



Remember our "miracle baby" about 2 years ago? We just had to give him an "early" present! He's one of thousands whose gifts came from JESUS! Thanks to everyone who helped fulfill Christmas hopes again this year.



A typical load of gifts leaving with one of the pastors we minister to. We pray over each of these loads, asking the Lord to get it across without the pastor being turned back at the border.



Elfi (far left, standing) with the first of our work crews who helped process all those boxes!

Many Hands with One Heart

by Elfi Register

Merry Christmas Everyone!

I've made it a point to say that every chance I get this season! Jesus is the reason we celebrate and He certainly deserves our honor and praise!

This year we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from you, our supporters and friends! We received **over 2100 shoebox gifts**, far above what the pastors dared to ask us for, and we were able to bless each pastor with an extra shipment of shoebox gifts along with venison, corn meal and other "extras" that came for them this Christmas.

We were also blessed to have many groups come to help us process the shoeboxes this year. We had people come from San Antonio, Abilene, Lamesa, San Angelo, La Luz, Cloudcroft, Mayhill, along with local help. It's always fun to fellowship and work together! And the guys especially enjoyed playing with the toys!

Pastor Enrique and his family have been such a blessing to us and we've enjoyed picking "special" gifts together for the children we know and love. I remember a few years back when

one of the boys who came for years to help us said, "I just love going to work on the shoeboxes! I get to open everyone's Christmas present!" In case you didn't know, we do inspect the gifts just to make sure they're age appropriate, and I suppose we do want to see what everyone gets, too!

One of the things that was impressed on my heart this year is just thinking how many people actually put "hands" to the gifts the children receive. From the factory worker to the pastor who passes them out, and all the actual prayers that accompany the gifts - God has truly used thousands of people to bless His children!

And it's not only the Christmas shoeboxes. We're blessed by how many of you "lay your hands" to the work of CBM every month through your contributions, your prayers, your encouragements, and even coming to help us on Tuesday distribution day. There are those of you who deliver to us, and you who unload deliveries for us. Together we have sent out **over 250,000 pounds this year** in beans, rice, groceries, coats, blankets, and so much more to Mexico and surrounding areas!

Jesus said, "whatever you do for the least of these, you do it for Me." Whether we feed those who are hungry, or bring joy to children at Christmastime, we do it all in the name of Jesus. It's His heart of compassion we express as we help care for the poor. Jesus has called us to be His hands and feet, and all of us working together have made this a blessed year for many, many people.

Our prayer for 2013 is that this ministry will continue to bring hope to the hopeless and that every one that is touched by this ministry will receive a touch from the Masters hand.

We stand in awe of the provision of the Lord and the generosity of God's people, especially during Christmas. The mother of one of our pastors comes to pick up for him quite frequently, and without fail she breaks down in tears, overcome and grateful at the continuing blessings from the Lord. So from Sister Esperanza and all of us, we send a heartfelt "*Muchas Gracias*" and "*Feliz Navidad*" to you and to your families!

Hope of the World

by Joan Wilson

"What in the world is going on?" Maybe you've said those very words recently. Current world events leave us feeling everything from numb to helpless to outraged. These events evoke a range of emotions from everyone, every emotion except the ones promised the night Jesus Christ was born:

"Peace on earth, goodwill to all on whom God's favor rests."

We humans are very fickle with our faith. What I mean is, when things are going great we don't give God a second thought; but when tragedy strikes God is the one we blame. Yet what He has offered us is Peace. The kind of peace that's hard to define, but unmistakable if you have it.

God's plans for us are not to harm us but to give us a future filled with HOPE. And His ultimate gift of Peace and Hope came "wrapped in swaddling clothes and was laid in a manger, because there was no room in the inn." There still doesn't seem to be any room for Jesus in our lives today. We rush



- ◆ No year would be complete without saying “thank you” to all of you who help make this ministry possible! Everyone who supports this ministry has a part in the thousands of lives who are helped every week. While we can't begin to list all of you by name ... some of you would prefer to be anonymous anyway ... but you know who you are, and we thank you, and thank the Lord for you, too! Together we make an eternal difference for people we may not ever meet until we arrive in Heaven!
- ◆ Please pray for our “bean driver” Hans Steinhoff. He has come down with shingles, and it has temporarily put him out of commission. Hans has hauled so many beans to us over the years, we've lost count of how many deliveries he's made! We need him “back on the job” soon!
- ◆ The pastors are continuing to meet with resistance as they cross back into Mexico with the beans, rice, and other things we've given them. Praise the Lord, they can still get across with only this harassment to contend with. Please pray this needed gateway remains open for them.
- ◆ Don't know how we'd accomplish all we do without ALL of your prayers, financial support, and hands-on help! It's wonderful to be part of the Body of Christ!
- ◆ Please mark your calendars! We will take some much needed time off after this busy December. Crossing Borders will be shut down from Dec. 24—Jan. 7, with Elfi, Joan, and everyone else going to visit family and friends. We'll be open again starting Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013. See you then!



Elfi and Joan with a wall of more than 2100 shoebox gifts
Praise the Lord!

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Hope ... (continued from page 1)

to live life on our own terms, then wonder why we can't find the peace we long for. When that's multiplied the world over by everyone living for themselves, the results are tragic.

That's just what we've witnessed firsthand across the Rio in Mexico. It's been one drug lord warring over another one's “turf” for years. And it's the people living in the “war zone” that suffer most. Right now the killings have slowed down. But the people now deal with mass graves recently discovered in the area. Every time these sites are found, people begin the painful process of going to the Juarez morgue to try and identify missing family or friends, even giving DNA samples to help find their loved ones. But even in the midst of all the suffering and dying that's gone on, the pastors and their churches have quietly continued to minister in the kind of Hope and Peace the world needs but rejects.

Even when one of them is forced to leave their country, as in Pastor Enrique's case, they find that way to minister Hope and Peace. Just the other day, his daughter Patty moved graciously in to help during a hectic work day on the shoeboxes. Instantly, an atmosphere of peace surrounded us. She actually took on such a humble task, yet her real work was that of bringing the Lord's own Peace into the environment.

The world is always looking for someone or something to fix things “right now”. How can we

help them see Jesus—He IS the Hope of the World! HE is God's very best, and we are His hands and feet on the earth. We can all be a “Patty” in someone's life. It might be a neighbor going through a terrible loss, or a cashier who seems frazzled by all the bustle of the “happy holidays.” Right now for us, it's “being there” for our precious friends in Mexico. We can't “fix” any of the suffering they endure, but we do become a refuge from the emotional storm.

We've witnessed beans and rice become instruments of God's Hope every week. It gives people HOPE when they realize that they really do matter to the Lord, and that He has sent all this provision to care for them. Today, a silky pink sweat suit that came in a shoebox gift gave a 13 year old girl a new outlook. She's a pastor's daughter who the Lord wanted to encourage. He wanted her to know she was special to Him and to us. The surprise and joy she felt will be a memory that stays with her years after the sweat suit is forgotten!

Over 400 years before Jesus was to be born, the prophet Isaiah wrote, “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light ... for a child will be born to us ... and He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Let His wonderful Light and Hope and Peace be manifest in you this coming year!

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We're on the WEB at
crossingbordersministries.com

a ministry out of First Baptist Church of Fabens - developed and operated by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of this ministry!
Donations made through FBC Fabens are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to:

Fabens First Baptist Church
attach a note to specify if it is for support of Elfi and/or Joan or for Crossing Borders General Fund.

Elfi & Joan are Mission Service Corps missionaries out of FBC Fabens. MSC is part of the North American Mission Board, whose members must provide their own finances.

