



CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries ♦ established 2001

January-February 2017 Volume 17, Issue 1



Feeding the hungry



Fitting kids with new shoes



Sharing the Good News of Jesus everywhere

Mercy to the Needy

This year so far has been a flurry of activity. Getting the Christmas DVD published and out to participants. Contribution statements for last year. Scheduling in mission teams for this year. Trying to get a leaky roof replaced on the church sanctuary and annex buildings. Oh, and writing this newsletter of course!

Here it is the end of February but (as you'll see on the back page) we're already starting to fill up our calendar. We hope you'll make special note of the due dates we've set for our **School Supply Kit Drive** and **Christmas Shoebox Drive**. These two projects are huge events for us every year, helping very needy children along our part of the border region in Mexico. We've been doing this 16 years now together, and we can't stress enough the eternal impact you have helped make in the lives of literally thousands of children! Some of them have gone on to graduate university because of those kits! Last year we were able to send 2200 children to school in a nation where education means all the difference between poverty and opportunity. Also, when we finally shipped out the last shoebox gifts, we had brightened the lives of 2700 children with a Christmas present from Jesus! It was the **ONLY** gift received for most of them!

Just to help newcomers to our CBM "family" know how things work, we operate on a weekly schedule. Those bringing deliveries & donations call to set up a time to come during the week. Then, every Tuesday we set up a distribution point in the annex of our host church, First Baptist-Fabens. We open from 9:00 AM until Noon. Pastors from Mexico cross the local international bridge to pick up beans, rice, grocery items, clothing, medicines, and any other needed goods we've received for them. Through this network of pastors we're able to feed as many as 400 families every week. We've also been able to supply Bibles, teaching/VBS materials, and even folding tables and chairs for their churches & ministries. We never cease to be amazed at how God uses the simplest things to bring joy and blessing to the lives and ministries that we serve.

Mercy to the needy is a loan to God, and God pays back those loans in full! Proverbs 19:17 - The Message

Joy in Serving

There's a joy in serving that's hard to grasp. For the most part ministry IS hard. It can be discouraging, heart-breaking, and even unfulfilling at times. That's when we have to pull back and remember it's not about us, not for our glory, but for the glory of God. It's HIS passion and HIS purposes we are called to, not our own. We use the symbol of the hand sowing seeds to show how the Lord continues to sow His seeds through us and CBM. Without Him, we wouldn't be blessed with all the food and the many things that have passed through this ministry for all these years. As we minister to the needs of the poor, we also sow into the lives of the pastors and their wives and children. We sow into those in our surrounding community, in our own church, and in our faithful support and prayer partners. Sometimes we feel stretched to the breaking point. Our brains get "fried" as we flip from sharing and speaking with our American friends to struggling to communicate with a sea of people who only speak Spanish. Yet when the Lord called us He said we would be on a path only we could follow. So every time we seem to accomplish the "impossible," we are reminded He has built a unique skill set into us that makes it possible. And in that there's great joy!

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Mark these CBM dates

March

5: Elfi & Joan at West Park Bapt. Church, Pecos, TX
14: Celebrating CBM 16th Anniversary (3/10)

June

1-30: Elfi & Joan visiting Cloudcroft area churches
7: Elfi & Joan mark 20 years in faith ministry

July

8-15: Lamesa Assn. Mission Team
22-28: Pittsburg Assn. Mission Team
7/29-8/5: Tri-County Assn. Mission Team
July 31: Due Date for School Supply Kits

August

1-22: Shipping school kits

October

7: Elfi's birthday
15: Elfi & Joan at Lamesa Bapt Assn annual meeting
18: Joan's birthday

November

27: Due date for Christmas shoeboxes

December

4-20: Shipping shoebox gifts
12/23-1/6: CBM closed for 2 week Christmas break

Prayer Requests

- Ralph Teague (Joan's dad) - failing health
- Fred Keith - recovery from skin cancer surgery
- Isabel Guerrero - recovery from serious illness
- Pastor David Lopez - poor health & eyesight

Special Recognition

Barney Field and Larry & Sherry Hutchins, who were God's instruments in launching us to organize Crossing Borders Ministries. Our prayer for you is that the Lord will shine His favor on every aspect of your lives. Thank you! We love you!

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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.



With all the turmoil both here and in the world, it's easy to get our eyes off what's really important. By now, you know we're passionate about caring for the least, the lost, and the broken. We've made the LORD's passion & purposes our own. We're not about politics. This newsletter goes out to people from every walk of life and all kinds of religious and political views. Whatever our views, it doesn't change the day to day reality of those in need. People along this border region are still hungry. They still need to be fed. The Lord still cares about their suffering and has made a way to minister to them through CBM.

How awesome that we've all chosen to join together to make a difference! What joy it brings us to have each of you take up your part in this ministry. Thank you for being faithful in your support, your prayers, for you who haul food, who pack and deliver school supply kits, who wrap and fill and bring us all those shoebox gifts, who give us an ear and a shoulder to cry on. We may be the frontline, but you are our lifeline! Ministry IS hard, but you who walk with us make this journey of faith a joy we wouldn't trade for anything in this world. We pray you too find joy in this path we're serving on together.



Bringing the joy of a fiesta to a school for children with special needs



Blanketing even the smallest with the great love of their Heavenly Father

Prayer for the Pastors

Gas prices in Mexico jumped drastically at the beginning of 2017. A liter (1/4 gal.) can cost as much as \$2us! There's talk of revolution over it! Unemployment along the border also remains high, due in large part to the continued cartel violence. At the bridges, the pastors are still being harassed about the food & other supplies they receive from CBM. They're certainly not in ministry for the glory or the money! Please keep these men and women in prayer.

Eduardo & Maggie Guzman
Ramon & Gabi Lara
Antonio & Eva Perea
Lucio & Rosa Ontiveros
Enrique & Elena Ornelas
Patrocinio & Evi Ambrocio
Tomas Mijares
Isidoro Villela

Nieves & Griselda Mares
Omar & Luly's Lara
Pablo & Sara Gonzalez
Felix & Hilda Figueroa
Eugenio & Isabel Guerrero
David Lopez
Luis Piste
Luis Garcia

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