

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

Grace of Giving



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Reviewing 2006 ... and Looking Forward To 2007

2006

It's a bit overwhelming sometimes when I stop and remember that Grace of Giving has just completed its third calendar year of activity. When I left home for the first time on March 30, 2004, to take a small load of rice to Del Rio and Fabens, little did I know what an adventure God had in store for us — blessings too numerous to list!

I delivered just 1,000 pounds of rice on that first trip. In 2006, God blessed us with the opportunity to deliver an average of more than 17,000 pounds of food and non-food items each month, an increase of 16% over 2005's activity level. We now travel about 1,900 miles every three weeks to make deliveries in Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Presidio, Van Horn, and Fabens, and we currently spend, on average, just over \$6,500 each month to purchase the items we deliver.

Only God knows how many people are touched by Grace of Giving's ministry, but my friends along the border assure me that it numbers in the thousands.

We were also blessed in 2006 with the opportunity to build three houses for families in Jimenez, Coahuila, Mexico, during our mission trip in October. Thirty-eight wonderful volunteers joined Dara and me on that trip, and most have already expressed an interest in doing it again this year (*mark your calendars for November 4-10, 2007!*).

Grace of Giving's financials improved during 2006 as well. Total contributions from our supporters grew from \$38,753 in 2005 to \$64,556 in 2006, a 67% increase in one year (please note that both amounts exclude monies contributed to defer mission trip expenses)! This enabled us to cover 62% of the cost of items delivered during 2006 (compared with 46.7% during 2005) plus 100% of the cost of the three houses built in October (\$16,154). Please join us in praising God for entrusting us with the stewardship of these funds.

To complete the picture of our activity, please note that we spend approximately \$500 each trip for fuel (18 trips in 2006) and about \$100 each trip for campground lodging. All of these expenses, together with the additional funds needed to fully cover the cost of items delivered, are borne personally by Grace of Giving's Directors.

2007

We approach 2007 as set out in James 4:15 — "*If it is the Lord's will, we will ...*". We place our ongoing activities and anticipated projects before Him humbly and pray that we will be attentive to His direction as the year progresses.

Our goals for 2007 include the following:

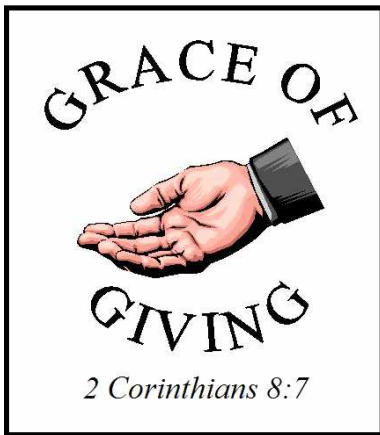
- Continue delivering food and non-food items to our partners along the border at a level commensurate with the ongoing need.
- Build four houses in Jimenez during November, 2007, if the Lord provides sufficient funding for this level of activity.
- Increase contributions to cover 100% of the cost of items to be delivered along the border and to begin to defray the ongoing costs of fuel and lodging.



This is why we serve!

How God wants this done and what else He has in store for us during 2007, only He knows. If God puts it on your heart to assist Grace of Giving financially, we will be most appreciative. Most of all, we request your frequent and earnest prayers on our behalf that we would honor God in all we do, and that we would travel safely during 2007.

Please also pray regularly for those we serve: Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza (Piedras Negras), Casa Hogar Galilea (Monclova), Casa Hogar Nueva Fuente de Vida (Jimenez), La Puerta de Esperanza and Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel (Acuña), Voice of Mexico Ministries (Del Rio), Bernie Segura (Van Horn), Crossing Borders Ministries (Fabens), and churches and families in Terlingua, Presidio, and Ojinaga.



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

In recent months, Grace of Giving has been blessed with several gifts in memory of loved ones:

- From Mike and Jean Finney to honor the memories of:
 - Glenda Sears, sister of FBC Clifton member Ginger Albrecht;
 - Milton Russell Burke, father of FBC Clifton member Billy Burke; and
 - Bennie Perry, mother of FBC Clifton member Carolyn Cosper.

- From our FBC Clifton friends, Kathy Carpenter, Herman and Betty Barrs, and Tami Asikis, all in memory of Kathy's dear father, Clarence J. LaRoche.
- From Joan and Bobby Cox of Midland, Texas, in honor of Lena Clem, the late daughter of our dear missionary friends in Terlingua, Margie and Lee Ball.

We are honored to be able to serve others in God's name as well as in the name of these precious souls!

Satan's At It Again!

Picture this, if you will. You're driving into Mexico with several 50# sacks of beans or rice in your car that you plan to distribute, free of charge, to needy folks in one of the poorer areas around Acuña. You're stopped by Mexican Customs officials so that they can inspect your vehicle and its contents—no problem with that, right?

Wrong! Just last week, that resulted in some Mexican friends of Grace of Giving having their van impounded in Acuña, because the Customs officials there won't allow dry beans and rice to be imported in any substantial quantity into Acuña.

It isn't clear whether this is an issue of legality or simply Customs officials exercising their authority over those powerless to resist. Similar issues are evident all along the border, but the problem is now particularly acute in Del Rio/Acuña.

Visits by various people, both Mexican and American, to Mexican Customs officials have repeatedly yielded blanket refusals to allow these products to be brought in.

I'm sure we're on the same page here. What logic compels someone to refuse to allow free, life-giving sustenance to be delivered to those in need? There is none! Only Satan and his cronies could have this attitude, and this seems now to be what

we're up against.

We need your help! Please commit this issue to prayer, so that we can find a way to get beans and rice across the border, efficiently and in a way that honors God.

We understand that licenses exist that allow unfettered transportation of food and other items (e.g., building materials) into Mexico. What we don't know at this point is whether Grace of Giving would be in a position to obtain such a license, and if so, what such a license would cost.

It would be a blessing for Grace of Giving to obtain a license to import goods into Mexico, because we could then assist our ministry friends all along the border. We are taking initial steps to obtain advice as to how we might best proceed in these circumstances.



This is a precious example of who we serve!

There is no doubt in our minds that God will provide a solution to this difficulty. It remains only for us to be attentive to His guidance and watch how He chooses to proceed. Do join us in prayer as we eagerly await His action to overcome those who would deprive His children of what they need.

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19