



# CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries — established 2001

May-August Volume 20 Issue 3



Over **2000** school supply kits were delivered to Mexico to help kids receive an education



Our new normal: crossing groceries to the pastors in Mexico every two weeks in Omar's truck



Knock and keep on knocking: Omar & Luly's persisted until they were able to deliver a trailer full of school kits to pastors in Mexico

## Working in the Whirlwind

We hope this newsletter finds you well in these difficult times. The pastors and their churches in Mexico join us in praying for your health and safety every day! They've come to think of you as family who are part of the Crossing Borders network of support. Truly, your continued support has literally been a lifeline for them and their families. The storms of life may be overwhelming right now, yet we know **GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING!** And in that knowledge we all stand, continuing the work He has called us to.

Not much has changed along the border since our last newsletter. The ports of entry are closed to all except "essential" travel. Miraculously, Omar Lara has still been able to cross into Mexico every two weeks, carrying a truck loaded to capacity with groceries and other provisions for many pastoral families. He has just been called back to work in the oil fields, so he's putting even more miles on his truck as he commutes back and forth on weekends. He's fully committed to GOD's call in his life to serve as pastor of our home church (FBC Fabens) and keep hauling groceries across to the pastors in Mexico.

As Omar's wife and partner in ministry, Luly's is "holding down the fort" here both in their home and in the weekly operation of CBM. She and family members meet scheduled deliveries, prepare the grocery sacks for the pastors, and take beans & rice to the church members who are quarantined in their homes. She and her mother-in-law Esperanza will often go over to the church by themselves to clean and spend hours in prayer. She calls it "therapy." We call them our secret prayer warriors! During the week we spent getting school kits ready for Mexico, these two along with sister-in-law Gabby made home cooked Mexican food as their thank you to our small crew. You haven't had Mexican food any better than what these three can cook!

Speaking of school supplies, this has been an unusual year for every part of ministry and the supply kit drive was no exception. Groups planning to come had to cancel due to COVID numbers here and quarantine requirements afterward. Deliveries had to be worked out in advance so everything could be here the last week of July. The pastors had to get their name lists for how many kits they each needed to Omar in time so he could have them to us that same week. But nothing is impossible with GOD! Even though obstacles arose, from July 27-31 we had the help of a GOD-ordained team who pulled together and processed over 2000 school supply kits—sorted, boxed, and labeled for each pastor. Meanwhile, Luly's spoke to one Mexican customs officer after another, seeking permission to cross the kits. Whenever she got a "no" she prayed some more and asked someone else. On Sunday August 2, she and Omar asked one more time, and got a "yes!" By late afternoon they had crossed a trailer load of some 1000 kits to meet up with the pastors at a central location. By week's end, they had everything across so the pastors could prepare to safely distribute the kits.

*(continued on page 2)*



## **Special Thank You for our Work Team**

GOD truly gave us a unique team for the school kits this year! Coming from Tri-County Association, Fred & Nanette Keith assembled a crew that was COVID free and willing to stay isolated while in our area. Deliveries were met with masks & social distancing, and as we worked we stayed separated. Luly's & her in-laws also practiced safety so we could all work together. Thanks, team, for staying an extra day so that everything would be ready for Mexico. LORD, bless and keep them for being a blessing!

## **Update on the Ornelas family**

We continue to stay in touch with Enrique & his family in Mexico, though there's been no change in their status. He & his son-in-law contracted COVID in May and were told not to go to the hospital as there was no room. Local church friends helped them find needed oxygen tanks and they've since recovered. He wants those who still pray for and support them to know how grateful they are!

## ***Christmas Shoebox Gifts Drive is Still On!***

God has been leading in creative ways to take care of people in Mexico during these trying times! Our annual gift drive for needy children is no exception! Full details and instructions on how to make our shoebox gifts are online at our website. Contact us to schedule ahead for delivering boxes as we all adjust to these ever-changing circumstances.

**Saturday November 21  
is the due date for boxes  
to be in Fabens  
unless otherwise scheduled**

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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, Iglesia Mt. Zion (while waiting in MX)  
Omar & Luly's Lara, FBC Fabens, Misiones Anapra, Etapa & Delicias  
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 Choquita  
Gabriela Tarango, Centro Familiar Cristiano  
David Lopez, Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad  
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, Comedores Senderos del Sol & Riveras  
Ismael & Mrs. Chavez, Templo Buen Pastor (Elder Care Ministry)  
Mr. & Mrs. Filomono Almanza, Clint community elder care

*Continued .....*

Despite the pandemic, the *preparatoria* schools in Mexico (their high schools) have already started. The younger grades should begin sometime in September. Regardless of when schools start, kids will need their supplies to stay in school. THANK YOU to everyone who was a part of this important project for needy children!

As for us, Elfi & Joan, we've stayed isolated and working virtually as much as possible, keeping all the network of pastors, volunteers, and supporters connected. The border remains closed and COVID cases high in the El Paso-Juarez region, so we've heeded the advice of wise counsel and extended our "summer schedule" to stay in Cloudcroft, NM for the time being. We still need to travel once a month back to Fabens for the things that can't be done electronically. But we're taking the necessary precautions to stay well!

We ask you to continue to pray for all of us as we pray for all of you! May the LORD pour out blessings over you and carry you through the midst of these troubled days.

## **God is Always Working**

*Think on "whatever things are of good report," Philippians 4:8 says. Seeing how the LORD has provided over the past 12 months is one way to count the blessings and see His hand at work through His faithful servants.*

64,000# beans & rice  
Over 1000# frozen venison  
3000 Christmas Shoeboxes (2019)  
Cases of Bibles, NTs, tracts  
Thousands of pairs of new shoes  
Lots of new children's clothes

Helped 4 feeding stations  
2000# frozen beef  
2000 School Supply Kits (2020)  
Pickup truck full of medicines  
Tons of coats, blankets & more  
Dozens of school uniforms

**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"**