



Our mission: to support, encourage, and release FAITH in the needy and less fortunate

12 Years and Counting!

by Elfi Register



Beans and rice every Tuesday



Hygiene kits to VBS kids



Emergency food to displaced families



Fresh potatoes sacked by pastors

This March will mark the 12th anniversary of Crossing Borders. In looking back through the years, there are so many stories we could share with you, all because the Lord has been so faithful! We have been able to supply pastors, their families, and the needy in their communities with rice, beans, groceries, clothing, school supplies, Christmas presents, Bibles, Bible Study materials - and the list goes on.

When we began this ministry, our most fervent prayer was if we were to start this, we needed the Lord's assurance it would be on a continuous basis. We didn't want to start Crossing Borders and then months down the line tell the pastors we could no longer help them. The Lord answered by reminding us that HE was our Source and that he would honor our prayers as we trusted HIM. We stand amazed at His provisions, and at how He has done it through our supporters and friends all these years!

In 2001, I attended a leadership seminar where we worked out our own personal mission statement. Crossing Borders grew out of that statement, which is "to support, encourage and release *faith* in the

needy and less fortunate." Someone said, "How do you release faith in people? Isn't that something that we just have?" My answer to that question is: as we support and encourage one another in our calling, doesn't that stir or release faith in others? My faith is stirred as I see how the Lord has been so faithful and continues to open doors of opportunity each and every day in our lives.

When we visit with the pastors on Tuesdays, our collective faith is stirred as they share how one sack of rice and beans or one Christmas present has opened the door to an entire family coming to the Lord! Our faith is stirred when Harold Smith calls and says George Hughes is coming down with 10,000# of potatoes. Our faith is stirred when a group comes to help with maintenance on our church grounds. Our faith is stirred when groups come to work alongside the pastors to help with Bible schools. Our faith is stirred when we're able to walk through the valley of the shadow of death with the very people God has called us to minister to. "Stirred up" faith produces a release of faith in others!

This anniversary is yours as well as ours. The Lord uses all of us to do his work in this ministry. Whether it is by finances, bringing us the deliveries, unloading deliveries, sorting donations, or tackling one of the many behind-the-scenes chores, we want to say a heartfelt *muchas gracias* to all of you! This ministry belongs to the Lord and we are all his hands and feet. When it's all said and done, what matters most is when we see Jesus face to face and he replies, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

Remember this: The farmer who plants a few seeds will have a very small harvest. But the farmer who plants because he has received God's blessings will receive a harvest of God's blessings in return.

Each of you should give whatever you have decided. You shouldn't be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver. Besides, God will give you his constantly overflowing kindness.

Then, when you always have everything you need, you can do more and more good things. Scripture says, "The righteous person gives freely to the poor. His righteousness continues forever."

*2 Corinthians 9:6-10 GW
(God's Word translation)*

Blessed to be a Blessing

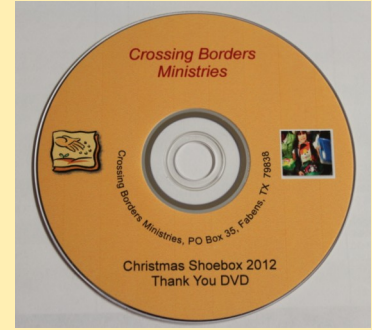
by Joan Wilson

We are blessed to be a blessing! I know this describes all of you who've supported this ministry. You give out of the overflow of God's goodness in your life. You keep on giving and God just opens up the windows of Heaven and pours out even more on you. Even in the times when it's hard to give, you give anyway. You can understand when I say it's impossible to out-give God! Yet, I also suspect if the truth were known, you have given not just generously but sacrificially! The Lord impresses on our hearts again and again that this ministry has always been supported with "the widows' mites."

This phrase goes back to when the Lord Jesus stood in the temple and observed those who gave their offerings. There were the ultra-religious and the social elite who made a big deal of how much they were giving, but Jesus called attention to a poor widow who quietly put in the equivalent of two pennies.



- ◆ It's true! Crossing Borders Ministries is 12 years old! Thanks to everyone who has been on this incredible journey with us!
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a mill out of east Texas that has been donating more than 800# of quality commmeal each month! Multitudes of people are out of work in Mexico's small border towns, and it's helping feed many hungry families!
- ◆ Yes we still need egg cartons! Hallelujah for this mighty blessing of eggs! Pray for those volunteers at the shipping end who clean and repackage these donated eggs.
- ◆ Please keep praying for our pastor friends in Mexico! The violence is less widespread these days, but it isn't over by any means. One pastor was recently attacked by a gang in an attempt to steal his friend's car because it was a newer model.
- ◆ Prayer is also needed over the CAAF work for the traumatized children in Mexico. DIF only had funds to pay the psychologist for a limited time. The church housing this work is searching for a means to keep paying him, as the children are just beginning to respond to therapy. Only God can "make a way where there is no way."
- ◆ We still pack beans and rice on Tuesdays from 9 to 10am! We'd love to have you come and help anytime! Just give us a call and tell us when you're coming! You can stay for the praise & devotion from 10-11am too!



The Christmas Shoebox Drive DVD went out in January to those who put their hands to this great blessing for needy children! We hope your group has had the opportunity to see it. Maybe you even saw one of YOUR boxes! If you need another copy, please let us know.



Blessed ... (continued from page 1)

He told His followers that her gift was more valuable to God because she had given her "all." The "widow's mite" is about heart-attitude. Whether you've been blessed financially, are on a fixed income, or are somewhere in between, you are friends who faithfully give "over and above" to help this ministry! You've joined HIM in ministering to the hurting and the poor along the border. So we want you to be encouraged today that our Lord has taken notice, and He causes us to see, too! As I said, it's impossible to out-give God!

Elfi and I were called by God from different backgrounds. He assured us He was the God of all resources, and He was setting us on a path that only we could follow. We offered Him our respective careers and personal dreams in order to pursue HIS greater vision. And let me tell you, you can't out-dream God, either! What moves Him motivates us, now. And you have each become part of that greater vision, too. Together we've been woven into something so much bigger than what any of us could make happen on our own!

When we began CBM, we could never have imagined the violence and lawlessness that has been happening here on the border, or the disasters that have struck our own country. One word that has resounded in my spirit for the past year is "REFUGE." Not only that we must look to the Lord as our Refuge, but that we, His people, are to create places of refuge for the hurting souls around

us. There are many organizations that do many good works, but the Master's plan has always been for His church to be the entity that demonstrates His love and compassion. Jesus said not to judge people (Matthew 7), because He will do that in those days that are coming (Matthew 24). When we love and care for people who can't pay us back, we have done it to the Lord Himself! We then truly become the blessing to others that He meant for us to be.

During a Tuesday morning service, I had this scripture "drop" in my lap: Jeremiah 31:2 says, **"Those who survive the coming destruction will find blessings even in the barren land ..."** I immediately thought of all of you who support, supply, and pray for this ministry. And I thought of our partners in Mexico, the pastors and churches, who we empower to bless people in the midst of a land made barren by violence. The Lord has used all of us to build a refuge-place called Crossing Borders.

The Lord has said, "I will take care of My own." He sees what you have done for others, and He doesn't forget your heart of compassion. You may be in the midst of your own catastrophe right now. We want to be your "refuge" in return. Let us know how we can be praying for you and with you. Be assured that you will find blessings—even in the midst of apparent barrenness.

Believe it or not, Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is March 31st! We thank God for the greatest gift we could ever receive—Jesus Christ! We ARE blessed!

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We're on the WEB at
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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 missionary 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.

