



CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries ♦ established 2001

January-March 2021 Issue 1

CBM turns 20

What a difference a year makes! March 10 last year we had nearly 100 people in attendance at our anniversary celebration, and this year we won't even have a gathering! The pastors still can't come across from Mexico, so we are still taking supplies across to them with the help of the Lara family. Thank you for supporting CBM in the midst of the pandemic! Together, we've continued to minister to these dedicated men & women of God—20 years & counting.

Christmas Video

The 2020 Christmas Shoebox video is available for download or copying at our website. Seeing the faces of the children in Mexico as they receive their little boxes makes all the work behind the scenes worth it! Please contact Elfi if you don't have a way to make a copy for yourself.

CBM Operations Continue

We continue to keep the Tuesday distribution day at FBC Fabens shut down to help our volunteers & our community stay safe. Some folks have thought this means the ministry & church are closed! FBC Fabens has services starting at 10:30 Sunday mornings led by Pastor Omar Lara. He has also started new believer/new member classes, which is a welcome addition! Luly's Lara continues to meet with our volunteers, sacking up beans & rice, meeting scheduled deliveries, and keeping the facilities clean & organized. Meanwhile, Elfi & Joan keep the many parts of CBM connected & operational between pastors, supporters, suppliers, and volunteers. If you need to schedule a delivery, meet with us, ask for prayer, or simply need more information, please contact Elfi or Joan by phone or email listed on page 2, and we WILL get back to you if you leave a message.

Loving God, Loving Others

Love means something different to everyone. We can "love" people, sports, food, places, things - using the word to express our affection or devotion for someone or something.

When Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself," immediately people wanted to nit-pick what He meant. Just who is my neighbor? How many times do I have to forgive my brother?

When we began Crossing Borders Ministries, we knew that "faith" and "love" are actions, not just words. We took Matthew 25:35-36 as a blueprint for what our ministry should "act" like: *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, thirsty and you gave me something to drink, a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.*

So here we are 20 years later, and how CBM grew to where we are today is nothing short of a miracle from God. When we say God is the One in charge that's not just words either. We serve as His hands and feet, putting His direction to "love God and love others" into action as He shows us the next need to meet. We've had different volunteers, supporters, and even pastors pass through the ministry, yet God has always been the One connecting us to accomplish His work along the border. This past year has been a uniquely difficult time for the whole world, and our border community has suffered (and continues to suffer) great hardship. We could not have imagined to ask for better ministry co-laborers than Omar & Luly's Lara in this crisis! In fact, the church body that has "stayed the course" through these many months of COVID are an amazing band of prayer warriors!

We stay in touch with our pastor friends through the internet and by phone. We've enjoyed watching their virtual services and the creative ways they minister to their various congregations. When it came to delivering school supplies or Christmas shoebox gifts to the children, they braved visiting the homes or having

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Love communicates across the language barrier between Caleb & Nannette

Pastor Omar (far right) meeting with some of our pastors & missionaries in a warehouse in Mexico to deliver groceries & other supplies



Prayer Requests & Updates

We have much to be thankful for, and we thank you for joining us in prayer when we ask. We also want to hear from YOU when you need prayer. Here are some of our prayer requests, and a praise report as well.

- ◆ Please keep Hans Steinhoff in prayer. Hans is the precious friend who hauled beans every 2 weeks for many years. He had surgery and treatment for fluid in a lung and will be a long time recovering. Pray for his wife Linda, too, who needs prayer for her failing eyesight & other health concerns. Pray for her peace of mind over their circumstances.
- ◆ Join us in praying for a great job to open up for Pastor Omar in the El Paso area. He works driving trucks in the Odessa oil fields during the week, but desires work closer to home and our church.
- ◆ Joan's sister Tina went home to be with the Lord Dec. 27. Thank you for your thoughts & prayers. Please keep the Elliott family - her husband, son, & grandchildren in prayer as they grieve.
- ◆ Thank you for praying for our volunteer, Juanita. She has made it through the last round of cancer treatment & hopes for a good report. She is thankful for the Lord renewing her strength & is back at church & happy to be volunteering again!

Special Update

We've had many calls asking about the future of Enrique Ornelas & his family. They are still in Juarez & doing as well as can be expected. He is preaching online for another church outside of Juarez, and we are still helping as we're able. Despite the rhetoric out of DC, what we've learned is that those who were previously deported don't actually have much hope of having that decision reversed. Keep praying for their health & safety, and for them to discern God's plan for them according to Jeremiah 29:11.

small gatherings in their own home to minister to and encourage their people. We are so thankful to the Lord for being a part of the lives of these faithful men and women. Twenty years ago, we couldn't imagine the huge extended family we were going to be given! For truly, they have become like our brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, parents, and grandparents. The same holds true for so many of you, our supporters and friends. You know as well as we do that you are family to us! At times, you've even been closer to us than earthly family. Together we have grieved the losses of loved ones in the last 12 months, and carried one another in prayer and compassion. We have prayed for you and you for us. How wonderful to be in the family of God!

Finally, we've listed special prayer concerns for Omar & Luly's Lara, along with Enrique & Elena Ornelas. We remember the other pastors as well. They, too, have problems too numerous to name. Some have had the virus and are recovering, all have the burden of how to keep paying utility bills while many are out of work. Electricity & propane are VERY expensive in Mexico. These are the pastors & missionaries we're able to stay in touch with at this time. Please keep them in prayer:

Eduardo Guzman, Iglesia Bautista Cristo Redentor
Eugenio Guerrero, Mision Choquita
Jose Cruz Rodriguez, Iglesia Bautista Dios Es Amor
Luis Garcia, Iglesia Bautista El Penuel
David Lopez, Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad
Tomas Mijares, Iglesia Bautista Sol de Justicia
Patrocinio Ambrocio, Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva
Pablo Gonzalez, Iglesia Bautista Antioquia
Luis Piste, Iglesia Oasis de Amor
Antonio Perea, Dios Con Nosotros
Ramon Lara, Senderos del Sol Comedor
Lucio Ontiveros, Templo Agua Viva
Isidoro Villela, Templo Elim
Gabriela Tarango, Centro Familiar Cristiano
Nieves Mares, Iglesia Bautista Mte. Sinai
Pedro Rodriguez, Dios Es Amor area missions
Eliseo Pena, Cristo Redentor area missions
Ismael Chavez, Buen Pastor
Filomono Almanza, Clint elder care ministry

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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.



Members of the Lara family sack beans & rice after a delivery—even little Sofia likes to help!



CBM IS A MINISTRY OF HELPS, CROSSING 'BORDERS' OF DESPAIR & DIFFERENCES TO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, & RELEASE FAITH IN THE NEEDY & LESS FORTUNATE. OTHER ISSUES OF CROSSING BORDERS NEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER "NEWSLETTERS"