the building blocks that form a legacy. So whether you have bought beans, given financially, lifted us up in prayer, or laid your hands in any other way to this ministry, you're a part of the legacy that is being created here. Praise the Lord!

HACK ALERT ...

The recent hack of our email—you know, the one where Elfi was in Greece and in need of money—brings up a chance for us to remind everyone that we may ask for prayers or for patience or prayers for patience, but the odds of our ever sending an email like that one is next to never! As ever, "when in doubt check it out." But it was nice to hear from all our friends anyway!

Crossing Borders Ministries · PO Box 35 · Fabens, Texas 79838

Phone: 915-764-5343 / Cell: 915-491-7528 / E-mail: crossingborder@aol.com

WEBSITE: crossingbordersministries.com

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.

