

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

Grace of Giving



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 23, 2007

The Power of Prayer!

You may recall that, in our last newsletter, we asked for your prayers that our friends in Del Rio would be able to overcome Mexican Customs difficulties in moving food across the border into Acuña. From a human perspective, we were in a pretty helpless position. Local Customs officials had even gone so far as to temporarily impound the vehicle of one friend who attempted to carry a single 50# sack of beans into Mexico.

God has answered our prayers by providing a solution that has allowed the entirety of the last two loads of beans and rice to be taken into Acuña without difficulty. A Mexican Agricultural official now inspects the beans and rice to ensure that they are high quality and gives us permission,

which has so far been honored by Mexican Customs officials, to take the goods in Mexico.

Charles Knaack of Voice of Mexico Ministries and his friends had tried this approach before, with absolutely no success. However, when we committed this issue to prayer, God honored our requests and softened hearts to allow the passage of these vital commodities into Mexico.

The Word teaches us to be persistent in prayer, and now is definitely **not** the time for us to relax our prayer vigilance! Please keep the unfettered delivery of food into Mexico near the top of your prayer list! You can be sure that Satan won't stop trying to cause difficulties for us (but we know who wins that battle!!).

Ministry Opportunities

As we continue in ministry along the border, opportunities for service abound. The challenge we face every day is to be obedient to do those things God wants us to do, and to ignore the projects He has planned for others to handle. Our God is completely capable of doing the humanly impossible or improbable (I've been reading Chuck Swindoll's book on the life of Joseph recently—was it unlikely that Joseph would become Prime Minister of Egypt after getting sold into slavery by his brothers??), so we are confident that God will provide the resources for us to complete whatever projects He wants us to do, regardless of how unachievable they may seem to us to be.

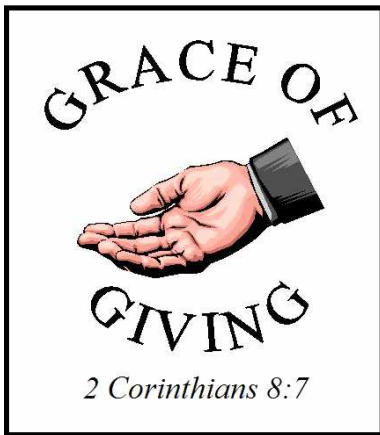
Our approach to these matters is simple—we make the needs known as widely as we can, and whatever God provides the resources and opportunity to do, we try faithfully to execute. Please join us in praying about these opportunities to serve, so that it would be clear to us what we should do and when:

- Bernie and Gracie Segura, to whom we deliver food in Van Horn for distribution to church families in Mexico, are in the process of buying a small house. This house badly needs a new roof. We don't yet know all that would be involved or what it would cost, but we ask that you join us in praying about whether this is to be a Grace of Giving project. If

God wants us to do it, we want to be faithful and get started on it as soon as we can!

- We've asked the Lord for resources to build 4 small houses in Jimenez, Coahuila, this November. We've already identified 3 families that need our help. Please join us in praying for sufficient money for these projects (our current estimate is that each house will cost about \$5,700 this year), an abundance of volunteer workers, and God's wisdom as we select recipients for these gifts from God.
- We're currently assisting Crossing Borders Ministries at First Baptist Church in Fabens, Texas, on a project to construct a badly needed 24' x 24' metal storage building for their ministry. Glen Meadows Baptist Church in San Angelo has purchased a building kit for this project and will erect it as soon as we can get a suitable slab poured. God has the slab part of the problem well in hand and has raised up a group in the Texas Panhandle who are currently working to secure funding and labor to pour the slab. This leaves the project needing something on the order of \$3,000 for plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical. Please join us in praying for God's provision of sufficient money and workers to complete this project.

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Grace of Giving
P.O. Box 481
Clifton, TX 76634



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 has been blessed in this new year with two gifts from friends at First Baptist Church of Clifton in memory of loved ones:

- From Herman and Betty Barrs to honor the memory of Mrs. Ben Davis, who passed away on January 12, 2007. Mrs. Davis was the mother of the Barrs' brother-in-law Duane Davis.
- From Von and Nancy Kleibrink as a memorial for C. O. Herchenhaha, their former family pastor and friend, who died in December, 2006.

We are honored to be able to serve others in God's name as well as in the name of these precious souls!

Opportunities *(continued)*

- The administrator of Casa Hogar Galilea in Monclova, Coahuila, has alerted us to an acute need for a small, single-family house near Monclova (~180 miles south of Acuña). This family's circumstance is sufficiently dire that some of their children are currently residing at Casa Hogar Galilea. Is this a project for Grace of Giving? Join us in praying that we will respond as God desires to this need.

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.
Matthew 10:32

Looking for God in Everyday Things

I've a confession to make. I'm not always very good at looking for God in some of the smaller, more routine things I encounter. A typical case in point involves an e-mail I received a couple of weeks ago.

My step-mother's sister is married to a Baptist pastor in Orange, Texas. We had met them (Don and Sherry Sheffield, who live in Mauriceville, TX) once before several years ago at my father's 80th birthday party, which was a couple of months before we launched Grace of Giving. With this background, I wasn't hugely surprised to get an e-mail from Sherry expressing an interest in Grace of Giving and asking to be included on our newsletter mailing list.

Cool, I thought! More prayer warriors to support Grace of Giving's activities! I did not think much more about their contact with us, as I was preparing to embark on a food delivery trip along the border.

As you may be aware, our first delivery stop on the border is in Eagle Pass, Texas, at Lighthouse Baptist Church. When I arrived there, the pastor, Don Stephens, was out of town and had arranged for one of his faithful members, Roberto Garza, to meet me and coordinate the delivery.

Roberto has a heart for service and for spreading the Gospel—so much so that he has started a small church in Guerrero (in Coahuila state, about 30 miles southeast of Piedras Negras). When we met in Eagle Pass that day, we discussed how he might

get help in building a church for his flock of 30 souls, as they're now using a borrowed building that may not be available to them much longer.

During our conversation, Roberto mentioned that a pastor from Mauriceville, Texas, had been to visit him recently. I was taken completely off guard, but was able to collect my thoughts sufficiently to ask whether the pastor's name was Sheffield. By then, I was fully expecting the answer to be, "Yes!", which it was. Roberto went on to add that he would be going to the Sheffield's church (Cornerstone Baptist Church in Orange, Texas) on February 24th.

The result of all this is that Dara and I will be in Orange for a Missions Conference at Cornerstone Baptist Church as this newsletter is mailed (February 23-25). I don't know what's in store for Grace of Giving and the Sheffields, but God does! He's put us in touch with each other for some reason, and we're working to be faithful and discover what He has in store for us. Perhaps we're supposed to work together to build a church for Roberto's congregation in Guerrero!

My encouragement to you is simply this—look for God's hand in the small, everyday things. He's there, waiting for you!

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.
Matthew 10:29