



CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

Crossing Borders Ministries ♦ established 2001

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*We always
thank God for
all of you
and pray
for you
constantly.
As we pray
to our
God and Father
about you, we
think of your
faithful work,
your loving
deeds, and the
enduring hope
you have
because of our
Lord Jesus
Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 NLT

With an Attitude of Gratitude

It seems any time we speak to anyone on the phone lately, we're either on our way out of town or just getting back from a trip. It's all been good, though! We've seen more friends and family the past few months than we could have imagined. Along the way we've had those "Divine appointments" that allowed us to introduce new people to this wonderful ministry we call Crossing Borders Ministries. What an amazing God we serve! Thank you to everyone who fed us and provided places to stay; it was great food and fellowship, and we can't begin to thank you enough for your generous support, not to mention the opportunities to minister. We're blessed beyond measure!

We were out of town when terrible storms hit the El Paso/Juarez valley. We missed the tornado warnings, the wind and hail, and all the rain and lightning. We know what you're thinking: tornadoes in El Paso county? There was plenty of hail and wind damage even if a tornado never touched down, and across in Mexico some people were flooded out. The pastors were still talking about it even after we got back. Can't believe we missed all the "excitement!"

Here it is just days into November, and we're blessed to hear how many of you are in full "shoebox mode!" One group has already delivered their shoebox gifts, with more coming in this week! We are so thankful for the volunteer crews who have already set up their work days on our calendar, and for the groups giving us the dates they plan to make their shoebox deliveries. If all this sounds new to you, call us if you want to come and help us process gift boxes. We can always use more helpers! Together we match requests for gifts from the pastors in Mexico with the boxes that come in. The boxes need a quick inspection, a new label in Spanish put on it, and all the gifts tied closed and packed in big boxes so the pastors can pick them up on Tuesdays. Really, it's a lot of fun and fellowship disguised as "work!"

Sometimes it may seem we aren't very grateful – like when we insist on NO SOAP in the gift boxes. We just have experience in soap-flavored candies and soap-scented toys! Believe us, the kids in Mexico ARE grateful when you leave out the soap! However, we really are thankful for each box that's given, because EVERY box counts! For 15 years now, God has seen to it that we don't have to refuse any child who truly needs a gift for Christmas. Yes, we and all our volunteers do a lot of hands-on work to see that every box

is ready to go, but if God doesn't show up in the process it WILL come up short! Last year, we didn't see how we could meet all the pastors' requests. But at the end of December we had sent out over 2500 gifts! Hallelujah! This year will be no different, and we expect the requests to be even bigger. But like we said, we serve an amazing God!



Happy Thanksgiving

CBM News & Updates

Thank you for your prayers and phone calls on Elfi's behalf! She has recovered well from the heatstroke she suffered back in July. She must still take care not to push her body too hard and is sensitive to excessive heat, but we are believing for total recovery from any and all symptoms.

We have a new supplier for our zip-close baggies thanks to Greg Beard and Grace of Giving. The company they located even donated the first order! Praise the Lord! But please continue in prayer for Bill Thrash, who used to donate all our bags. Now he's in the VA hospital with clots in his legs along with his other health issues.

Please keep praying for the pastors we work with from Mexico. They continue to be hassled at their port of entry by their own agents, who threaten them with taking their vehicles if they continue to cross beans and rice. They are told beans & rice are "seeds" which cannot be taken into Mexico. Not sure what their excuse is on the other things they are harassed about, like flour and oatmeal. Two pastors have given up because of the threats, but the others keep coming and keep receiving supplies because the need is so great in their communities. We are told over and over again how these beans & rice are all some families have to stay alive!

Merry Thanksmas????

That's what it feels like for us! The week before Thanksgiving, CBM will move the shoebox project into the church dorm and turn it into Shoebox Central. Even though the deadline for shoebox gifts is November 30, many of the boxes will be here by the 24th. The first work team arrives from San Antonio the Friday after Thanksgiving! Other groups follow in their wake. So, we're already gearing up for Christmas, which is Thanksgiving Day to Christmas Eve for us! Merry Thanksmas!

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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.



Christmas Shoebox Deadline is November 30th

Anyone can participate in our annual gift drive for needy children on the border. It's fun and easy! One box or 100, each box finds its way to the right child.

For complete details on how to make a box & how to get it to us, visit our website at:

crossingbordersministries.com.

In the CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX GIFT DRIVE box, click on "more information" and you will find a printable document to take with you shopping and to share with others who want to help. There is even a printable gift tag page that has the correct age groups on it, ready to tape to your finished box!

Have more questions? Give us a call at 915-491-7528.



Warm Hearts on a Cold Day

How warm were you at your Christmas party last year?

This is one of the missions we help in Anapra, on the edge of Juarez. Just as it gets very hot in the summer here, it gets VERY COLD in the winter months! More than shoebox gifts were given this day. Food, coats, blankets, caps, gloves, and scarves were all part of the blessing for these kids and their families.

We also accept donations for warm winter wear during the cold months. Items must be new or gently used, and must be clean and free from damage such as rips, tears, missing buttons, or busted zippers. Our rule of thumb is: if its not good enough for your family, don't give it to someone else as a gift.

If you want to donate these kinds of items, give us a call at 915-491-7528.

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