

CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Merry Christmas

December 2013
Volume 13, Issue 6



Elfi with Bridget, as we give out gifts during the church's Christmas party



Joni and Hailey from Eastland make sure we keep our joy in the midst of so much work



*"Ponga tu mano sobre la mia
y vamos a orar juntos"*
reads the note along with the outline
of a child's hand

*"Put your hand over mine
and we will pray together"*

Joy of the Harvest

by Elfi Register

You know the saying, "Four months between planting and harvest." But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What JOY awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! (John 4:35, 36 NLT)

The media attack on Christianity this Christmas has been disheartening. We all know it is a sign of the times we are living in. Good is bad, bad is good. *What sorrow for those who say that evil is good, and good is evil; that dark is light, and light is dark, that bitter is sweet, and sweet is bitter! (Isaiah 5:20 NLT)*

The media seems bent on reporting all that is wrong in the world and would never report the good that is done in Jesus' name. I was even reading an article about a school that changed the lyrics to "Silent Night" so it wouldn't be offensive! And children being banned from taking cards that say "Merry Christmas" to bedridden veterans! But, there is still light in this world, and that light is Jesus, so we must take a stand on that. *Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love. (1 Corinthians 16:13, 14 NLT)*

This year Crossing Borders received **over 2500 gifts**, 300 more shoebox presents than last year! The pastors were overjoyed because we were able to fill all their requests and then send extras for them to use as outreach opportunities in their communities. Each year we're told of entire families that have given their hearts to Jesus because of this act of kindness. Men that were out of work and could barely feed their families were able to see their children receive gifts from "Jesus". Single moms and grandparents who are raising children that no longer have parents due to the violence were able to see first hand the joy of a present from "Jesus".

You see, as we work with the groups that come help us process and stage the presents for the pastors to pick up, we always tell them they are sending these gifts from Jesus. So many hands touch each gift even before they are placed in a child's arms!

Each year we marvel at the new and creative ways people decorate their boxes for the children. People have really gotten into lining the clear boxes with bandanas, and that's also an added gift to use year round. One extra special touch we found on several boxes is that someone had traced their hand on the underside of their plastic lids and had written in Spanish that the child should place their hand on top of theirs and they would pray together! What a awesome idea and a great way to find a new prayer partner.

We know the gospel is being preached and the seeds are being sown as we minister to those who are less fortunate. Whether it be the beans and rice, school supplies, clothing, and Christmas gifts, Jesus is being glorified every step of the way. We may never know this side of Heaven what a difference our efforts have made, but what joy it will be at harvest time!



Joan with Claudia Alvarez, who we've known since she was 4 years old

Lots of Boxes, Lots of Work

Most folks "get it" as to why we don't put liquids, soap, or the other "no-no's" in the boxes. Still, we check each box just to be sure.

Bad News, this year some boxes were ruined by bubbles or shampoo that leaked. Others had to be altered because they wreaked of soap, even when a baggie was used. Sadly, the candy in them had to be thrown away.

Good News, far more of the boxes were picture perfect and overflowing with wonderful things! Job well done!

Coming Up in January

January 7, CBM will resume regular Tuesday distribution. We always welcome volunteers to help us sack beans and rice, and help the pastors load up afterward.

January 19, we'll be at Cloudcroft Methodist that Sunday morning, sharing CBM for the first time. Join us if you can!

The joy of Christmas shows on the face of Pastor Lopez's great-grandson. Theirs is one of the many vans that were loaded with gifts & groceries for Mexico.



The pastors, their wives, and some of our volunteers joined us for a Christmas lunch on Dec. 17th, our last Tuesday before we all took time off for Christmas and New Year's.

This December

by Joan Wilson

This December has felt a year long. Working twice the hours each day and accomplishing only half what we needed to. We've dealt with everything from water problems, broken teeth, delayed deliveries, miscommunications, illness and injury, pastor orders getting mixed up on their way out the door, cancelled work crews, and the list could go on.

This December has been a whirlwind of people and things flying in and flying out on a daily basis. So many donations, praise the Lord! In addition to the shoeboxes, there were eggs, turkeys, venison, food boxes, extra beans and rice, coats and blankets, new clothes for kids, and stuff we surely forgot to write down. Those who were here during our Tuesday shipping days can attest to the TONS of things that were distributed to the pastors each week!

This December has been full of laughter and joy! Sharing fond memories with longtime friends who gave up days and nights to work beside us. Making new friends who are already planning for next year, and being caught up with them in impromptu praise and worship on guitars for 3 hours, the presence of the Lord so strong - a rare "mountaintop" experience. Seeing some of our "lost lambs" come home, and welcoming them with loving arms. Marveling with Sister Esperanza as she wept over the many blessings she's witnessed go to her people in Mexico this month, saying we can't imagine what a difference it all is making.

This December has also been filled with miracles. Watching Manny Alvarez walk in during Sunday services after 6 months fighting for his life. Rejoicing with his wife Ana that the Lord provided workers to repair a bad water leak in their home ahead of his being allowed a home visit. Letting the Lord lead us to the other ministries that had been asking Him for the "extra" shoeboxes He sent. And scrambling to find enough space for a surprise donation of 500# of ground meat from the Roches, then watching as the last package slipped into the last spot available in the last freezer!

And always, we want you to know how much you are loved and appreciated. All of us pray all of you had a Joyous Christmas and Blessed New Year!

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.

