

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

Grace of Giving



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 MARCH 1, 2008

Inflation Hits Us — Just Like You!

It'll come as no surprise to any of you who shop for groceries that food costs have shown some staggering increases in the last year. I certainly can't give you more than a semi-educated guess as to the cause for these increases, but I can tell you the result. The total amount we pay for basic commodities has increased substantially in recent months, and we've no evidence that this circumstance will change any time soon.

The table shown below will give you an idea of what we've been dealing with in respect of bulk commodity costs. These are only examples of some of the worst increases we've seen.

	Jan 2007	Feb 2008	Increase
Beans (50#)	\$16.75	\$21.75	30%
Rice (50#)	\$9.97	\$14.39	44%
Sugar (25#)	\$12.70	\$10.97	-14%
Flour (25#)	\$4.97	\$8.73	76%
Nonfat dry milk (4.4#)	\$7.69	\$13.66	78%

Since beans, rice, sugar, and flour represent 70% of the commodities we deliver (on a weight basis), you can imagine what these increases are beginning to do to our food costs. Overall, comparing January, 2007, to February, 2008, the total cost of food and necessities delivered rose 22% from 37¢ per pound to 45¢ per pound.

We are attempting to compensate for these increases, at least to some extent, primarily by cutting back on our food delivery trips from once every three weeks to once per month. We are also contuing to look for ways to make others aware of our work (to increase contributions) and for ways to reduce our food costs.

You can help this effort in several ways. First, you can pass a copy of this newsletter to someone who isn't already receiving it and encourage them to support Grace of Giving. Second, if you have a contact at a food supply company who might be in a position to supply items to us at competitive prices, please send us those contact details.

We don't mind doing a bit of driving to get good prices!

Finally, join us in praying for God to supply the resources we need to resume operating this ministry at levels comparable to 2007.

Water Filter Update

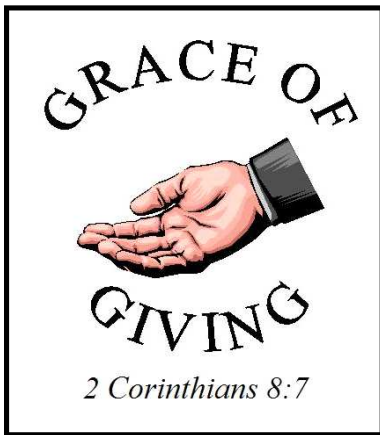
Hurrah! We've finally been able to get our first concrete Biosand water filter poured.

We've been working with a company in Fort Worth to get filters poured at low cost, and the process has been delayed by some rather unfortunate corporate issues resulting in reorganizations and relocations.

Regardless, God has seen us through the delays, and we now have a filter in hand that we are testing to be certain it meets all of our needs.

Once this process is complete, we hope, God willing, to get something on the order of 20 filters poured in short order to meet needs in the houses Grace of Giving has built in Mexico and also in an alternative school/orphanage being established by the Wilderness Hispanic Mission near the city of San Fernando, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Please keep this effort in your prayers as well as we learn how to build and install these filters efficiently!



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

It is our great privilege to be able to honor the memories of dear friends and loved ones by using designated gifts to serve God along the Texas/Mexico border. In recent weeks, we have received the following memorials:

- from Murray and Betty Wise and also from Arlene Olson to honor the memory of Jeanette Pledger, wife of Kenneth Pledger;
- also from Murray and Betty Wise in honor of Hazel Driver, mother of Nancy Kleibrink;
- from Jo Carroll Atkinson in honor of Helen Blassingame; and
- from Reverend Gary Perkins of Hampton, Tennessee, in memory of his good friend, Sherman Hartley.

Please join us in praising God for this opportunity to serve in the name of these dear ones!

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Isaiah 58:6-9

Housing Projects Update

In January we reported to you the need for a house to be constructed in Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico for the Benito Amaya family. We put the project forward to you on the basis that if God wants the house built, He will provide the \$12,000 necessary for the materials to build it.

It seems to us that God has been pretty clear about what He wants done, at least in terms of whether this project should be undertaken in March during spring break. We have, since our last newsletter, received just \$400 towards its funding.

On this basis, we do not plan to build this house in March; we will instead hold the \$400 in reserve and continue to await God's guidance for when and if He wants us to proceed.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for October 19th through 26th, which is when we're scheduled to go on our fall house building trip to Jimenez, Coahuila. We need \$26,000—\$27,000 and 50+ volunteers to build 4 houses in that week. Please pray about joining us. I believe it'll change your life!

Electronic Newsletters

We've been persuaded by urging from several friends and also the rising costs of printing and postage to grit our teeth and plunge more fully into the electronic age. Beginning with our next newsletter edition (currently scheduled to be produced during the week of April 7th), we will, God willing, send you our newsletter either in hard copy via USPS or in electronic form via e-mail, whichever you prefer.

To receive newsletters electronically, sim-

ply e-mail me at:

gregbeard@graceofgiving.org

If you don't tell us otherwise, we'll continue to send you a printed copy every 6 weeks.

Also, if you have a friend that you think would enjoy receiving our newsletters, just send us their name and address. We are always grateful for the opportunity to find new friends and supporters!