



Crossing Borders News

News & Updates on Crossing Borders Ministries - PO Box 35 - Fabens, Texas 79838

Vol. 10 Issue 1

Our mission: to Support, Encourage, and Release Faith in the needy and less fortunate

Jan /Feb 2010



Penuel Baptist Church delivered gifts during a party there & also at their 3 missions. It's "joy in a box" for these kids!



Thank You for sending CBM 1600 shoebox gifts for "our kids" in Mexico!



Kids in Barreales - one town hard-hit by the violence in Mexico. What a blessing to give them gifts from the Prince of Peace, Jesus!



Elfi tied closed nearly all the 1600 shoebox gifts herself - with a few "experts" to help!



Children from Mt. Sinai Baptist Church & it's three missions met together for a Christmas celebration



Connected to His Commission

by Elfi Register

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you had a Jesus-filled Christmas season. This year is already starting off full of uncertainty and fear for too many people, and I'm sure your heart is as heavy as mine is for them. That's why prayer is such an important part of how we can minister to others - no matter how far away they are. By connecting with the One who CAN show us His answer to the storms of life, we'll follow the Lord through these tough times, allowing Him to guide us in easing the suffering. This was really driven home for me in December, and it's amazing to see in a greater way why the Lord planted Crossing Borders for such a time as this.

When GOD's called you to do something, you've got to do it with your whole being! Unfortunately, you run into people who don't understand and choose to criticize instead of coming alongside in your calling. Their critical spirit can break your own spirit. But we've got to shake that stuff off and fulfill our part of the Great Commission, without getting caught up in petty things that can derail us. I'm so blessed by all of you who HAVE come alongside, pitched in, and been encouragers. You're truly a blessing to us here on the border and to the Lord - and you're worth more than you can possibly imagine! The Lord Jesus said, "You'll know them by their fruit" - and your fruit, my friends, is fruit that will last into the next generation!

Last month while we worked away at processing Christmas shoeboxes, the Lord caused me to think about just how many of the children were facing their first Christmas without some precious loved one - especially those whose Dad or Mom has been murdered in the course of the drug violence across in Mexico. For those kids, that shoebox gift wasn't just for "fun". It was a lifeline from someone here in the US to that child feeling very lost and alone. The few pictures we've put here for you to enjoy don't begin to show how far this project reached out with God's love! By the time the last request was met, we processed nearly **1600 shoebox gifts!!!** We're the frontline in getting all these gifts out, but we couldn't have accomplished so great a task without all of you who diligently worked the supply line and got all those gifts here. Equally so, those who gave a day to sort them all according to each pastor's request made it possible for us to distribute to **45 locations**. What a miracle of love and compassion!

Fulfilling Christ's call to "Go" isn't about going to church on Sunday - it's about being His "hands and feet" EVERY day! There's not a better example to be found of this than looking at the lives of the pastors we know in Mexico. In response to the violence (15 people killed a day!), pastors have led their people to start comedors (feeding stations) and counseling centers; they're doing what they can to keep community kids in school and devastated families together. Right now, we know two pastors struggling to keep their own kids in medical school - and they're not asking us for a "hand out" - they're asking us to PRAY! Pray for the resources, money & dependable transportation, and for their safety when they're required to travel & go to classes at night. Pray for these young adults by name: Joel & Patti. They want to be able to minister in the Name of Jesus! What a privilege to serve alongside these precious people of God!

In January, we've witnessed anew the ways in which the Lord is using us and Crossing Borders to connect to others with His love. Since we began this ministry 9 years ago, we've connected with a lot of people on both sides of the border. The violence in Mexico has ramped up in the last year, forcing even more folks to flee their own country for the sakes of their children. Jobless and homeless, they're plugging in with us here - attending the bilingual services of our church and pitching in to help us with Tuesday's Distribution Day. It's giving them time to heal from the wounds to their souls, and providing them an outlet to serve the Lord they love. We pray with them and for them, as they long for the day they can return "home". It's so clear to us that we're right where we're supposed to be - feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting with those who are in the midst of every kind of affliction. We're connecting with the drug addicted, the elderly, the kids who need a stable place to be - crossing whatever "border" stands between people and God's great love for them. Whatever comes of 2010, we're committed to "walk it out" with Jesus! Thanks for coming along on the journey with us - to laugh or cry with us, and to pick us up when we get knocked down. Together, we're connected to His commission for Crossing Borders Ministries! Hallelujah!



These are the first gifts EVER for this Tarahumara Indian village high above Creel in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. We're glad we could partner with Pastor Garcia from Penuel Baptist in Col. Esperanza & the Riders from Scotsdale Baptist of El Paso. These cloth sacks were filled with toys & goodies with the help of BSM leaders from Weatherford College

Caring for the "Least of These"

The cost of beans and rice is still as uncertain as everything else these days. CBM has increased the number of locations we distribute to on a weekly basis. We're committed to not having the pastors "rotate" their family packs between mission points. (A family pack is a "Walmart" bag with 5 cups each of beans and rice in "Ziploc" baggies. This helps feed a family of 4 for a week.)

Prices as of Jan 4, 2010:

50# dry pinto beans = \$27.23 at Sams Club

50# bulk white rice = \$16.36 at Sams Club

50# of each will feed 20 families per week - what many pastors pick up for each week.

Every week, we distribute about 900# each of beans & rice. Add to that groceries for the pastors themselves each week including:

Nescafe coffee	sugar	salt	flour	peanut butter
Canned fruits & veggies	soap	shampoo		
Toothpaste	spices	cereal	powdered milk	

A very special Thank You to those who give monthly to help make this possible!

In 2009, there were also donations that came by the trailer load. These items, too, are distributed on Tuesdays for the pastors to take to Mexico:

Baby Foods & Diapers	Frozen Venison
Coats and Blankets	Cases of Canned Goods
2000 School Supply Kits	1600 Shoebox Gifts
Arrowhead Mills Organic Products	and More!

And to kick off the month of December, a trailer filled with 10,000 # of store-quality potatoes was driven in from the Texas Panhandle through sleet & snow by the Smith brothers! It was an extra special blessing for thousands of hungry people in our border region!

From all of us here at CBM - ¡Muchas Gracias!



Crossing Borders is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Fabens, developed and operated by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson. Your financial support is vital to this ministry. When sending your check, please make it payable to:

Fabens First Baptist Church

and attach a note to specify if it is for support of Elfi and/or Joan or for Crossing Borders general fund.

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Thank you for your continued prayers & support!

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.



The Power of His Word

by Joan Wilson

Who has believed our report?

John 12:38

What we "believe" matters more than we realize. The "big news" for all of one week in December was the strange blue spiral that appeared in the night sky over Norway while President Obama was in that country. Do you even remember that one? Some believed it was some "sign" but it turned out to be a night launch by the Russians. Now the "really big news" is the ancient Mayan calendar that runs out on 12-21-12. Movies, documentaries, magazines, etc. all speculating about "the end of the world"! Seems even the so-called "experts" can't agree on what this date signifies. So I can't help wondering - why is it that when we Christians believe what GOD has to say about this world coming to its end, we're labeled "fanatic"?

Death and Life are in the power of the tongue

Proverbs 18:21

What we "say" matters, too. The Bible is called "the Word of God". This was fine-tuned in the Gospel of John when he called Jesus "The Word". Now, I don't know about you, but for me this means I'll take what my LORD says over the opinions of people. Even when the doctor utters those terrible words "terminal cancer", it's what the LORD says that matters. Doctors speculate based on "facts". The LORD *knows* based on His TRUTH! We fear a lot these days, with good reason; yet the worst "terrorist" we're most likely to encounter is not the extremist that murders with guns and explosives, but the self-righteous person who stirs up fear in peoples' minds or who destroys someone's reputation through the power of their words. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me" is a lie. With a single word we can build up or tear down a soul. What comes out of our mouths needs to be GOD's truth in love - instead of our "stinkin' thinkin'!"

Fear Him who can destroy both soul and body

Matthew 10:28

I say all this because I actually DO believe that we're seeing the last of the "last days" before Jesus comes back like He said He would. And when He comes, who and what you believe will matter very much. The Bible clearly tells us disasters of every kind will increase before He comes, and that it WILL get worse before it gets better. I don't say this to spread fear but to stir up your faith. It's when the darkness is darkest that His Light can shine the brightest in us. Even in the worst of times, His desire is for us to look to Him and live! Our confidence - our HOPE! - isn't in the economy or the government or even in ourselves; our confidence is in the LORD and His promises to us!

As we say "hello" to 2010, our minds can be at peace no matter what comes our way. There really is One who knows exactly when the world will end, because HE's the One who will end it. And no calendar of stone will dictate that day to Him. With a word, He spoke all this world into creation. He will speak and the world as we know it will end. But best of all, this same LORD knows you by name and cares to speak to you - today! Listen Was that your name He just whispered?

Print additional copies of this & other CBM newsletters from our website at crossingbordersministries.com. The site also provides details of this ministry, including "Ways You Can Help", and how to participate in our annual School Supply Drive and Christmas Shoebox Drive.