

“... see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

Grace of Giving



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Needs On Our Hearts

The first thing you may have noticed about this newsletter is that it's been only a month, instead of the more usual two months, since our last newsletter — highly unusual, to say the least! The reason for being in touch again so soon is simple. There are special needs among our friends in Mexico that God has placed on our hearts, and we are compelled to share these needs with you. God can then lay on your heart whether, and if so how, you should respond to these needs.

Hymnals

Brother Bernie Segura (Van Horn, TX) has pastored three Baptist churches in Lomas de Arena, Porvenir and Pilares, small villages in Northern Mexico, for 28 years (that's a commitment worthy of praise!). A total of around 60 people attend these churches regularly, and the Baptist hymnals they have are literally in tatters. Grace of Giving proposes to get new Spanish language Baptist hymnals for these churches—two for each church with both words and music, with the remainder (15 each for Lomas and Pilares; 30 for Porvenir) being words only editions.

These hymnals are available only from Casa Bautista de Publicaciones in El Paso at a cost of \$7.01 per copy for words only editions and \$14.45 per copy for words and music editions. The total cost for this project is \$533.04 (\$507.30 plus \$25.74 for shipping).

I suspect that none of us gave a second thought last Sunday as to how blessed we were to have a useable, relatively new hymnal for worship. However, securing new hymnals is a very real need for these dear souls along the border, and we feel a strong burden to meet it.

School Supplies

We were inspired last year by our friends at Crossing Borders Ministries, Elfi Register and Joan Wilson, to gather 25 packets of school supplies for the children at Casa Hogar Galilea in Monclova, Coahuila. Elfi and Joan

conduct a school supply drive every summer (see last month's newsletter for a wonderful article they wrote for us about their ministry), and this year they are targeting 1,000 (wow!!) needy kids in Mexico near Fabens.

Being able to afford school supplies is often a luxury for the poorer children in Mexico, and those we serve are certainly no exception. Charles Knaack of Voice of Mexico Ministries in Del Rio has asked us to try to gather 50 school supply packets this year, which will go not only to the children in Monclova but also to children in Jimenez and Acuña.

If we take advantage of the summer school supply sales, we can purchase the materials for 50 children for about \$325. This will provide notebook paper, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, pens and pencils, and other basic school supplies for each child.

Houses

You may recall that last September our teams of intrepid construction experts were blessed with the opportunity to build 2 houses for Christian single mothers in Jimenez, Coahuila. Frankly, I think that those of us who were the laborers were blessed more by the endeavor than the recipients of the new houses.

We've laid it before the Lord to build three houses this year and have scheduled our mission trip to Del Rio/Acuña/Jimenez for October 22-28 (when it will, we pray, be much cooler than it was in September 2005!).

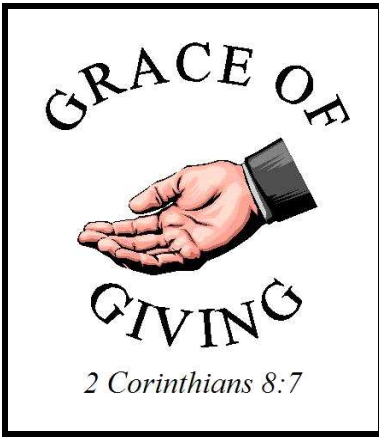
We're praying for God to provide us with three things:

- **Sufficient funds for building materials:** The latest estimate from John Mosiman (coordinator of a home building ministry from Austin, TX—we send him the funds, and he provides the house design, pours the concrete slab, and secures all the building materials ahead of time) is that the cost of material for a single house has risen from last year's cost of \$4,600 to

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Pastor Bernie Segura, in the Baptist church at Lomas de Arena, Chihuahua.



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Please visit our website!
www.graceofgiving.org

Grace of Giving

Grace of Giving is a non-profit, charitable organization that is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(3) organization. Accordingly, the Internal Revenue Service has advised that all contributions to Grace of Giving may be deducted for federal income tax purposes as specified in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our priorities for using your gifts are to purchase food and to purchase fuel to deliver the food. The officers of Grace of Giving accept no compensation for their services and currently cover all of their travel expenses.

Officers

Greg Beard — President & Treasurer
 Dara Beard — Vice President
 Pastor Keith Blanton — Secretary

In Honor of Others

Grace of Giving was blessed recently with the following gifts:

- from Nancy Cone as a memorial to Vicky Wirz, sister of our dear friend Joann Abercrombie (who serves as an Adult IV Sunday School Director at FBC Clifton).
- from Kathy Carpenter to honor the memory of James Corpier, father of our friend and Sunday School classmate, David Corpier.

We are honored to be able to serve others in God's name as well as in the name of these precious loved ones.



The children at Casa Hogar Galilea posing with their new school supplies last August.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Needs On Our Hearts

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\$5,200 (not particularly surprising in light of the rise in fuel costs, etc., since last year). Thus, three houses will cost \$15,600.

- **Enough people to field three construction crews:** Preliminarily, we're in very good shape in this regard. Almost everyone who joined us last year has indicated that they expect to go again this year, and we have a number of others who have either committed to go or expressed a strong interest. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to go, as we need to finalize headcount and lodging arrangements sooner rather than later. *Having more people than are needed for building three houses is **not** a problem!* We'll simply find other projects, conduct some VBS, or whatever. Believe me, our friends in Mexico will have no problem keeping us busy!



Gabiella and her family, sitting in front of the house we built for them last September.

- **The identity of those whom He has planned for us to serve:** This is not a question of whether there are a sufficient number of people in need—the need is overwhelming. It is very

much a case of praying and then waiting for God to show us those for whom He wants us to provide shelter. Working with Brother Charles Knaack, we are meeting with and praying about potential recipients, confident that God will show us where and whom to serve.

We were blessed recently to visit with one of the ladies we built for last year, Gabriella, as she sat with her family in front of her house. It was incredibly touching and humbling to hear her tell us, through Brother Charles' translation, that she thanks God every day for her house, and she prays every day for our protection as we travel along the border.

If only our faith could be so simple and sincere!

How You Can Help

God has put these three special needs on our hearts, in addition to our ongoing ministry of making regular food deliveries along the border. We simply want to make these needs known and then leave it in God's hands as to how these needs are met. We ask only that you prayerfully consider whether God would have you to be an active part of His meeting these needs.