

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

# Grace of Giving



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## A Pressing Need for Housing in Monclova

I've shared the need for a house to be built for a family in Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico, in previous newsletters. It has, unfortunately, taken us some time to get the details we'd prefer to have about these circumstances.

In the meantime, an old college friend recently contacted me to report significant interest among his colleagues in going to Monclova in March (during Spring Break) to build for this family.

God has raised up the workers we need; now we are asking Him to provide us with \$12,000 to purchase the materials necessary to build this family a new, dry, secure house.

The photo you see in the center shows 4 of the 6 children in the Benito Amaya family.

Papa Benito (shown below) is 60 years old and is unable to provide for his large family with meager earnings from a ranch job. Thus, these 4 children live at and are cared for by Casa Hogar Galilea, a children's home in Monclova to which Grace of Giving supplies a significant amount of food each month.

Benito and his wife, Felipa, also have 2 older sons: Raul (age 17), who lost an eye and is unable to work or attend school, and Israel (age 16), who dropped out of school to work with his father on the ranch.

Benito was previously employed at a church camp and used a small severance package to purchase a modest piece of property near Monclova.

However, he has been unable even to provide for his family's immediate needs, much less save to buy the materials for a house.

The older family members currently live in a borrowed house that has a leaking roof and no power or water. They sleep on pallets and cardboard, as they have no furniture. The house is near a railroad line, and passing trains literally shake the walls of the house! It's hard to imagine such circumstances from the comfort of our homes.

It's been on our hearts for some time to help this family. We've expanded the basic design of the houses we built last year in Jimenez from 320

square feet to 512 square feet to add additional sleeping space to accommodate this large family. This larger structure will, we estimate, cost about \$12,000 to build.

We're asking for your prayers and support for what is, admittedly, a 'fast-track' project. We are approaching this project with simple faith and reliance on God. If He wants us to meet this need in this time frame, He will provide the money! It's that simple!

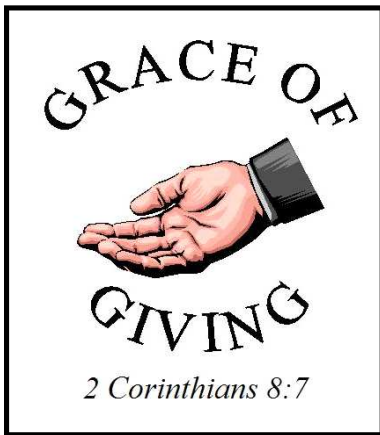
Please join us in bathing this need in prayer. We don't know how or whether God will meet this need at this time. We do know this—however God shows us to proceed is His perfect plan. We ask only for His wisdom in this circumstance.



*Amaya children (l to r) Elena (11), Jesus (6), Alfredo (4), and Martha (15) at Casa Hogar Galilea in Monclova*



*Benito Amaya*



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Please visit our website!  
[www.graceofgiving.org](http://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 with a number of contributions since our last newsletter, both in memory of loved ones and in appreciation of dear friends and family.

The Adult II Sunday School class at FBC Clifton provided memorial gifts in honor of:

- Jeanette Pledger, wife of our dear friend, Kenneth Pledger;
- Hazel Driver, mother of Nancy Kleibrink and grandmother of Kevon Kleibrink;
- Opal Wiley, mother of Janelle Dittrich; and
- Lavenia Walker, mother of Mary Massingill.

Memorial gifts in honor of Hazel Driver were also received from Herman and Betty Barrs, Dee Anna Nichols, Anna Beth Clay, and Steven and Lisa Payne.

Steven and Lisa Payne's gift was also as a memorial to Charles Farmer, uncle of Lori Kleibrink, and Florrie Jones, a cousin of Lori.

James Crosley sent a gift as a memorial in honor of Almec Bekken, father of FBC Clifton friend Ray Bekken.

Billy and Susan Burke honored Richard and LaRue Pafford with a gift to us in December.

Betty Odom's gift expressed her thankfulness for wonderful real estate clients and Chat 'n Curl Beauty Salon clients during 2007 and also honored Fern Wiggins and Joyce Hafer.

It is, quite simply, a privilege for Grace of Giving to be chosen to serve God in honor of these loved ones and friends. We praise God and give thanks for this opportunity.

*Special thanks goes out to Gary Waller for making the food delivery trip in December!!*

## 2007 Year-end Summary

### Operations Summary

It's difficult to express how much joy comes from being able to serve our Lord and Savior. Rather than do so inadequately, we'd simply like to report what He allowed us to do in 2007, using your generous support to act as His hands and feet:

- 17 food delivery trips, and several other mission trips, covering more than 43,000 miles.
- Nearly 220,000 pounds of food and other goods delivered
  - 18,300 pounds per month
  - 12,900 pounds per trip
- 95 Bibles and 120 school supply kits delivered.
- 4 houses built in Jimenez, Coahuila, Mexico, in November by 57 dedicated volunteers.
- Coordinated a building project for Crossing Borders Ministries in Fabens, Texas, during April—July.
- Initiated a project to build water filtration units for individual households.

Most of the food and other items delivered on each trip was purchased—the total cost of items purchased in 2007 was just over

\$91,000—at an average purchase cost of 41¢ per pound!

### Financial Summary

Total cash contributions: \$128,910

Designated contributions:

- House building: \$28,806
  - Fund to relocate/house retired Terlingua Pastor Juan Lara: \$30,560
  - Fabens building project: \$3,096
  - Mission trip expenses: \$5,295
  - Other: \$2,000
- Sub-total designated: \$69,757

Undesignated contributions: \$59,153

100% of the undesignated contributions were used to purchase food and other items delivered during 2007. This undesignated amount covered 65% of the cost of the items purchased, resulting in a deficit of \$31,950. This deficit and all travel and operating costs were funded from our personal savings.

Thank you for your support of our 2007 activities, and we pray that you will continue to support us in 2008 as we seek to do God's bidding!