



Crossing Borders News

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

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We CAN Believe His Word by Joan Wilson



The words from Jeremiah 29 are not just words in print from some book of philosophy. They are not just "good ideas" written by kindly old gray-haired men in long robes. Jeremiah was a young man called by GOD to be a prophet to speak HIS Truth to people who had lost the capacity to hear HIM for themselves. They are powerful promises from a Living Being Who wants us to shift our limited thinking to HIS limitless possibilities. "I have plans for you". What a powerful statement!

SAMANTHA A future and a hope

Perhaps you've met her here before. She may have helped unload your delivery to us, or helped us talk to a Mexico pastor. She's 13 year old Samantha Holguin. We've known her more than half her life. Until the first of June, she lived in Fabens with her grandmom. That is, until Elfi received a frantic phone call. Samantha was desperate because her grandmom's family was coming to take them back to Mexico. Her grandmom's father had died and the family wanted them back in Mexico - that day. Somehow, she thought we could "fix things". See, she's lived here her whole life without legal documents and her grandmom's papers had lapsed. Her cousin Mario is the only one whose "legal". Their grandmom has raised them both since they were born. For Sam and Mario, this journey to Mexico was the same as if you or I were plucked up and sent there to live. Sam kept saying, "I'll be there forever!" Her dream has been to "make good" and get the three of them out of poverty. Now those dreams were evaporating. We picked her up and spent an hour with her, trying to reassure her all was not lost. We rounded up boxes they could use to pack their few belongings in - family photos, personal things, and treasured gifts from some of us. Elfi gave Sam a new Bible in English and a prayer journal. In the Bible, Elfi wrote, "Jeremiah 29:11; Remember, God will always take care of you".

These three are followers of Christ. Though it's hard to understand it all, the Lord does have a future and a hope for them. As the Lord makes a way, we can help them wherever we can. In the meantime, they struggle to adjust. The kids are living in a strange town in a house full of strangers. Sam's worried they won't be able to go to school anymore. Over here she'd be entering the 8th grade; Mario would be in 3rd. School is an expensive "luxury" only some can afford where they are now. The bright spot in this bleak picture is that they've plugged into Pastor Perea's church in Praxedis. He and his wife are finding out for us what all it will take to get these two in school. We are keeping this displaced little family covered in prayer, for surely the Lord DOES have a plan and a future for them all.

HE REALLY LISTENS!

Samantha's and Mario's struggle drives home how important our school supply drive is. For too many families in Mexico, sending your children to school is next to impossible. It's always amazing to hear the pastors tell us how those bags of school supplies can literally change a child's future! A number of summer Vacation Bible Schools in the States have said their kids are making the kits their mission project for the week. Along with making the kits up, they are praying for each child that will receive them. It's kids blessing kids! Wow!

Why does this matter? Because the Lord Himself said that if we pray HE will hear - and answer! HE wants us to be partners with Him in what happens. Last time, we asked you to pray about the financial need for buying beans and rice. The Lord responded by moving people to give with great

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11 - 13

generosity - even in the midst of the economic crunch we're all under right now. It's the "body of Christ" functioning at its best! Because of their sacrificial giving (and you all know who you are!) the poor are still going to have a source of food they can depend on.

WHEN WE SEEK HIM WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

We can't always understand what the Lord is doing, but His promise is "plans for good and not evil". And we can take Him at His word! The week of July 13th, Elfi was supposed to be "camp missionary" for a girls' camp in the mountains near her hometown of Cloudcroft, NM. While she's never camped in her life, she felt a prompting from the Lord that she would "miss something" HE meant for her if she didn't go. The girls were going to be collecting an offering to purchase beans. Also, the ages of the girls that would be there are the same we've been working with for about a year now. We thought surely the Lord must be wanting Elfi to speak into the lives of all those girls.

As we prepared this newsletter, though, a flurry of phone calls and emails from different directions completely dismantled and reconfigured what that week would be about. Sadly, the camp was cancelled because the forest remains under high fire danger. But because our calendar was cleared for that week, we were able to accept an invitation to speak about Crossing Borders for the first time in Mayhill Baptist Church up in that area. So we'll have a whole week to relax - meeting new friends and renewing old friendships - all in the cool mountains of New Mexico! Only the Lord could have moved all the pieces together at once to make this happen, and we praise Him for His welcomed "surprise" of our first break in two years!

This Divinely rearranged week is just one way we've seen the Lord respond to those who truly love Him and put their whole trust in Him. We KNOW He has a wonderful plan for our little friends Samantha & Mario - even if we can't see it clearly yet. And I know He has a plan for you. Seek Him with your whole heart! His way for you will be found!

We are praying and planning for 1500 school kits this year! The pastors are preparing the list of their requests. Now it is up to God's family to meet the need. Please keep us all in prayer!

Subject:	2008 School Supply Drive
Due Date:	Tuesday, July 29, 2008
Kits Need:	same items as last year
For a copy of items list and other kit details, refer to your 2007 list or contact us at:	
Crossingborder@aol.com	
or call us at 915-764-5343	



Sun and Shadows

by Elfi Register

The violence along the border doesn't seem like its ending anytime soon. Rival drug cartels in Juarez are killing each other in shocking numbers, nearly 600 since January. People are scared to leave their homes. The rich families from Juarez are fleeing to El Paso, and I can't help thinking - what about the poor? Where do they run to?

It's the innocent that end up suffering the most. All the killing doesn't change that they're hungry. They still have to find food somewhere. While the Mexican military and police drive around in a show of force, still the poor search out the town's pastor for help. Nobody else is showing them any compassion. These pastors still come to pick up beans and rice every week, even though gas costs more and the danger is great. They only know they must be faithful to their calling to care for the people GOD has placed in their path.

While these men and their families continue to live in the shadow of violence in order to serve the Lord, we've taken phone calls from mission teams asking if it's safe to come to work on the border. For some, even working on this side seems too risky. One call came from a group leader who was discouraged that two-thirds of his team had backed out of coming. But as he sat in prayer, the Spirit of the Lord asked him, "Are you afraid of shadows?" His first thought was - no, he didn't think so; but the Lord wouldn't have asked the question except that He already knew the answer. Then the Spirit showed him that when he was afraid to serve the Lord because of what men said *might* happen, then he was afraid of the *shadow* of evil.

The shadow is darkness. Think about it. Shadows only appear in the presence of light. Without any light, everything is darkness. You can't

run away from darkness. You only end up running into more darkness. The only answer to darkness is light. And there's no greater light than Jesus. It's like this: when we face away from the sun, we face toward our own shadow. Our own fear, our own darkness, is like that shadow. To run away from the sun will only have us running into our own shadow, our own darkness. We can't escape it, can't run away from it. But the moment we **turn** away from our darkness to face the light, our shadow, our darkness, is behind us. We can't see it anymore. This is what happens when we turn toward Jesus. No matter how dark a situation is, everything changes when we look to Him. Darkness cannot exist in the presence of Light. Only shadows remain.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life" (John 8:12). We can let fear and shadows and darkness rule us, or we can look straight into the Light for our direction in life. In Him I know this: where there's greater need, there's a greater call to prayer. A greater call to serve others in the Name of Jesus.

The violence here on the border is very real. But we who face the Sun know our lives are not our own. We've been bought with a price - His sacrificial death for us. Wherever God sends us, He will guard our lives, because they now belong to Him. Our personal property and possessions are to be a matter of indifference to us, and our hold on these things should be very loose. In essence, Jesus says, "I will guard your life. If you try to guard it yourself, you remove yourself from My deliverance." (See Psalm 91 - my favorite). The poor need to be fed, so we'll keep sending out beans and rice. The children need to go to school, so we'll keep sending out school supplies. The pastors need to know they're not alone, so we'll keep standing beside them, covering them in prayer and being servants they can count on to help meet their personal and community needs. And we'll keep facing the "Son".



We received this email that shares an awesome testimony of the greatness of God and how much HE loves all of us. In light of the struggle mission teams are having in overcoming their fear of serving in dangerous times, we know it will bless all of you who've come through the years. May it give you the courage to continue!

Hi Elfi & Joan:

I worked in VBS at our church in Bloomfield this week with a lady who had grown up in Chihuahua. She told me that her Grandpa had converted from Catholicism and that her family was just about the only "protestant" family in her school. She was telling me how exciting it was when the missionaries would come to visit when she was a kid - it was one of the best things that happened all year! She said she saw many times how God provided because of those missionaries. She said they often would bring the exact thing that they were needing, and they hadn't even told them of the need. She said that while she may not remember those missionaries' names, she would never forget their faces. She talked about how the missionaries would probably never know of the influence that they had had in her life. I thought I'd share this with you gals because you probably don't hear it enough - I'm sure there are tons of kids who will some day say the same kind of things about you two!

Hope your summer is going well!

Did you know?

The face of the sunflower tracks the path of the sun from east to west every day.

Check out these websites:

www.crossingbordersministries.com

It's still under construction, but we think you'll like the improvements. Let us know what you think!

www.bbn4jesus.org

This new site features the music of Christian artists who are not in the spotlight, but are totally "sold out" to Jesus. We believe their songs will bring refreshing to your soul. Selections change daily.

Our Mission: To support, encourage, and release faith in the needy and less fortunate. (Serf: the bond-slave of a Lord or King who cares for the land)

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 prayer & 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.

