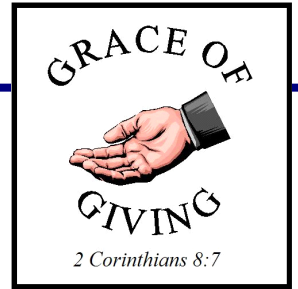


"... see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

Grace of Giving



Looking Back ... and Thinking Ahead

Looking Back

It's been quite some time since I (Greg) had the privilege of writing the feature article in our newsletter. Dara and I have settled into both our condominium and a new rhythm for life here in Singapore.

It seems strange not to have a car, and I truly miss my dually diesel truck! But having said that, public transport in Singapore is very good, and we've learned to make the adjustments necessary to thrive when being transported on someone else's schedule.

Dara must plan more carefully when shopping for groceries. If she needs just a few things but buys a bit too much, it's hard to carry it all home on the shuttle bus. Otherwise, she has to plan a major food buy, so the local grocery store will deliver it to us.

My work is keeping me far busier than I imagined. Fortunately, my flights for business tend to be 2 hours or less, since I counted just recently that I've made 20 business trips since arriving last September. I love my new job and pray that others are getting at least a glimpse of Christ as they see my way of doing things.

Most important, Dara and I have found a church home away from home. While here in Singapore, we will be members of the International Baptist Church of Singapore, a multicultural congregation (around 2,000 or so on any given Sunday) with members from more than 40 nations. We have worship services in the English, Chinese, Filipino and Indonesian languages, and our sanctuary choir has at least a dozen nationalities represented.

I have settled into facilitating an Adult Sunday School class and singing in the choir, and Dara is attending a Newcomers' Bible Study while also acting as a mentor to young mothers in a program called MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers). MOPS is a terrific outreach into the community, as it is not limited to church members, and Dara is just the sort of nurturing soul to comfort a frazzled young mom!

We've yet to make a mission trip locally, although we've got our eye on a children's home in Cambodia named Shelter of Love (IBC members frequently go there on mission trips). Finally, we've found a number of people who simply love Jesus and want to do whatever they can

for the Kingdom. Hmm - that's just like our church at home (Cedar Shores Baptist Church in Morgan, Texas).

In short, we are blessed to be here in Singapore and are still looking to see what else God wants us to do while we're here.

When you receive this, Dara and I will be in Texas on a trip to visit family and friends and have a bit of Grace of Giving "fun" to boot. I am excited to be able, God willing, to make the March food delivery trip and while doing so to be able to spend a couple of days working on the Terlingua church building project (see the revised construction schedule on page 2). I am especially pleased that my oldest son, Aaron, will ride with me during this week on the road - we've not had that kind of time together in years.

Thinking Ahead

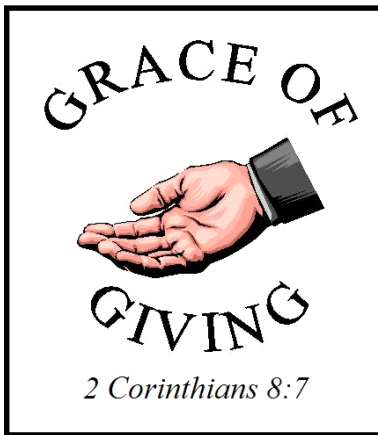
I counted a few minutes ago to refresh my memory and tallied up that Grace of Giving has built 17 houses in Mexico since we made our first trip in 2005. This year we've started a bit differently with a Springtime church building effort.

Our friends in the principal community we have supported with our house building, Jimenez in northern Coahuila state in Mexico, have officially formed a church named Iglesia Biblica Bautista Jesu Cristo Salva (I will apologize in advance to those of you who speak Spanish for any inaccuracies my rendering of the church name - God knows what it is!). They have called a pastor, Juan Treviño, and also have a piece of property in Jimenez on which to build a church.

We're praying about how to help this newly organized congregation this fall (when we usually do our house building trip). Pastor Juan doesn't have a place to live in Jimenez. Do we start by building him a house on the church property? I have been dreaming for some time about building this group a church. Does that begin this Fall or next Spring (or at all, for that matter)?

Finances are tight during this time of economic stress (see page 2), so we are praying for God to show us where to go, what to do and when to do it.

Won't you join us in this prayer?



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

Memorials

We received memorials in February in honor of Bill Wilkerson, son of Howard and Marcella Wilkerson of Clifton, Texas, from:

- Our faithful friends in the Adult II Sunday School class at First Baptist Church of Clifton, Texas;
- Ann and Paul Hollingsworth of Clifton, Texas;
- Bill and Diana McCleary of Clifton; and
- Teddy and Kitty Ware of Valley Mills, Texas.

We at Grace of Giving extend our heartfelt condolences to the Wilkerson family, and we also dedicate our March activities to Bill's memory. We are honored to be able to serve our Risen Lord and Savior in this way.

Special Thanks

Special thanks goes to our faithful friend and ardent Grace of Giving supporter, Gary Waller, for making the January and February food delivery trips. We are especially grateful that he loves the Lord and he loves to drive!

Gary, many are blessed by your faithful and selfless acts of service. We are honored to have you and your bride, Bertha, as part of our team!

Jesus asked him ..., "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:17 (NIV)

Help Wanted!!

Here's the latest on our volunteer work schedule for the New Jerusalem church building project in Terlingua, Texas:

Task 1 (March 8-12): Frame the walls and roof trusses.

Task 2 (March 15-19): Install soffits and siding; deck roof.

Task 3 (April 15-18): Hang drywall.

Task 4 (April 19-30): Tape and bed drywall (urgent need for these skills!)

Task 5 (May 3-7): Install trim.

Task 6 (May 17-21): Final trim out.

Please contact Chad Kroeker (ckroeker@centurymech.com or 817-781-0645) if you have some building skills and want to help!

Financial Report

I did not plan to start the year as the bearer of bad news, but here it is anyway.

We have now made 2 food delivery trips in 2010, and the cost of the food delivered on these trips was \$14,059.46.

Our undesignated contributions (i.e., those available for food purchases) year-to-date through February 23rd have been \$8,329.90. This means that we are already some \$5,730 behind on covering our 2010 food costs.

To put this in its proper perspective, we fell

only \$2,500 short of covering our food costs for the whole of 2009.

This is a difficult position for us to find ourselves in so early in the year.

Now you know what we need. God knew it already. It's in His hands now.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)