



# Crossing Borders News

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

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## Thank You for Giving!

by Elfi Register & Joan Wilson

We are SO BLESSED! Tuesday after Tuesday, we see TONS of stuff get loaded into pastors' vans. Each of these Distribution Days reminds us of just how fortunate we really are! We never know for certain just who will come help package up the bulk beans and rice that were donated, yet every Tuesday there's always enough volunteers. When it's time for the Bible study and prayer service at 10:00 am, the pastor that was supposed to be in charge that day might not be able to make it, yet another pastor always seems to walk in "just in time"! We have between 40 and 50 people coming to the service. Most of these are elderly folks from around Fabens. When one is sick, his or her neighbor will announce it as a matter for prayer, and often times will take that person's beans and rice to them afterward. What's the miracle in all this is, none of these old folks are members of "our" church, yet they have come to treat the Tuesday meetings as "theirs"! What began as a just a day to visit the Baptist church for a "dispensa" (a plastic grocery bag with beans & rice) has become an event these elderly ones look forward to week after week.

Recently, we were especially blessed to have an elderly lady come shuffling in with her walker and her caregiver. She told Elfi, "This is my first time here. I've come for the Bible study." Instead of coming and seeking beans and rice, she had come for the "Living Bread"! Another of our "regulars" came in with her arm in a cast. There was no way she wanted to miss out on the meeting! Our greatest "miracle" has been in the return of Rosa Alvarez. We mentioned her some time back when she had complications from a surgery and ended up in a coma. Later, she was conscious but had to be on a ventilator. For many months, she's been wheelchair-bound and suffering one physical complication after another. Since the first of October though, she's returned to "her" spot sacking beans! She's very pale and very weak, but her first Tuesday back, there wasn't a dry eye in the house! Like some sort of royalty, she was "escorted" in her wheelchair to her "old" place where she set into bagging as if she'd never been gone! No one wants to miss the precious fellowship of our Tuesday meetings!

All of you who have given into this ministry share in making these wonderful things possible. An abundance of food has been donated and shipped out through CBM this year:

- 40,000 pounds of pinto beans
- 37,000 pounds of white rice
- 8,000 pounds of fresh potatoes
- 300 pounds of fresh pumpkins
- 500 pounds each of flour and cornmeal
- 300 pounds each of sugar & pancake mixes
- 600 pounds venison & 200 pounds pastas
- 30 cases of peanut butter & 10 cases of jelly

plus MANY 100's of cases of canned fruits, vegetables, meats, baby foods, cooking oil, powdered milk, spices, hot & cold cereals, crackers, cookies, chips, and too many other things to name!

These wonderful donations don't just "appear", of course. We have some truly faithful friends who go "above and beyond" to see that it all gets here. We see some of them on a regular basis, like Hans Steinhoff who delivers beans every other Monday come rain or shine! Greg Beard who runs "Grace of Giving" delivers rice and most of the groceries every 3 weeks, and George and Joyce Hughes roll in here with their "haulin' for Jesus" trailer at least once a quarter with a variety of great stuff! At the first of each month we see Dick & Pat Murtland from El Paso, who collect donations from several church groups and bring down 1 or 2 carloads of goodies at a time. And we never know what kinds of good things we'll receive by the trailer-load when the mission team from Glen Meadows Baptist in San Angelo comes to visit!

Behind these dependable friends are many more of you who are just as dependable, giving over and above what you would think possible in both finances and products. Individuals like Harold Smith and JB Roberts of Hunger Plus, Frank and Georgianna Foster, Bill Thrash, and Joyce Pritchard - just to name a few - have each worked long and hard "behind the scenes" to get goods and funds donated. There are also whole groups of folks like the seniors' Sunday School and Adults on Mission groups from First Baptist Alamogordo, Cloudcroft Methodist, First Baptist El Paso, and El Paso Scotsdale Baptist; and regular church support from First Baptist Cloudcroft and First Baptist LaLuz. So many, many more names could be listed here, if only there was time and space! But whether you're mentioned by name or not, please know how very grateful we are for you - each and every one of you - who have made all of this possible! Many, many thanks to you all!



It's takes a whole assembly line of volunteers to bag up all the beans and rice each Tuesday. Then it's put back into the bulk bags for the pastors to pick up.



# Muchas Gracias

Throughout 2007, you have helped to supply food, clothes, school supplies, and many other needed items to these ministries along the Rio Grande - and beyond! Every week, we help feed 350 families. Together we ARE making a difference! Praise the Lord! Everyone here along the border has asked us to say "Thank You!" for all you have done for them, in the Name of the Lord Jesus!

1. Pastor Antonio Perea, "Dios Con Nosotros", Praxedis G. Guerrero, MX
2. their mission at El Millon, MX
3. their mission at Caseta, MX
4. Pastor David Lopez, "Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad", Guadalupe, MX
5. their mission at Colonia Francisco Villa, MX
6. Pastor Verulo Garcia, "Iglesia Bautista El Penuel", Colonia Esperanza, MX
7. their mission at Centenario, MX
8. their mission at Paredes, MX
9. their mission at Sarabia, MX
10. Pastor Enrique Ornelas, "Mision Bautista Barreales", Barreales, MX
11. Pastor Lorenzo Pinales, "Iglesia Bautista Mt. Sinai", San Isidro, MX
12. their mission "Getsemani" at Loma Blanca, MX
13. their mission "Fe, Esperanza, y Amor" at Colonia Riveras, MX
14. their mission "Cristo El Camino Verdadero" at Colonia Riveras, MX
15. their mission "down river" to Cajoncitos, MX
16. Pastor Jose Cruz Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Dios es Amor", Sausal, MX
17. Bro. Eduardo Guzman, "Iglesia Bautista Cristo El Redentor", Sauzal, MX
18. their mission at Sauzal Viejo, MX
19. their mission at Manuel Valdez, MX
20. Pastor Raymundo Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Esmirna", San Agustin, MX
21. Bro. Urias Lovera, "Iglesia Bautista Maranatha", Porvenir, MX
22. their mission at El Faro, MX
23. Bro. Willie Hernandez, Nueva Amanecer Children's Home, Porvenir, MX
24. Pastor Elias Serrano, "Templo Bethel #2", Colonia Esperanza, MX
25. Bro. Bill Pettit, helps minister to colonias families
26. Dr. Flavio Martinez, Guadalupe, MX Office - eldercare ministry
27. Pastor Ramon Lara, "Centro Familiar Cristiano", Reforma, MX
28. Bro. Israel Guzman, "Mision Roca Eterna", Rancho Nuevo, MX
29. Bro. Norberto Rivas, "Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor", Praxedis, MX
30. Pastors Felix & Hilda Figueroa, "Templo Cristo Adonai", La Perla district, MX
31. their area ministries to street children & Tarahumara Indians
32. Pastor Francisco Ramirez, "Templo Agua Viva", El Millon, MX
33. Bro. Bernie & Gracie Segura, churches of Pilares, Lomas, & Porvenir, MX
34. Tarahumara Indians mission in Huajumar, Sierra Nevadas, Chih., MX
35. Rancho 3-M Children's Home, Guadalupe, MX
36. Pastor David & Barbie Lopez, "Tierra Prometida", Sparks, TX
37. Bill & Maggie Paulsen, Manos Para Cristo ministry, Guadalupe, MX
38. Pastor Emanuel Guerrero, "Mision Gerizim", El Mimbres, MX
39. Bro. Filomono Almanza, eldercare ministry, San Elizario, TX
40. Pastor Luis Landrau, "Templo Bethesda", Agua Dulce, TX
41. Margie Ball, children's border ministry, Terlingua, TX
42. Baptist Seminary "Fronterizo", Nicolas Hernandez, Cd. Juarez, MX
43. Tuesday Bible Study, CBM workers & community, Fabens, TX

## HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The delivery deadline for Christmas shoebox gifts is December 1. After that, we will need **volunteers to sort and separate** all the gifts into shipping boxes for the churches and missions they are destined for. **Nobody's too old or too young to help!** The pastors listed above will then come pick up their gifts in Fabens and cross them into Mexico for distribution in each of their communities. If you can **give an hour or a day** in December to help, **please call** Elfi or Joan at 915-491-7528. Thanks!



## Immediate Needs

We have some immediate needs along the border we want to share with you all. As the nights become cold here, we're getting more requests for coats and blankets - also, warm children's clothing. If you have any of these good, used items they would be most welcomed right now.

Also, our friend Judi Wright has received a bone marrow transplant at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston. She is recuperating well and will continue with follow-up treatments there until early 2008. Please continue to pray for her and all her family.

On a more personal note, Joan and Elfi have both come down with nagging colds and coughs they can't seem to shake off. They would appreciate your prayers for restored health.

This is the time of year we begin to fall short of needed beans and rice. Because of the shortfall, we have to limit how much each pastor can take at a time. Ideally, we should be shipping 1000 pounds each of beans and rice out every Tuesday. Currently we're short 300# of beans and 200# of rice per week. Prices fluctuate, but at Sams Club prices are:

\$23.20 per 50# bag of beans

\$ 13.16 per 50# bag of rice

(50# makes packages for 20 families)

**Jesus, speaking to His disciples said,  
"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the  
least of these My brethren,  
you did it to Me" - Matthew 25:40**

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

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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.*

