

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

# Grace of Giving



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## **Faith and Fellow Servants**

by Pastor Keith Blanton

*Editor's note: Pastor Keith Blanton of Cedar Shores Baptist Church (Morgan, TX) is Secretary and a Director of Grace of Giving. His practical and spiritual insights are an invaluable source of wisdom that helps to shape Grace of Giving's ministry vision.*

Two years ago this month Grace of Giving as an official organization was born into existence. There were four of us there that first night. All the paperwork had been done, filings prepared, officers elected, plans made, and then there was an awkward silence that was broken with the cry of new life. Yes, life, for Grace of Giving had at that very moment taken on a life all its own.

I must confess that in the beginning my excitement was tempered with feelings of uncertainty and apprehensions. Similar to a new father's fear at the birth of a child, I was intimidated at the magnitude of the challenges we were undertaking. How could we, just four people in Central Texas, make any real difference, any real dent in this very broad scope of human hunger and suffering with our neighbors to the south?

The fact is my doubts were the product of blurred vision. Any reservations I may have had quickly began to fade as our president, Greg Beard, helped me to understand his vision. He saw the enormous need as a mandate, the impossibility of the situation as the possibility of God, and the faces of children as a call to action. This vision has driven us from the very start to rely on two things I believe will forever breathe life into Grace of Giving: faith and fellow servants.

In this article I want to share with you the vision we have of faith and fellow servants.

It has been a conscious decision to treat the work of Grace of Giving as a matter of faith rather than duty or obligation. I can attest that this faith in our God and Father has by no means been misplaced. We have seen many come to a saving knowledge of Christ who came

into churches because they could get food for their family. We have seen the Holy Spirit open the heart of a Mexican customs official, who thanked us for caring for his fellow citizens. We found Big Bend Baptist Church in Terlingua on the very day their food bank got down to its last sacks of beans and rice. We have shared Christ with numerous people in the U.S. who have been impacted by our efforts to relieve hunger in Mexico. You see, our vision includes our most holy Father, who pours out upon us every good and perfect gift from above (James 1:17). All these things and many others have happened because of Him without whom any effort we may have would be in vain.

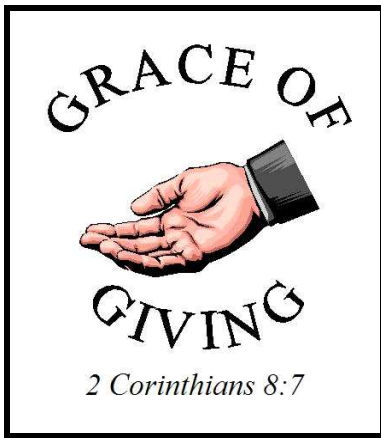
Similarly, our ministry is possible only through the help of many other fellow servants. We have been blessed beyond measure getting to know the hearts of front line Christian soldiers. You have read in other newsletters of Charles and Reyna Knaack, Elfi Register, Joan and Kenny Wilson, Bernie and Gracie Segura, Dr. Chavez, Beatriz Franco, Margie and Lee Ball, Pastors Juan Lara, Don Stevens, and Isaias Silos. This is more than a list of names; in fact, it is only a very short, partial list of those we've met. But it represents ministry that takes place along the border all the way from El Paso to Eagle Pass. These people distribute our food and with it love and hope to people who are hungry, yes,

but also who hunger and thirst for Christ.

However, these are not our most critical fellow servants – that would be you, the recipient of this newsletter. I invite you read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 which provides the inspiration for the name of Grace of Giving. It sure sounds like the Apostle Paul thought the people of Corinth who gave gifts to feed the hungry were critically important in that ministry, just as you are to us. We are exceedingly grateful for all the support given to this ministry by you, our fellow servants; we know it has been a matter of faith for you, too.

***It costs, on average,  
about \$6,500 each  
month to purchase the  
food and other items we  
deliver, excluding fuel  
and other travel  
expenses.***

***If 130 people step out in  
faith and pledge \$50 in  
support each month,  
our food costs are  
covered!!!***



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

## Ministry Friends—Matt & Miriam Wallace

The nature of Grace of Giving's ministry means that most of the blessings we receive come while we're on the road delivering food to our friends along the Texas/Mexico border. There are, however, a few notable exceptions to that generalization.

I am delighted to introduce you to one of those notable exceptions, our dear friends and Sunday School classmates, Matt and Miriam Wallace. Their infectious good humor and dedication to serving God bless us frequently and in many ways.

Among their many talents, God has gifted Miriam with a glorious singing voice, and Matt is highly skilled at all of the technical and business aspects of audio and video production. From their country location on the family farm at the Mustang community near Meridian, Texas, Matt and Miriam use these skills to bless others through two ministries (Covered Ministries and Greater Good Global Support Services (G3S2)) and an audio/video production company (Wallace Sight & Sound Productions, Inc.).

Covered Ministries provides:

- Christian music,
- praise and worship leadership,
- audio/visual engineering, and
- general event support

in support of others' ministry events. These activities have taken Matt and Miriam around the world, most recently to Turkey and Indonesia. You need to hear Miriam sing only once to understand why Covered Ministries is invited back to the same international ministry events year after year (Matt's no slouch, either, but I'd much rather listen to Miriam sing than to watch Matt run a sound board!)

G3S2's ministry is a bit more difficult to describe. First, however, a disclaimer – I (Greg) am a Director of G3S2, so I am more than a bit prejudiced in favor of their work!

Matt and Miriam worked with other missionaries for close to a decade before personally serving in Spain and, as a result, have a keen appreciation for the difficulties encountered by people seeking to perform 'greater good' activities in an environment outside their comfort zone. G3S2 grew from this realization and exists to provide support to any person or organization performing 'greater good' activities anywhere in the world.



This support is provided from their 'techno-house' (my description, not theirs) in Texas. G3S2 uses computer technology and modern communication equipment to provide assistance to people electronically - often when no other assistance is available. More importantly, they train others in the process.

In the summer of 2005, G3S2 used summer interns to provide services 24/7 for a 60 day period – just in time to be swamped (no pun intended) with participation in hurricane relief efforts on top of their international activities. G3S2 plans to go 24/7 using interns again this summer. Please pray specifically for people and financial resources to enable this important step forward. That will lead to G3S2 support year round.

In their 'spare time', Matt and Miriam do professional audio/visual work through Wallace Sight & Sound Productions, Inc. Check out their weekly TV show, *All Around Performance Horse* (on cable TV's RFD network) for a fascinating look at working horses and their riders.

Matt and Miriam are our very special friends. Please pray for them, their family and their ministries frequently!

*Please prayerfully consider whether you can support Matt and Miriam in their service to our Lord! For more detailed information on their activities and for contact details, please visit their websites at [www.coveredministries.com](http://www.coveredministries.com), [www.g3s2.org](http://www.g3s2.org), and [www.wssp-inc.com](http://www.wssp-inc.com).*