



# Crossing Borders News

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

Vol. 8 Issue 5

Our mission: to Support, Encourage, and Release Faith in the needy and less fortunate

November 2008

## Busy Lives / Thankful Hearts

Our "busy" time of year has arrived with the force of a whirlwind! There's the Christmas shoebox drive to gear up for, of course, but blustery days and freezing temperatures at night have us scrambling for needed coats, sweaters, and blankets for those who have nothing to keep themselves warm with. How grateful we are for our many dependable friends who brought "just enough" at just the right times! You have no idea how comforting it is to be able to pick up the phone or go on-line and have just what is most needed begin arriving within the week! Wow! God's people are awesome! We wish there was a way to "capture" the tearful relief we've seen on the faces of our pastors' wives. Because of the faithfulness of our supporters we were able to put warm clothing in needy homes within days of our first cold snap. Thank you! God bless you!

On the 15th of this month, we had the privilege of attending Pastor and Mrs. Lopez's 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The continued violence in Mexico meant everyone had to exercise some caution. Normally, invitations would go out and pastors and church members from all over the valley would have been there, but this gathering was kept quiet until just before time, and only closest family and friends were notified of the day and time. It was humbling to realize we were among the few "outside" the immediate family who'd been told. Even more than this, out of all the wonderful gifts and talents among their own family, we were among the very few who were asked to sing and play our guitars. What an honor to be part of such a special night! The Lopez's have pastored "La Trinidad" (Trinity) Baptist Church in Guadalupe for over 25 years. Under their ministry, they've "birthed" many of the Baptist churches and missions listed on the other side. Most of these pastors began as members of "La Trinidad" when they were children or teens. Pastor and Mrs. Lopez are like second parents to them. Theirs is a wonderful legacy of faith!

Some of our other "engagements" this month included attending the annual Sacramento Baptist Association's missions fair in Alamogordo, NM and the Women's Missionary Union meeting at "La Primera" (First) Baptist Church Hispana in El Paso. At these and other meetings, we've enjoyed seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones. We are SO BLESSED to be part of God's big family of faith!

December's schedule is quickly filling up with groups dropping off shoebox gifts and other groups coming to sort and stage them for distribution to the pastors. Right now, we expect to work every day of the month. Maybe we'll get Christmas Day off? Needless to say, we'd appreciate your prayers for our health and fitness! But we count ourselves blessed beyond measure to be doing what we do! Thank you, Lord!



Joan and Elfi with Pastor & Mrs. Lopez, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary

By the Lord's grace and because of your generosity, we continue to distribute beans, rice, canned goods, clothing, and a variety of donated items through border pastors and missionaries on both sides of the border in the Lower Valley of El Paso/Juarez. We provide grocery bags, referred to as "pastor packs", to help feed 18 pastors and their families each week. CBM also continues to distribute family packs through these & other pastors as well as to the elderly and poor in our own community. A "family pack" is a plastic grocery bag with a zip-close baggie of 5 cups of rice and another baggie with 5 cups of beans. Distribution is every Tuesday between 10 am and 2 pm, with volunteers arriving at 9 am to begin packaging the bulk rice and beans. In the past year, CBM has been able to distribute these items on a regular basis to a total of 35 locations every month. Together, we've helped many, many of the Valley's very poorest to be clothed and fed. Just a few numbers to bless you this Thanksgiving and Christmas season ...

- 700 pastor packs went out this year
- 13,000 family packs went out, too
- 35,000 pounds of pinto beans
- 34,000 pounds of white rice
- 2,000 cases of dry goods, including:
- Baby foods and juices
- Baby & adult diapers
- Flour, sugar, masa, pancake mixes
- Coffee, fruit juices, teas & sodas
- Macaroni & spaghetti
- Oatmeal & cold cereals
- Shampoo, soap, toothpaste
- Canned vegetables & fruits
- Canned meats - tuna, chicken, ham
- Powdered milk & hot cocoa mixes

And the list could go on! From all of us to all of you who made this possible, Thank You!

**2008 Christmas Shoebox Drive Update**

We will need at least 1200 boxes this year, so please pray with us that not one child will have to be disappointed! Also, pray for enough volunteers to help us sort and ship so many gifts!

Directions for making boxes are on-line at:  
[www.crossingbordersministries.com](http://www.crossingbordersministries.com)  
 go to "Special Projects"

For any questions, call us at 915-491-7528  
**Boxes due the week of December 1st**

# Muchas Gracias

During 2008, you have helped to supply food, clothes, school supplies, and many other needed items to all of these ministries along the Rio Grande - and beyond! On any given week we help feed between 300 to 380 families, depending on what has been supplied. 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, "Iglesia Bautista Dios Con Nosotros", Praxedis G.G., MX
2. Their church's children's ministry at El Millon, MX
3. Their church's mission at Caseta, MX
4. Pastor David Lopez Sr., "Iglesia Bautista La Trinidad", Guadalupe, MX
5. Their church's mission at Colonia Francisco Villa, MX
6. Pastor Verulo Garcia, "Iglesia Bautista El Penuel", Colonia Esperanza, MX
7. Their church's mission at Centenario, MX
8. Their church's mission at Paredes, MX
9. Their church's 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 church's "Mision Getsemani" at Loma Blanca, MX
13. Their church's "Mision Fe, Esperanza, y Amor" at Colonia Riveras, MX
14. Their church's "Mision Cristo El Camino Verdadero" at Colonia Riveras, MX
15. The Del Valle Association's mission "down river" at Cajoncitos, MX
16. Pastor Jose Cruz Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Dios es Amor", Sauzal, MX
17. Bro. Eduardo Guzman, "Iglesia Bautista Cristo El Redentor", Sauzal, MX
18. Bro. Eliseo Pena, "Mision Sauzal Viejo", Sauzal, MX
19. Bro. Guadalupe Amaya, "Mision Manuel Valdez", Col. Manuel Valdez, MX
20. Pastor Raymundo Rodriguez, "Iglesia Bautista Esmirna", San Agustin, MX
21. Bro. Urias Lovera, "Iglesia Bautista Maranatha", Porvenir, MX
22. Their church's mission at El Faro, MX
23. Bro. Willie Hernandez, Nueva Amanecer Children's Home, San Agustin, MX
24. Pastor Elias Serrano, "Templo Bethel #2", Colonia Esperanza, MX
25. Pastor Serrano/Bro. Alyea, "Templo Betesda", Agua Dulce, TX
26. Pastor Francisco & Rosa Ramirez, "Templo Agua Viva", Jesus Carranza, MX
27. Pastor Ramon Lara, "Centro Familiar Cristiano", Reforma, MX
28. Bro. Alfredo Lira, "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. The Figueroas' area ministries to street children & Tarahumara Indians
32. The Figueroas' ministry to the Sierra Tarahumara Indian peoples
33. Pastor Eugenio Guerrero, "Mision Gerizim", El Mimbres, MX
34. Pastor Guerrero's ministry to the Tarahumara Indians mission in Choquita, Chih., MX
35. Rancho 3-M Children's Home, Guadalupe, MX
36. Pastor David & Barbie Lopez, "Tierra Prometida", Sparks, TX
37. Bro. Filomono Almanza, eldercare ministry, San Elizario, TX
38. Pastor Jose Lira, "Nueva Vida", Tornillo, TX
39. Pastor Lira's mission in Colonia Panorama, TX
40. Missionary Larry Wakefield, "Comunidades de Esperanza", Juarez, MX
41. Otilio Rosales, "Mano a Mano" ministry to women, Juarez, MX
42. Pastor Perea's ministry to Centro Rehabilitacion for men, Praxedis, MX
43. Margie & Lee Ball, children's border ministry, Terlingua, TX
- 44-51 The Ball's distribution ministry to 8 villages along the Rio Grande
52. CBM Tuesday Bible Study & community families, Fabens, TX

# Thank You

## Prayers and Praises

Serving supper on Wednesday nights is a big hit with the kids we work with! Sometimes Pastor Hugo Garcia brings hot dogs, pizza, or even a home-made casserole by his Mom! Other times we're making nachos, Frito pie, or mac and cheese, and often the ladies from the Spanish adult group bring sandwiches for "picky eaters"! It's a real cooperative effort, but the end result is, the Wednesday group has grown to 50 kids who come out of difficult circumstances finding a loving, safe place to come meet our wonderful Lord Jesus. Pray for us, the kids, and their families.

As you read this newsletter some of the numbers may not seem to "add up". That's because some on the list of "52" receive from us just a few times a year. We work closely with our pastors, & when there's a shortfall we work to make it as fair and equal as possible. Please pray for those who continue to supply this work, even in the face of these tough economic times. As hard as it is for some of us, it's that much harder for the poor.

Many thanks for the network of New Mexico churches who raise funds and purchase tons of beans all year! Thanks for First Baptist, Cloudcroft who oversees & manages it all. In addition, our deep-felt thanks for Hans & Linda Steinhoff who make the actual bean deliveries every other Monday. Early in November, Linda had a heart catheterization. Even on the gurney out of surgery, we heard her promoting the ministry to the technicians! What a servant's heart!

Thanks also for First Baptist, La Luz and Grace of Giving Ministries for always keeping us supplied with enough rice month after month. It's this kind of faithfulness that is such an encouragement to all of us on the border!

And many more thanks to the Lord for all of you who've supported us and the multi-faceted ministries of CBM. Your friendship and partnership are precious treasure to us and to the Lord who has joined us all together!

We've been blessed with a new co-worker on Tuesdays. Lisa Lopez left her job at the library to pursue what the Lord is leading her in, & she's "fitting in" perfectly! We're so glad she's joined our little "team"! Lisa's mom, Linda Kidder, has also moved to this area on her own "faith journey", so we're doubly blessed when Linda has time to work with us, too! Please keep these two lovely ladies in prayer as they seek God's will for them.

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  
PO Box 35 • Fabens, TX 79838

Phones: cell# 915-491-7528 • office # 915-764-5343

email: CrossingBorder@aol.com

Thank you for your continued prayers & 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.

