



Crossing Borders News

Crossing Borders Ministries ♦ established 2001

November-December 2021 Issue 3



**2500
Shoeboxes
for children!**

**Just one of the
shoebox gifts
ready for Mexico**



**Dorm wall filled
with gifts ready
for shipping out**



**Two trailer
loads of
presents
in two weeks
of work**



Immanuel, God With Us

We hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving despite the challenges of these trying times. Ours was spent receiving over 2500 shoebox gifts and celebrating the 98th anniversary of Fabens First Baptist Church. A celebration of Crossing Borders was held Saturday the 28th, with the pastors from Mexico finally able to cross the border after 18 months. There was lots of music and food, and Pastor David Lopez from La Trinidad Church in Guadalupe preached. It was wonderful to be with our Christian brothers and sisters face to face again. The church anniversary was Sunday the 28th, celebrating God's faithfulness in bringing the church through good and bad times for 98 years. And of course there was more music, more sharing, and more food!

Since then it's been 3 weeks of working long hours, processing boxes to match up with what pastors have requested. Every year we're amazed at how God moves on the hearts of His people to provide so many gift boxes, making sure there's always enough to meet the need. Dec. 10 we had another reunion with the pastors, singing, preaching, and eating lots of tamales - a Christmas tradition in Mexico. Then they loaded up with beans, rice, groceries, even venison and beef to take back with them. Before returning home, they helped load Pastor Omar's trailer with their Christmas shoebox gifts so he could take them all across—the second load to cross.

So many hands touch these boxes along the way, from store clerks to those who fill them, to us who prepare them to cross the border, to pastors and missionaries, who are finally able to place them in the hands of excited children. For most of them it will be their only Christmas present, so it's why we want them as full of good things as possible.

As this letter goes out, the boxes are being delivered throughout our borderland and traveling further into Mexico to missions in Durango, Torreón, and Delicias just to name a few. Everywhere they go they carry the love and prayers of all who've been part of this great blessing for Christmas. We pray that God's love through the gift of Jesus will be experienced in the lives of every child that opens a box. He IS the reason for this season! May you experience His great love this Christmas as well, and sense the wonder of His gift of salvation.

For God so loved the world

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



**Pastors & missionaries of Del Valle Baptist Convention
send their love & appreciation for all your support**

Behind the Scenes



While a lot of effort goes into making a box and delivering it here, that's just the first leg of its journey. All 2500 boxes had to be sorted into boys, girls, and their ages. Next, we have to match them to the actual numbers of kids the pastors ask for. We briefly check each box so that it really is what the label says, (mistakes happen) then pack a pastor's request in shipping boxes & line their "orders" up for pick up.

It would be impossible to get the job done in time without the help of our volunteers. Covid concerns made this the second year we've had to limit the number of folks we could use. No matter how old or young, though, our volunteers were all "pros" - even our four-legged ones!



Without a doubt, our "volunteer of the year" was Christine (pictured on the left with our church matriarch, Esperanza). She drove 80 miles a day to work beside us. Not only that, she would do any shopping for more candy, toys, socks, whatever we needed to help fill up some of the boxes. She even got a local moving company to donate shipping boxes!



Of course, whether it was Elfi climbing into an SUV to unload boxes being delivered or Joan helping check the count for a pastor's list before it left the building, they were both keeping the process organized and on track so that everything was accounted for and shipped to its right location. As we're always saying, "It's not a mistake unless it leaves the building!"



We are very thankful to each one who gave of their time and effort to make this Christmas shoebox drive both a success and a blessing for so many children! The Lord bless you in this wonderful season of giving!



- ◆ Thanksgiving weekend marked the 98th anniversary of First Baptist of Fabens. Perhaps the greatest highlight was seeing Pastor Lopez (seated) after such a long time. His was the first Baptist church in the lower Juarez valley, in Guadalupe. Many of the pastors we know came out of his church, having grown up under his pastorate. He has lost his eyesight from glaucoma, yet he preached the anniversary message with Bible in hand, quoting passages from memory & challenging us all not to forsake the calling of God in our lives. Pictured with him are our own Pastor Omar and Luly's Lara.



- ◆ Crossing Borders Ministries will be closed for vacation during the holiday season. CBM reopens January 7 for distribution to the pastors of Mexico.
- ◆ We grieve the passing of another of our earliest supporters. Bill Thrash heard Elfi and Joan speak and came out to visit the ministry in 2001. He turned out to be a distributor who could get us custom sized zip-top baggies for the beans and rice we broke down from 50# sacks. For many years, he donated those baggies, bringing them out with his friend and helper, Deanna Legate. In the past, we've shared about his health issues and his remarkable recovery. Now we grieve, but we know he is experiencing the glories of Heaven and free from his suffering. Please keep his family and friends in prayer.

- ◆ After the pastors bring in their Christmas pictures in January, Elfi will create the Christmas video and have it posted to our website. As with our other videos, it will be available for viewing and also downloading.

A sneak peek:
The first boxes have already been given out!



Crossing Borders Ministries
PO Box 35 · Fabens, Texas 79838

Phone: 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.



CBM IS A MINISTRY OF HELPS, CROSSING 'BORDERS' OF DESPAIR & DIFFERENCES TO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, & RELEASE FAITH IN THE NEEDY & LESS FORTUNATE. OTHER ISSUES OF CROSSING BORDERS NEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER "NEWSLETTERS"