



# CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries ♦ established 2001



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## *The Wonder of Christmas in 2800 Little Boxes*

That's right—2800 shoebox gifts this year, heading to 47 different locations! There's been boxes and boxes everywhere all over the church missionary dormitory, along with blankets, coats, and jackets. There have been cases of Bibles and even some donated wheel chairs. And of course there's always beans and rice and all kinds of grocery items!

All the hustle and bustle to keep track of what comes in and what goes out can steal some of the joy of the season for a moment. Still, the wonder that surrounds Christmas refuses to be squelched for long. Every shoebox gift that goes out carries the love and prayers of all those who have labored to make it the best it can be, and God covers them all with His own love for each child. Every year, we hear miraculous stories of how a child found in his or her box exactly what they needed or wished for! It's the LORD, not Santa, who works through the many hands that touched all these boxes. A special blessing and thank you to everyone who helped make this possible! We are all part of God's wonderful chain, instruments in His hands to touch the lives of so many children and their families.

As the photos on this page can attest, it took an army of servants to shop for and pack all the boxes before we ever saw them. Another army to load them up and get them here. They came in cars, trucks and trailers, through UPS, and even by the pallet-load! After that came the teams of volunteers who helped sort and stage for each pastor and location where the boxes would go. There's no way we could have done this by ourselves! It took us a week to stage all those shipping boxes along that wall!(1100 gifts right there!) That particular Tuesday, hundreds of blankets were also waiting for the pastors on Distribution Day. And there is the army, both seen and unseen, of prayer warriors who bathe every pastor and vehicle and box in prayers of protection and safe crossing into Mexico. We pray for the eyes of the wicked to be "blinded" and not see them as they pass, and for the love of God and the salvation He offers to surround each one who receives His gifts to them. And as you read this, pastors are delivering these gifts into the hands of happy children!

Thank you, JESUS, for letting us all be part of Your plan!



## A Different Kind Of Gift

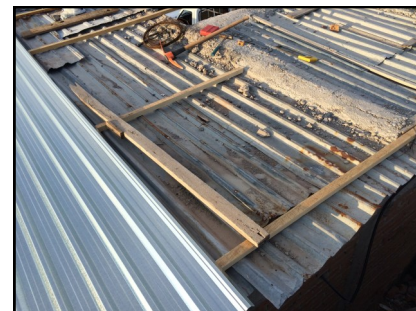
Not every gift comes in a shoebox or even at Christmas. We've worked closely with pastoral couple Omar & Luly's Lara for years, thrilled to help them in every new work they begin. In Mioqui they met an elderly pastor, Antonio Lopez, who doesn't let age or poor health keep him from ministering to his flock.

Last Christmas, he offered his own home and bed for them to stay in. That night, as they lay there freezing, they looked up and noticed stars shining through the ceiling! God planted a desire in them to put a new roof on his little house. We joined them in that desire, and this summer CBM was able to help fund the project. They only had time to get the new metal roof on, but that at least keeps the rain—and starlight—out!

Please keep this ongoing project, Pastor Lopez and his wife in prayer. There's still a lot to be done on the inside ceiling, including much needed insulation (they use cardboard now) and electrical wiring. Whether its finished in December or not, it will certainly feel like Christmas when the project is completed! The Laras will be going down to Delicias and Mioqui over Christmas break, so please keep them in prayer, and all our pastor friends in prayer too, as they take blankets, food, and shoebox gifts to children throughout our border region and beyond.



A new roof for a faithful pastor



New vs. Old Roofing



The Laras (left), work crew,  
Pastor & Mrs. Lopez  
in front of the Lopez home



## Time for a Christmas Vacation!

Seems like we've been on the go since the first of October, visiting with churches, friends, and family in both New Mexico and Texas. It's been putting some miles on Elfi's vehicle—and on us! Praise the Lord for our Pastor Enrique and his wife Nena, who really are our co-laborers in Crossing Borders Ministries! We have known them since he pastored his mission in Barreales, so he knows this ministry from both sides of the Rio! They are an enormous blessing from GOD!

In November, we said our final goodbye to Joan's dad as his ashes were interred with military honors at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. Then we took some time to be with her son and stepmom (who's adopted Elfi too.)

Elfi, Joan and all of the CBM volunteers spent long hours behind the scenes getting all those boxes processed, so they will take a much deserved break beginning December 20. The Tuesday Distribution Days of Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 CBM will be closed. Pastors will begin crossing from Mexico for Distribution Day again on Tuesday Jan. 9.

For anyone wanting to visit or make deliveries between Dec. 20 & Jan. 8, **please call us** so we can be sure someone will be available to meet you!

Thank you for being part of this ministry with us. You are a far bigger blessing than you know! We wish you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

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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.



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