

Grace of Giving



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5 DECEMBER 9, 2005

Blessings and Gifts

I usually find it difficult to get started writing the text of a newsletter, so I often turn to my bride and ask her what I should cover. This month was no exception, and Dara had an instant answer for me. “Recap the year”, she said.

As I thought about her advice, I realized that, especially during the Christmas season, we seldom have or take the time to think about all of the blessings God has poured out upon us during the year. As a result, I took the time to think about 2005 and made this list of God’s gracious gifts to Grace of Giving and especially to me.

- Those we serve: Voice of Mexico Ministries, Big Bend Baptist Church Food Pantry, Crossing Borders Ministries and Bernie Segura, Evangelist. Always flexible, gracious, generous, grateful, supportive and caring — humble servants all. We are blessed each and every time we see them.
- Safety: We’ve traveled nearly 41,000 miles so far this year delivering food and participating in other mission efforts along the

border, with complete personal safety and only a very few travel issues (such as flat trailer tires and slow moving deer).

- Opportunity: Those of us who went to Mexico in September to build houses will never, I believe, be quite the same again. What a privilege it was to build for such grateful people!
- Children: We’re blessed to be able to provide food and other items to two children’s homes in Mexico through Voice of Mexico Ministries — Casa Hogar Nuevo Fuente de Vida in Acuña/Jimenez, Coahuila, and Casa Hogar Galilea in Monclova, Coahuila. What a joy to be able to meet and love these kids and truly live, albeit in a small way, Matthew 25:37-40.
- Our supporters: I try to follow Paul’s example and thank God every day for those who support Grace of Giving. Year-to-date you have donated almost \$34,000 to enable our ministry efforts, a five-fold increase from 2004. We are incredibly grateful

for your generosity. Thank you from the bottom of our heart.

- Answers to prayer: We’ve seen God’s mighty hand at work this year in healing illness and, especially, in providing miraculous ways to get food to those in need.
- Work: We were gifted with some much-needed consulting work during the summer, to bolster our financial ability to operate Grace of Giving.

This has been, quite simply, the most fulfilling year of my life

As we near year-end, I would ask you to reflect on the closing bits of one of my favorite choruses, “Above All”.

*Crucified
Laid behind a stone
You lived to die
Rejected and alone
Like a rose
Trampled on the ground
You took the fall
And thought of me
Above all.*

Thank you, Jesus, for such a wonderful gift!



Evangelist Bernie Segura and his wife, Gracie, from Van Horn, TX

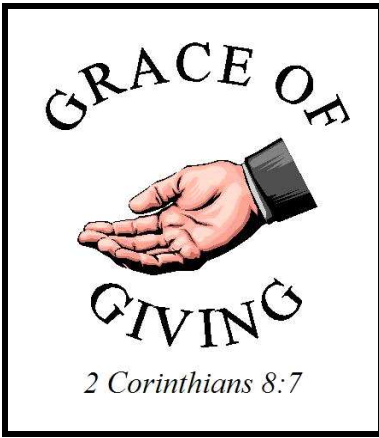
2005 — Year In Review

To give you a flavor for what’s been done by Grace of Giving so far this year, here are some statistics:

- **Trips:** 27 trips to deliver food and do other mission work, covering 40,949 miles.

- **Items Delivered:**
 - 216 Spanish language Bibles
 - 100 Spanish language evangelism tracts
 - 25 school supply packets
 - 124,648 lbs of beans, rice, sugar,

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Grace of Giving
Clifton, TX 76634

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 was blessed in October with gifts from:

- Ben and Lola Williams and Mike and Jean Finney, both of FBC Clifton, in memory of Paul Smith, brother of our pastor, Jerry Smith.
- The FBC Clifton Adult II Sunday School class in memory of Delores Henry, mother of class member Robin Henry.

We are honored to be able to serve others in God's name as well as in the names of these precious loved ones.



Gabriella's house nearing completion — Jimenez, Coahuila, Mexico, September, 2005

*He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
And to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8 (NIV)*

2005 — Year In Review

(continued)

- flour and masa
- 21,383 cans of vegetables, fruit and meat
- 6,645 lbs of cooking oil and lard
- 117 cases of toilet paper
- 2,260 bars of soap
- 502 tubes of toothpaste; 465 toothbrushes
- 102 bottles of vitamins, cough syrup and over-the-counter medications
- Other food and baby care items
- Total weight delivered: 168,408 lbs
- **Project Costs:**
 - Food and other items delivered: \$60,622.77
 - 2 houses built in Jimenez, Coahuila: \$9,226.00
 - Total: \$69,848.77
- **Contributions:**
 - Building: \$9,078.80
 - Other: \$24,803.03
 - Total: \$33,881.83 (which covers 48.5% of project costs)

- **Travel Expenses:** all travel and other expenses associated with Grace of Giving operations have been borne by the officers/directors.
- **Ministries Served (bi-weekly quantities):**
 - Voice of Mexico Ministries (Del Rio, TX): 800 lbs of beans, 500 lbs of rice, 600 lbs of sugar, flour and masa, plus canned food and personal items.
 - Big Bend Baptist Church (Terlingua, TX): 1,250 lbs of beans, 500 lbs of rice, 600 lbs of sugar, flour and masa.
 - Crossing Borders Ministries (Fabens, TX): 1,500 lbs of rice, plus canned food and personal items.
 - Bernie Segura, Evangelist: 250 lbs of beans, 250 lbs of rice, 160 lbs of sugar, flour and masa, canned food and personal items.
- **Blessings Received: Too numerous to mention!**

Answered Prayer

Charles Knaack's (Voice of Mexico Ministries) daughter Lily had surgery early this year to remove her cancerous thyroid. Several weeks ago, they were told that the malignancy had returned and spread to her lungs. In the midst of the clamor of trying to arrange further treatment for Lily in

Houston, a tearful doctor called from San Antonio to ask whether Charles had been praying. He reported that a mistake had been made in interpreting Lily's tests. *She doesn't have a tumor at all! Praise God for answered prayer, and please keep Charles and his family in your prayers!*