



Crossing Borders News

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

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few ... Luke 10:2

Psalm 91

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare of the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I am trusting him.

For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from the fatal plague. He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor fear the dangers of the day, nor dread the plague that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday.

Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. But you will see it with your eyes; you will see how the wicked are punished.

If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your dwelling.

Psalm 91:1-10 NLT

A Refuge from the Violence

by Joan Wilson

No doubt you've heard the news: reports now refer to the Juarez valley as "the valley of death". It's so bad, Mexico's people along the Rio Grande are fleeing the area and moving to the interior. But once they get there, they find nobody will hire them for fear the violence will follow them.

This transient migration of Mexico's border people is too much like what the world has seen before in countries plagued with civil war and genocide. One pastor we know was on the verge of closing up the church because most of their little village had fled. But unable to find work, the people began returning in larger and larger groups. "What else could I do?" he said. "Now I leave the church open. They have nowhere else to go." He started giving families in his care dou-

ble portions of beans and rice because they don't have anything else to eat.

Many of the pastors we work with have experienced terrible losses in their families and churches. In the past few months, they've buried uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, and neighbors - without any sign things will soon change. But for one pastor and his wife, they've found new purpose in the midst of their grief. While in grief counseling (over the death of their daughter), they were approached to participate in an initiative to set up grief counseling centers within their church and cell groups. The program will be funded for 6 months by the government, with paid social workers and therapists working alongside volunteers recruited from their church and missions. It's

something never done before in their country, but as they were told, "We see you Christians are the only ones who stay calm in the midst of this crisis."

One of the pastors with a feeding center at his church told us they're feeding anyone who comes in hungry. Sometimes it's soldiers, and sometimes it's gang members. Recently, they had a suspicious group of young men come in. They fed them and shared the truth of Jesus with them, and later the pastor saw that soldiers had had a shoot-out with them, killing some. He tells people all the time, the Lord can only help you if you're willing to walk with Him on His path.

"If you make the Lord your refuge," Psalm 91 says, "no evil will conquer you." No matter what's happening around us, we trust in the Lord as our Refuge.

Living in His Shadow

by Elfi Register

Psalm 91 is my favorite passage in all the Bible. The Lord has used it to speak to me many times. Some of our pastors have preached from it during these dark days they're enduring. It's easy to tell how wonderful our God is when everything's great - but when things are falling apart all around you? It's Psalm 91.

There's this "secret place" where genuine Christians live - unseen but real. And when we choose to stay in the "shadow" of God's presence, we're amazed at the goodness and provision of the Lord. Real ministry isn't a "numbers game" but just look at what the Lord provided in 2010 through the generous giving of

His people:

- 90,000# of beans & rice
- 10,000# + fresh potatoes
- Hundreds of new coats
- Hundreds of new blankets
- Tons of case goods with canned meats, vegetables, coffee, baby foods, dry milk,



Updates & Prayer Requests

- ◆ Believe it or not, Crossing Borders celebrated its 10th anniversary March 10, 2011. We've been so busy we forgot to plan a party! Many thanks to all our friends who've been with us every step of this faith journey!
- ◆ Although our area didn't get tons of snow, the temperatures dropped to near zero long enough to cause rolling blackouts, frozen plumbing, and loss of gas in many parts of the El Paso/Juarez valley. As always, the poor suffered the worst. Thanks to everyone who rallied and sent coats, blankets, and lots of prayers.
- ◆ 16 cases of Spanish Bibles recently were donated for the pastors of Mexico to use in their ministries. For the pastors, it was "Christmas" all over again. And they're asking for more! If this is something you want to supply them with, they ask for complete Bibles (OT & NT) in the Reina-Valera translation. Both hardback and paperback are OK.
- ◆ Several pastors are traveling to Torreon in April and July for evangelistic campaigns. They are asking for Bibles, tracts, and other materials to help them share the Good News of Jesus. They also ask for your prayer cover as they travel and as they preach.
- ◆ If your church or group would like more information about our ongoing distribution program or any of our special events (like the Christmas shoebox drive) please feel free to contact us.
- ◆ If you are interested in getting our monthly e-letter at the end of each month, please send us your email address to crossingborder@aol.com



1600
Shoebbox
Gifts!



Thank you,
Jesus!



Just a few of
the many
children
happy to
get a gift for
Christmas



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We're on the WEB at
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a ministry 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 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.



Living in His Shadow - continued

- cereal, fruits, & more
- 300 dozen fresh eggs
- 900 paper grocery sacks filled with food & personal items for the pastors' families
- 20,000 family packs of beans & rice distributed through the pastors to needy families

During the December "rush" of shoebox gifts and other donations, a little 13" TV was off-loaded into the warehouse. I said, "I don't think that's ours." But I was assured somebody had sent it for us. You might not think a TV is very "spiritual", but then came the "blackouts" on both sides of the border in Feb-

ruary. After things started to settle, "my" Samantha sent a letter to let us know she and her grandma were OK. At the end she wrote, p.s. - *if you have a TV or they give you one please send it over here.* The blackouts had ruined her set. Wow! God knew her need BEFORE it happened and made provision!

Sam also wrote, "We love you like family members, not like persons that help us." Standing in the "shadow of the Almighty", you don't only find safety - you find "family". One pastor's sister was kidnapped and murdered last month. He talked about this closeness, too. "You are like family to us," he said. "We know

your prayers are helping us survive this tragedy." It's not the first loss we've shared with his family.

Many of you have become family as well, and your support of this ministry is appreciated more than words can say. Like us, you've come to understand that our role as encouragers and partners with the men and women who pastor in this border region is something that matters very much to the Lord. We don't have to "bring God to the border". He's already here and at work among His people. Thank you, family, for joining us as we work under His "shadow".