



Crossing Borders News

News & Updates on Crossing Borders Ministries—FBC Fabens—PO Box 35—at 318 N. Fabens St.—Fabens, TX 79838

Volume 6 Issue 3

July 2006

Heavenly Treasure

by Joan Wilson

We have had several calls telling us a newsletter is "past due", so we will stop running long enough to share some of our adventures with you! In late April, we took Greg Beard of "Grace of Giving Ministries" across the River to meet some of the pastors he helps us supply. We heard many wonderful testimonies, but none touched us like hearing about one old fellow in Praxedis. He lives in a shack with a circle of rocks out front as his "stove". He puts a pan of water and a handful of beans on top of them to let the sun "cook" his meal for the day. He gives thanks to God because he's able to eat every day. What does that say about us when we grumble at the long line at the store?

Sometimes, we get to feeling like what we are doing doesn't count for much. Then we hear a report like that and it is so humbling. It is not what we are doing, but what the LORD is accomplishing that truly matters. We are given the privilege of simply being His hands and feet along the way.

One friend in Farmington, NM knows this very well. Joyce has been bringing groups to help us with Vacation Bible School for 6 years. She was with us when we made our first bean delivery to Mexico in 2001. She has campaigned in churches in her area for years, trying to raise funds to buy beans and rice, with what she felt was only limited success. This year, though, an amazing thing happened. First came her e-mail saying they were bringing 2300# of beans and 1200# of rice. Then came the miraculous - a huge "tote" with 6000# of Anasazi beans had been donated - they just had to figure out how to bring it! After they brought it, we had to figure out how to store that much!

Most of May was spent getting ready for June. We arranged to run two weeks of Vacation Bible School in June, with our new pastor Hugo Garcia putting together youth events each night. We ended up with 64 kids coming to VBS, and between the Farmington folks one week & an Oklahoma group the second, we had 50 people helping us. It was exhausting and exciting, and best of all 6 kids said they wanted to make Jesus the Lord of their lives. For us, nothing compares to the joy of knowing Jesus!

Knowing the Lord and walking this road of ministry with Him is very fulfilling. This is a tough time of year for both of us because my son Evan died in June 2004 and Elfi's mom passed away in July 2003. Both were sudden and unexpected. I only bring this up because you should know we're not exempt from all the same hurts and sadness as everyone else. In fact, we received some troubling news just as we went to print this that Elfi will share with you. But anyone who hangs with us for long knows we laugh a lot and look for the humor in every situation. And it's all due to Jesus being so real in our lives. So, before it gets crazy around here again with the School Supply Drive (see page 2), we will get this letter off to you and set aside some "down time" in a quiet place with the Lord to recharge our batteries.

Our 1st Tote!
This "tote" of beans came all the way from Loveland, Colorado! It had to be unloaded with shovels & the beans put into 50# bags for storage.



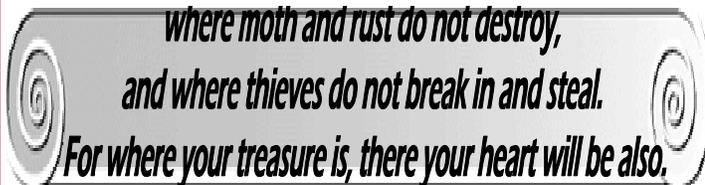
Where our Hearts Are

by Elfi Register

Believe it or not, it's time for our annual School Supply Drive. This will be our 6th year of helping needy children be able to attend school. Pastors from Mexico distribute the supplies through specially packaged kits, which allow the pastors to show the love of the Lord in practical ways by helping these children get an education. In the last 5 years we've been able to send out close to 4500 kits through these pastors. Many churches and individuals partnered together to make this possible and we are so grateful. It's a struggle for a poor family to keep a child in school even through the 6th grade. After that, the family must choose between more schooling or having the child go to work to help support the family. Whatever we can do to help encourage these families to keep their kids in school is well worth the effort.

We attended the 7th anniversary service of "Dios Es Amor" church in Sauzal, and we were happy to see some of the children we've helped through the years. Most didn't even know who we were and that's fine. We've stayed in the background on purpose. They just need to know it all comes from the Lord. We also had the pleasure of peeking in on the final day of VBS at "Mt. Sinai" church in San Isidro. The pastor's niece, Edna, recognized us and was thrilled to give us hugs before racing off with her friends. We still struggle with the language, but we sure don't have any trouble letting the kids know they're loved.

At the start of writing this article we were given bad news concerning David Ornelas, our little "starfish". He was diagnosed with a brain tumor approximately a year and a half ago and had undergone intensive treatments along with a bone marrow transplant. We have been happy to share his progress and his miraculous recovery in previous newsletters. Well, last Tuesday his dad came with the unsettling news that the tumor has returned and is making David very sick. The doctors have said there is nothing more that can be done. No chemo, no operation, no hope. However, we believe in a God of miracles and although there seems to be no hope, we have hope in our Everlasting Father. Today, his dad asked us to come see David. Maybe he would be going to the Lord soon. We found a boy still fighting to live, so we are asking God for a miracle beyond what medicine can offer. Our assurance as believers in Christ is that we can ask Him for anything. It is still His will that will prevail. David turns 9 on July 8th. His family is planning a birthday "fiesta" for him. Please join us in praying for David, his family, and the many friends who have made this little boy their "familia".



Matthew 6:20-21

Crossing Borders Ministries

School Supply List 2006

This will be our **6th Annual Supply Drive** for the children in Mexico. We estimate we will need supplies for 1000 students! That's 700 students in primary school and 300 students in secondary and high school. **We're asking that all supplies be sent to us no later than July 29th.** This will give us two weeks to pack up and ship out to all the pastors across the River in Mexico. If you would like to help us make up these kits, give us a call @ 915-491-7528. The percentages below estimate the amounts of supplies needed for each age group.

1. Crayons - boxes of 24 (70% of children receive)
2. Colored Pencils - boxes of 24 (30% of children receive)
3. #2 Pencils - (each child receives 8 ea.)
4. Blue and Black Pens (older children receive 5 ea.) (30%)
5. Loose-leaf Notebook Paper - (70% wide rule, 30% college rule)
6. Spiral Notebooks (70% wide, 30% college)
7. Composition notebooks (30% of children receive 1 ea.)
8. 1 Bottle Glue (70%) or 2 Stick Glue (30%)
9. Yellow Highlighter (all receive)
10. Children's scissors (all receive)
11. Rulers with metric side (all receive)
12. Pocket folders (all receive 2 ea.)
13. Pencil Sharpeners (all receive)
14. Big Eraser (all receive)

Mexico's children are supposed to go to school through the 6th grade. But in our border region, too many children "fall between the cracks" because their family is too poor to pay for tuition, uniforms, or supplies. If a family cannot afford these things, they can ask the Mexican government to exempt their children from having to attend school. This helps the family financially, but it also traps them in a cycle of poverty.



We praise the Lord for those who have a heart to help us again this year, as we do what we can to help these children receive the education available to them. May the Lord bless you abundantly, more than you can ask or think!

We now send out a monthly email newsletter that gives a one-page update on what's going on behind the scenes and let's us share prayer concerns in greater detail. If you would like to be included on our e-list, please send us an "Include Me" note to our email address: CrossingBorder@aol.com

Please notice... there is no "s" at the end of "border"

How You Can Help

Every Tuesday, we set up a Distribution Day in our church's annex for pastors and missionaries. They count on us to be there between 9:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. with beans, rice, and other needed items, both for their own families and for needy families in their communities. We are feeding 330 families a week through 38 ministries.

- WE COLLECT THESE ALL THE TIME:
All-purpose Flour Sugar Instant Coffee
Powdered Milk Bar bath Soap
Toothpaste Shampoo Paper Towels
Toilet Paper Tomato Sauce
Canned Vegetables Canned Fruits
Pasta Canned Chicken / Tuna
Peanut Butter Bulk Pinto Beans
Bulk White Rice
- We can always use volunteers to help on Tuesdays, plus whenever we have a special emphasis such as our School Supplies Drive in July & August, or the Christmas Shoebox Gifts in December.
- MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS ALWAYS NEEDED. Donations to CROSSING BORDERS helps buy the rice, beans, and other items we distribute. SUPPORT FOR ELFI OR JOAN HELPS THEM IN THEIR MISSION CALL. They are full-time Mission Service Corps missionaries who do not receive any state or national funding, but must depend on churches & individuals to support them on the mission field.
- PRAYER IS ALWAYS NEEDED! Pray for our church, our families, our volunteers, & our health. And for sick friends in border ministries of their own: Judi Wright in the hospital, & Pastor Don Randall with health problems. Also the Ornelas family.

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.

Send to: Crossing Borders Ministries c/o FBC Fabens
PO Box 35 ♦ Fabens, TX 79838

Phones: cell# 915-491-7528 ♦ office # 915-764-5343
email: CrossingBorder@aol.com

Thank you for your continued prayer & support!

Elfi & Joan are Mission Service Corps missionaries out of FBC Fabens. MSC is under the North American Mission Board.

