

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

Grace of Giving



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7 SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

New Ministry Opportunities!

I get really excited when God brings us new opportunities to serve His Kingdom! We have two new projects to share with you so that you can join us in praying for guidance and funding.

Our dear friends Margie and Lee Ball are part of a group that has started a new church in the Terlingua/Big Bend area, Mission New Jerusalem. They have property and are currently meeting in a trailer. A couple of weeks ago they had over 40 people for their worship services, which are led by a lay pastor who is an employee at Big Bend National Park.

This group of brothers and sisters has already outgrown their trailer. Most of us have no idea of what it's like to meet in an undersized facility. Wouldn't it be wonderful to provide them with a building they could grow into?

That's my dream and my prayer! We're working on details so that we can make an accurate cost estimate, but initially (back of the envelope stuff) we think this sort of building (see conceptual floor plan on page 2) will cost \$40,000-45,000.

For now, please just help us bathe this opportunity to build a church for Mission New Jerusalem in prayer. God will show us what He wants done and when He wants it to happen!

Voice of Mexico Ministries, whom we have served since Grace of Giving's beginnings in 2004, has planted a church in Jimenez, Coahuila, where we have built 9 small houses over the last few years. The congregation meets in a rented building, which, to put it nicely, is in pretty poor condition.

This church now has an opportunity to acquire a 165' square piece of property on a high area overlooking Jimenez for \$5,000. My prayer is that we can help them acquire the property and build a church for them.

It's difficult to get a new church sanctioned as a church in Mexico, so new churches are often started as a mission effort of an existing church. Discussions are in progress to organize this church under the "wings" of a church in Piedras Negras, so that there will be an entity to hold title to the property and the building.

It's early days and there is much to be done on this project. Again, please help us to cover this opportunity with prayers for God's guidance!

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ... Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

Financial Update

Here's a summary of where we stand financially year-to-date as of September 23, 2008:

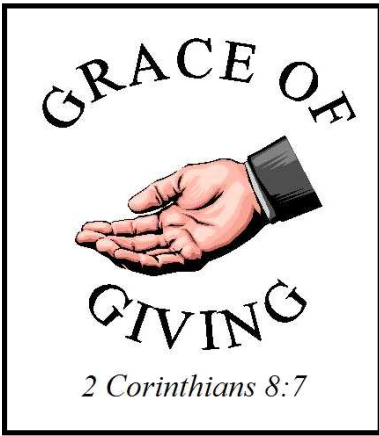
- Contributions that were either designated for food or undesignated: \$47,703
- Net food costs: \$57,049
- Percent coverage: 83.6%

As a point of comparison, the percentage coverage we reported in our August newsletter, which reflected operations through the end of July, was 95.7%. So, since the end of July we have spent \$14,336 on food (including \$457 on 120 school supply kits) but have received only \$6,826 in contributions that could be used for these purposes. This is a deficit of \$7,510, which we will have

to cover from our own resources - at least temporarily.

We are very grateful for your continued support of the heart of our ministry - feeding God's children!! Please consider whether you could help us to erase this recent deficit and to catch back up on meeting our program costs for the entire year.

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:20-21 (NIV)



Grace of Giving
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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

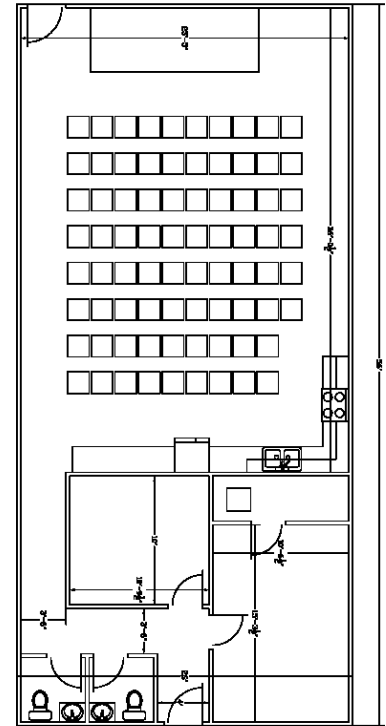
Greg Beard — President & Treasurer
 Dara Beard — Vice President
 Pastor Keith Blanton — Secretary

In Honor of Others

Grace of Giving has been blessed recently with several gifts honoring others:

- in memory of Annette King (a dear, sweet friend from FBC Clifton) from:
 - Mrs. Marty Maxwell, and
 - Murray and Betty Wise;
- also from Murray and Betty Wise in memory of:
 - Tom Ramsey (my late father-in-law), and
 - James Crosley, father of our FBC Clifton friend, Sally Bekken;
- from Maudie Monroe in memory of her parents, Ernest and Norene Ragsdale, on the occasion of their birthdays; and
- from Herman and Betty Barrs in memory of Mrs. Cindy Hansel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don McCrary of Clifton.

We pray that we will honor God as we serve Him in the names of these loved ones!



A possible church floor plan for Terlingua and Jimenez!

Housing Projects Update

Our current building plans include, God willing:

- one house in Monclova, Coahuila, for the Benito Amaya family:
 - estimated cost: \$12,000
 - pledged to date: \$4,200
 - received to date: \$2,400
- houses in Acuña (1) and Jimenez (3) Coahuila:
 - estimated cost: \$26,000 - 27,000
 - received to date: \$26,050

Praise God!! We've got all of the money we need for the Acuña/Jimenez houses! It has been sent to Mexico, slabs have been poured, and materials have been ordered.

We are continuing to leave everything in God's hands as to when He chooses to provide sufficient funds for the Monclova house and send us there to build it. For planning purposes, we are looking to March, 2009.

We would like to remind everyone that our Jimenez building trip is scheduled for October 19th - 26th. We need to know ASAP if you're going to join us! The cost for this year's trip is \$135 (based on 6 nights at the camp - shorter stays are correspondingly less - contact Greg for details). Please reserve your spot and get your payment to us by October 1st, if possible (checks should be made payable to Grace of Giving)!

Please remember also that, as mentioned in our last newsletter, travel documents requirements for trips to Mexico have changed since last year. We strongly urge everyone to have a passport for this year's trip to avoid any possible difficulties in making border crossings.

God has graciously given us the funds for this year's Jimenez houses. Now we await His workers. Will you consider being His hands and feet in Jimenez this fall?

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 or gregbeard@embarqmail.com