



# CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries — established 2001

October-December Volume 20 Issue 4



**2380 Christmas shoebox gifts** were delivered to the children in Mexico



Volunteers checked & staged each pastor's request



Loads of gifts safely across into Mexico

## *Presents vs. Pandemic for a Merry Christmas*

The hurdles of continuing to minister in the midst of a pandemic have been challenging to say the least. In years gone by we've had large teams of volunteers to help us process over 3000 Christmas shoeboxes that are delivered to needy children along our border region of Mexico. This year we had to limit the number of people who could work at one time, and also had a hard time working around folks who would have to quarantine after coming from other places. In case you hadn't heard, El Paso county is a COVID hotspot that doesn't seem to be "flattening the curve" any time soon. Even in Fabens, there are hundreds of cases at any one time, with many thousands in surrounding communities.

With so many churches being closed around the country and restrictions as to how many could attend when they were allowed to open, donations of shoeboxes were much lower. Some churches chose not to participate. For the first time in 20 years, we had to decline some requests for gifts and cut back on a few others. But GOD is always working! There were others who stepped up to the challenges of navigating store limits and other obstacles so that we were able to still send out almost 2400 gifts to 44 different locations. People who had never worked with us brought gifts as well as some of our intrepid friends, and we even gained a new co-laborer who was truly a blessing from GOD! She showed up ready to work for two weeks straight and took to the task like she'd been doing it for years. *Gracias, Cristina!*

We also want to express our gratitude to the Pittmans and Keiths who stayed and worked a week each, our ranchers from New Mexico who sacrificed a loooong day of driving to spend a few hours with us, and our own little band of volunteers from church who not only helped with the gifts but fed us awesome (and HOT) Mexican food. Of course, there is the unseen army out there who did all that shopping and packing and dropping off to central locations. Many hands went into making this year's gift drive possible and God knows you each by name! May the Lord Jesus bless and keep you in these challenging days for helping Him bring joy into the lives of so many children on the day we celebrate His birthday! Praying you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



Boxes came by car & truckload



Caldo de Res & rice - delicioso!

## Website Updates & Other News

WEBSITE NEWS: we have changed things up a bit and you can now find both the School Supply Drive & Christmas shoebox Drive videos on our site! They are available both to watch & also to download for showing to your entire group. This year's Christmas video will be available sometime in January so keep checking in!

As always, you can read our earlier newsletters that are archived as well.

## Prayer Requests

Continue to pray for the "open door" that Omar and Luly's are being given to get food, coats, blankets, and many other needs across the border into Mexico. Gaining permission to cross several trailer loads of boxed up gifts was difficult. Thank you, prayer warriors, who kept praying until their mission was accomplished. As this newsletter is being written, we received the awesome news that the last load had been safely delivered to the pastors! Praise the Lord!

Pray as a small band of Christian brothers led by Omar will be traveling to Delicias, many hours south of Juarez. They will be on the road the weekend following Christmas.

Pray for the people of Mexico, especially those in small villages. There is so much death from COVID along the border, including many medical personnel, with hospitals overwhelmed and people being turned away.

Pray for our volunteer, Juanita, who is being treated for stomach cancer. Quiet & thoughtful, she always asks that we pray she will be healthy enough to return to church soon.

Pray for a special friend, Jim, who needs a healing touch from God as well over a cancer diagnosis. We join others asking for a miracle in his life.

Pray for Joan's sister, Tina, who is in hospice care in San Angelo, TX. After many years in a nursing home from a stroke, she has an infection they can't get rid of and her kidneys are failing. Pray for emotional healing as well as her physical need. We trust the Lord will heal her, here or in Heaven.

***FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER ISAIAH 9:6***

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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.



***Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!***



## More Blessed to Give than to Receive

Elfi was busily packing gifts into shipping boxes as the rest of us worked on the next pastor request. Suddenly, the Lord whispered in her spirit, "Do you realize, this year you will touch every box going to the children?" Totally overwhelmed, she felt like it was a Christmas present from God. Even now, she can't share about it without getting all choked up.

The way we had to do things, our volunteers worked to fill each pastor request from their list of needy children while Elfi packed up all their shoeboxes; packing, labeling, moving on to the next "order." The pastors were as determined as we were to press past the obstacles so the children weren't forgotten.

When all was finished, we all laid hands on the shipping boxes to thank God and pray for their safe arrival to expectant children. Elfi shared again what the Lord had said, and we all wept as we prayed.

Those gifts were touched by many hands along the way. We appreciate everyone who took part in helping give children some Christmas joy. From store clerks to truck drivers, and every one who packed a box to send, hands & hearts were blessed to give to a child in need. The driver of the big delivery pictured on front was blessed, sharing how an Israeli woman told about a box she received as a girl that had a Bible inside. Now she's a missionary!

It isn't about the size or expense of a gift, but more about the heart of the giver. May you experience the revelation held in the words, "more blessed to give than to receive" as the world celebrates the birth of the Christ Child in this wonderful Christmas season!

Cisco BSM making boxes to send our way



**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"**