



# CROSSING BORDERS NEWS

September 2014 Volume 14, Issue 4

## SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITION

It doesn't matter which Tuesday you pick, a first time visit to Crossing Borders is a blur of activity. We like to call it "organized chaos." And there's no time more chaotic than when one of our two special projects for children is underway. We've just finished with our annual School Supply Drive, and as usual it was a whirlwind of receiving, sorting, and shipping. It's always our second busiest time of year. In fact, last month we were sure we would top out at 1800, and were surprised to see the final tally go a little over 1900 kits!

If you've partnered with us for very long, you've heard us tell why these kits are so important in the lives of all these children. In Mexico, children are only required by law to attend school through 6th grade. However, poor families often can't afford to send all or any of their children, so they petition for an exemption from the law. In the short term it relieves a financial burden on the family. But it ultimately dooms their children to a lifetime of poverty. You see, if the kids show up for school without the necessary supplies to participate in class, they are dismissed to make room for another child who can. Every year we hear stories of yet another family that had their prayers answered, praising God that their children are in school because of the simple gift of school supplies.

This was our 14th Supply Drive, and it struck us this year that we have helped some of those children make it all the way through college! Wow! God is SO good! He is the One who set this whole ministry in motion, and has been faithful to move His people to be His hands and feet.

The School Supply Drive DVD has gone out to all those who participated this year, so check with your team leader to arrange to see it. Guaranteed you WILL be blessed! Anyone wanting additional copies from us can make arrangements. Just let us know.

### *And then there's December .....*

Now, we're already turning our attention to THE busiest time of year. That's right, we are already talking to groups about when they will be here to work on the Christmas Shoebox Drive! As you will read on page 2, last year we shipped **2500 boxes** so we need to plan now!

The truth is the bigger the number, the more work involved. Even though we have set a deadline, we are asking all of you to do what you can to get your boxes to us as early as the weekend BEFORE Thanksgiving. In fact, anytime in November works for us! Every box counts and every box is important, but you will help us beyond belief if you can find a way to get them to us EARLY!

So make plans NOW to get your boxes to us NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 29th! Later than this creates work scheduling problems for those who take time off to come here in order to process boxes to match the lists of children we receive from each pastor. We may call it organized chaos, but there really is more "organized" than "chaos" - especially when it comes to the Christmas Shoebox Drive! So do your best and we'll see you then!



## 1900 School Kits and Counting







### ***Christmas Shoebox Deadline is November 29th***

*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](http://crossingbordersministries.com).*

*Click on the Special Projects button, then click on the Christmas box picture. 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!*

*If you have any questions just give us a call at 915-491-7528.*

#### ***On the Road Again***

**Elfi and Joan will be in Lamesa, Texas on October 18 & 19, reporting on Crossing Borders to the Lamesa Baptist Association's Annual Meeting. If you're in the area, we would love to see you!**

## **Numbers in a Nutshell**



Numbers by themselves really don't mean much. They might sound impressive at times, but when you understand there are people behind the numbers that are shared below, you begin to realize the impact we're making together through Crossing Borders Ministries. There's so much that flows through here in any given week that it can be overwhelming. It's understandable that people think of us as a "food bank." But we began as and remain a ministry to hurting people. Thank you, dear friends, for partnering with us to make an eternal difference in the lives of so many.

#### ***In the past 12 months we have:***

- ◆ Distributed beans, rice, and a variety of items through a **network of 20 border pastors and missionaries** on both sides of the border in the El Paso/Juarez Lower Valley.
- ◆ Been **open every Tuesday** between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. We only close two weeks a year at Christmas for everyone to take a break.
- ◆ Helped feed some **400 families every week**, in **30 communities**.
- ◆ Sent out more than **19,000 "family packs"** of beans & rice. That's over **96,000 meals**.
- ◆ Blessed the pastors with over **1000 grocery sacks** filled with the basic needs for their families—a different sack of groceries each week.

- ◆ Totals of some of the bulk goods distributed in the past 12 months:

48,000# pinto beans	46,000# white rice
3,600 dozen eggs	6,800# cornmeal
2 pallets of "manna" rice	2,000# frozen meat

- ◆ We also distributed about 2000 cases of various dry goods such as:

baby foods and juices	baby and adult diapers
pancake mixes	oatmeal & cold cereals
coffee, sodas, drinks	flour, sugar, masa
canned meats	canned veggies & fruits
hygiene supplies	cleaning supplies

- ◆ **2013 Christmas Shoe Box Drive (Nov. / Dec.)**

Needy children ages 1-16 received a decorated shoe box full of such items as socks, art supplies, small toys, candies, personal hygiene items, calculators, stationary, caps, gloves, and more. In 2013, CBM **distributed over 2500 of these gifts**.

- ◆ **2014 School Supply Drive (July / Aug.)**

Education is one important way to break the cycle of poverty. We sponsor an annual drive to put essential school supplies into the hands of needy children. In 2014, we **distributed over 1900 school supply kits** to children in 45 different locations on both sides of the border.

**Please remember to pray for your missionaries on their birthdays ....**

**October 7 Elfi Register**

**October 18 Joan Wilson**



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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.*

