

# Grace of Giving



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## **A Feeding Ministry ... That Also Builds**

Several of my colleagues have commented to me over recent months that our newsletters are perhaps not completely reflective of our ministry's activities. Someone unfamiliar with Grace of Giving's history could easily surmise from our last several newsletters that Grace of Giving exists primarily to build houses and churches in Mexico.

The Grace of Giving Articles of Incorporation state that Grace of Giving "is organized to provide:

- (a) Food and other needed items useful for daily living (for example, clothing, non-prescription medicines and school supplies) and religious materials (such as Bibles and other religious literature) to individuals and/or organizations in Texas and throughout the world.
- (b) Other charitable services to facilitate the provisions of the services listed in (a) above."

Thus, since building houses is clearly "useful for daily living", Grace of Giving has, since 2005 built 13 small houses in Jimenez and Acuña, Coahuila, for needy families in those communities.

We thought very carefully when we drafted the purposes set out above, and putting the provision of food first on the list was not an accident.

***We believe that God has given us the responsibility, first and foremost, to help feed hungry people in Mexico and along the Texas/Mexico border.***

To accomplish this:

- approximately 70% of the money spent by Grace of Giving in 2008 went to purchase food and other necessities that we took to our partners along the Texas/Mexico border during our monthly food delivery trips;
- about 90% of our personal time devoted to Grace of Giving in 2008 was spent purchasing, organizing and delivering food each month;
- our partners along the border report to us that these food deliveries (12,400# per month in 2008) impact literally thousands of lives each month.

We write frequently about our building trips because we need people who are willing to give of their time, financial resources and talents to be blessed by building a house for a family in need.

***What we don't want is for anyone (especially us!) to lose sight of the need for adequate resources to accomplish our core purpose - feeding people!***

So, our request to you this month is simple - pray about how you can help us buy and deliver more food.

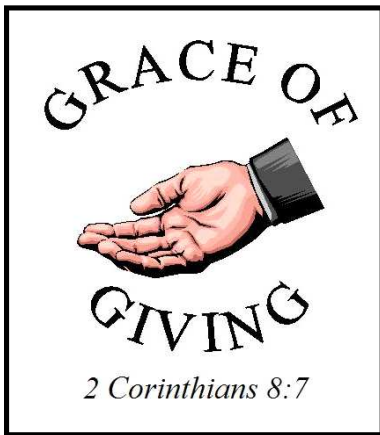
Here's a reminder of what some of our commodities cost so that you can see what an impact a contribution to purchase food can have. Although prices change frequently, in general:

- \$18.00 buys a 50# bag of rice - enough to feed 25 people one meal per day for an entire month
- \$25.00 buys a 50# bag of beans
- 25# of sugar costs \$10.75
- 25# of flour costs \$8.50-9.00 (makes several hundred tortillas)
- canned vegetables are ~60¢ per can
- canned fruit is ~90¢ per can
- a 2 kg box of powdered milk costs between \$13.00 and \$14.00
- a large can of baby formula costs \$20.00
- cooking oil is \$2.25 for a 48 oz bottle

Simply put, you can have a lot of impact for not a large amount of money. Please consider supporting us financially as we serve our Lord and Savior by feeding people in need along the Texas/Mexico border!

***"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'***

***Matthew 25:40 (NIV)***



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



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

## Monclova Building Trip - Update

As reported in our last newsletter, we have sufficient funds and are proceeding with our planned trip to build a house in Monclova, Coahuila, for the Benito Amaya family.

Our thanks, in advance, go to those who have volunteered to join us on this trip.

Our crew to frame, roof and side the house is joining us all the way from Damascus, Arkansas. It is led by Jeff Hutchins, whom I am very much looking forward to meeting face-to-face. Jeff and his colleagues are long time supporters of Casa Hogar Galilea in Monclova, where we will stay while on this building trip.

The crew for the second half of the trip (to do the interior work on the house) includes my daughter and son-in-law (no arm twisting required!) and several friends from their church, First Baptist in Burleson, along with our terrific friend from Clifton, Mike Finney. A special thanks goes out to Mike - he's not missed one of our building trips!

Also joining the interior crew is Sarah Elsey, a student from St. Edwards University in Austin, who in addition to

helping complete the house will document our trip and the activities at Casa Hogar Galilea using her considerable photographic skills.

God has provided, as He always does, just the right number of people for the task!

We currently expect the trip to cover March 10th through 18th. Please pray for our safety as we travel and work. Most of all, please pray that we will glorify God in all that we do as we serve Him in Monclova!!

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*Unless the LORD builds the house,  
its builders labor in vain.*

*Psalm 127:1 (NIV)*

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## Financial Summary

Through the end of February, 2009, we have been blessed with gifts totaling \$15,062.66, while the costs incurred for purchasing items delivered during January and February totaled \$12,347.18.

This, we head into March with an excellent start toward the ~\$6,200 we need for this month's purchases.

In 2008, we ended the year having received contributions that covered 83% of our food purchase costs.

Our goal for 2009 is to cover 100% of our food purchase costs - currently estimated at about \$78,000 for the entire year - and to also raise enough to start to cover some of the fuel costs for delivering food.

Your gift, regardless of its size, can make a real difference in helping Grace of Giving meet its financial targets for 2009. Thanks again for your wonderful support!

## Prayer Requests

Our dear brother in Van Horn, Bernie Segura, has been quite ill recently. You may recall from earlier newsletters that Bernie has been unable to deliver food to his churches in Mexico for some time due to criminal activity in that remote area of northern Mexico. Please pray healing for Bernie and for his wife, Gracie. We also understand that their financial circumstances are strained. If you would like to designate a financial gift for the Seguras, please do so, and we will get it to them promptly.

You will also have seen press reports of violence in and around Juarez, Chihuahua, which is just across the border from El Paso. This trouble is having a significant effect on the pastors in this area that our served by our colleagues at Crossing Borders Ministries. Please be persistent in your prayers for these pastors and their flocks.