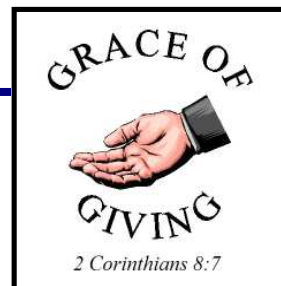


"... see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

# Grace of Giving



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4      MAY 23, 2008

## **Thanks, Updates, and Prayer Requests!**

### **Thanks**

Special thanks go to Gary Waller and Mike Finney for making May's food deliveries and to Harold and Doris Leigh for making February's food run. What a blessing it is to have such good friends to help with our ministry!

Gary and Mike split their endeavors, with Gary heading west to El Paso, Fabens, Presidio, and Terlingua, while Mike went south to handle the Eagle Pass and Del Rio stops. This is a terrific example of how we can arrange things to meet your availability. If you want to drive, just let us know how long you have and where you want to go!

### **Updates**

You may recall that I mentioned in our last newsletter that I was seeking international consulting work in the energy business. God has blessed that effort already by providing a client who will use my skills on a West African natural gas project. God has also opened doors to at least two other opportunities, and if He sees fit to bring those to completion, I will indeed be very busy with work and travel. Isn't God good!!!

God's opening the door for me to work as a consultant may well increase the need for volunteers to handle food

procurement and/or delivery, so we ask that you continue to pray about whether God would have you become more actively involved in Grace of Giving's ministry effort.

### **Prayer Requests**

It's amazing to see God's hand in things. I wasn't sure why I felt compelled to put the pictures of Bernie Segura and his ministry in last month's newsletter until a few days after the newsletter was published.

It was then that Bernie's wife, Gracie, telephoned me to report that criminal activity in the border region of Mexico where Bernie ministers is so bad that Bernie had been warned not to come with food deliveries. So, she asked me not to bring them any food in May. We're awaiting her guidance as to whether we should make a June delivery and praying that God will ease the circumstances so that Bernie can safely go to minister to and help feed his friends.

Please, please join us in praying for God's hand of protection to settle on Bernie's ministry and allow him to resume taking food to Mexico. Bernie serves in a very poor area along the border about 6 hours' drive west of Ojinaga, and the food assistance we send is put to very good use!

## **Financial Update**

Since the beginning of 2008, we've limited our food delivery trips along the border to once per month, instead of once every three weeks as we did for 2007, while keeping the amount of food delivered each trip at the same level as 2007. Our goal was to reduce our overall food costs to a level more closely aligned with our contributions.

It seems that God has blessed this decision. Judge for yourself:

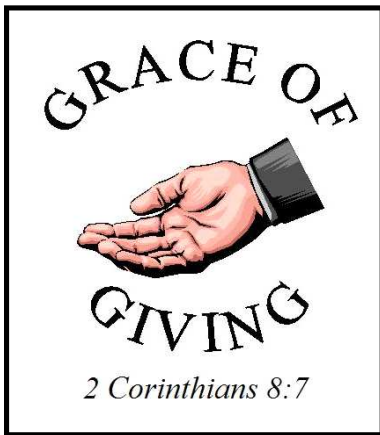
- Year-to-date contributions that were either designated for food or undesignated:      \$29,480
- Year-to-date net food costs:      \$29,744
- Percent coverage:      99.1%

Wow! You guys are good!

Unfortunately, food costs are continuing to increase. Rice has increased an astonishing **81%** since we wrote to you about food cost inflation in March. Dry pinto beans have increased by as much as 40% in the same time period, although, in fairness, prices do vary a bit in different stores, and we try very hard to find the best price available.

Our request is simple. Please help us as much as you can, so that we can continue to make deliveries at our current levels. Please also pass our information along to friends that possibly don't know us, so they too can consider becoming a Grace of Giving supporter.

Finally, we all know about the pinch of current fuel costs. God hasn't told us to slow down what we're doing, so we just ask Him to continue to provide!!



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

## In Honor of Others

Grace of Giving has received several gifts in recent weeks in honor of friends and loved ones:

- from Claude and Joy Dowdy and Mike and Jean Finney to honor the memory of James Crosley, father of our FBC Clifton friend, Sally Bekken;
- from Mike and Jean Finney as a memorial in honor of Calvin Bernhardt, father of another FBC Clifton friend, Gayle Bryant;
- from Kathy Carpenter, in memory of Lee and Elizabeth Crawford, parents of Kathy's dear friend Fran Stroud; and
- from Betty and Herman Barrs in honor of the graduation from SMU of their friend Layton Marrs of Midland, Texas.

Please join us in praising God for these precious lives that are being honored!

## E-mail Difficulties!

We've been having difficulties with our Grace of Giving e-mail over the last several weeks. Apparently mail sent to us at our [graceofgiving.org](http://graceofgiving.org) addresses is disappearing into cyberspace for some reason, with neither the sender or recipient receiving any sort of notice or indication (other than the fact that I wasn't seeing any e-mail) that there was a problem.

If you've sent me an e-mail over the last few weeks and I've not replied, that probably means I didn't receive it. We are working to rectify the Grace of Giving delivery problems, but in the meantime, please re-send your recent e-mails and all future e-mails to both of the addresses shown on the left side of this page under the contact details.

Please accept our apologies if we have not responded to an enquiry from you, and we will answer your e-mails as soon as possible after their receipt.

Thanks for your understanding!

## Housing Projects Update

Our building plans for 2008 include, God willing:

- one house in Monclova, Coahuila for the Benito Amaya family:
  - estimated cost: \$12,000
  - received to date: \$1,400
- four houses in Jimenez, Coahuila:
  - estimated cost: \$26,000 - 27,000
  - pledged to date: \$11,650
  - received to date: \$50

We are awaiting God's guidance as to when He wants us to build the Monclova house. We will continue to make this need known to our supporters, and we will begin construction only when God blesses us with the necessary funds.

The Jimenez houses are planned for the period October 19th - 28th. It appears that we may have an "overcrowding" problem

at Camp Getsemani similar to that we experienced last fall. We are currently investigating the possibility of (relatively) inexpensive motel accommodation in Del Rio, which will increase the trip expenses somewhat (but will also make evenings a bit more comfortable!). We will, God willing, be able to provide more concrete information on lodging and trip costs in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, please consider joining us on the trip to Jimenez in October and/or supporting these mission efforts financially. We need the money for the Jimenez houses in hand by September 1st to send it ahead for materials procurement, and we also need 50+ intrepid souls to volunteer to be building crews and to handle trip logistics (feeding the building crews is definitely a priority!). Your help will be a wonderful blessing to these families in need!

### A REMINDER

*If you would like to receive your Grace of Giving newsletter every 6 weeks electronically instead of by surface mail, just drop me a note at: [gregbeard@graceofgiving.org](mailto:gregbeard@graceofgiving.org) (and [gregbeard@embarqmail.com](mailto:gregbeard@embarqmail.com) too ☺ !)*