

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

Grace of Giving



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4 MAY 11, 2007

A Week on the Road

It never ceases to amaze me how God has blessed and grown Grace of Giving's ministry. Each food delivery trip has become a substantial logistical undertaking, and we thought you might find it interesting to learn what a typical trip entails. To say simply that it's 5 days on the road covering 1,900+ miles doesn't quite seem to do justice to the effort, so here's a day-by-day description of what we do every 3 weeks.

Day 1

We begin our week's endeavors by heading south toward Eagle Pass, Texas, with a stop along the way in Austin to pick up rice. We make every effort to be good stewards of the resources you entrust to us, and we can often save several dollars per 50# bag of rice by buying it in Austin.

Three hundred fifty plus miles later, we arrive at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Eagle Pass, where we deliver to Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza (for a children's feeding ministry in Piedras Negras, Coahuila), and to two children's homes, Casa Hogar Galilea (Monclova, Coah.) and Casa Hogar Nueva Fuente de Vida (Jimenez, Coah.).

We're able to visit with our friends in Eagle Pass for a few minutes before departing for the last leg of the day's journey, which takes us about 60 miles northwest along the border to Del Rio.

In Del Rio, we unload the remainder of what we originally had in our trailer for use by Voice of Mexico Ministries, Esperanza Missions (a home for unwed mothers in Acuña), Iglesia Emmanuel (for a senior adult feeding min-

istry in Acuña), and Ministerio de Ayuda El Shaddai (again for feeding children—in Frontera, Coah.). Then, we're finished for the day and ready for a good night's sleep!

Day 2

No deliveries today! Just a 425 mile drive to El Paso with an empty trailer to get positioned for tomorrow.

Day 3

We usually make two stops in El Paso this morning, at Sam's and at Economy Cash and Carry, to get the food items for the day's deliveries. These two stops mean loading around 5,000# into the trailer by hand, and we then drive a short distance east to Fabens, to stop at Crossing Borders Ministries (at First Baptist Church in Fabens; Crossing Borders feeds, among others, 32 Mexican

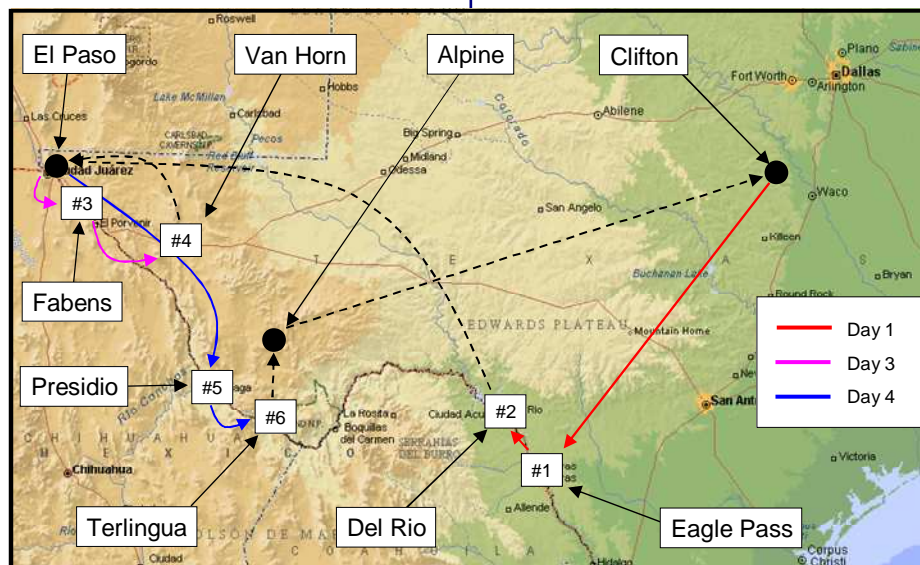
pastors and their families). Ninety miles further east in Van Horn is where we make our second delivery of the day to our good friend, Pastor Bernie Segura (Bernie takes his food to three small churches in Mexico, where he has been the pastor for 28 years!).

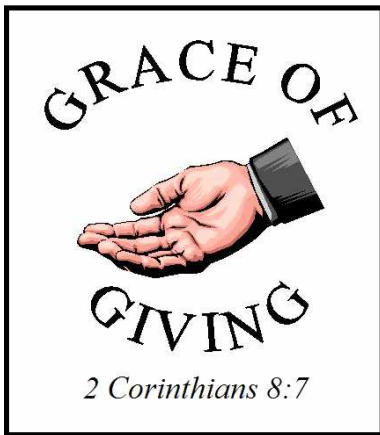
Finally, it's back again to El Paso, with another empty trailer, to rest before embarking on the remaining legs of the week's trip.

Day 4

Two more morning stops for final provisions results in a slightly smaller load today (around 4,500#), which we take

(Continued on page 2)





Grace of Giving
P.O. Box 481
Clifton, TX 76634



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 was blessed recently with a gift from our faithful friends at First Baptist Church of Clifton, Herman and Betty Barrs, to honor the memory of Richie Thomas, who recently passed away. Richie was the son of the Barrs' Kermit, Texas, friends, Richard and Fran Thomas.

We are honored to be able to serve others in God's name as well as in the name of this precious loved one!



Our dear friends, Murray and Betty Wise, on last year's house building mission trip to Jimenez.

A Week on the Road

continued

to Presidio and Terlingua, Texas. Five pastors share the food in Presidio, some of which is taken across the border into Ojinaga, and the Terlingua stop helps to meet the fledgling food pantry needs of our dear missionary friends, Margie and Lee Ball.

Our final leg for day 4 takes us north to Alpine, through some of God's wonderful mountainous areas of west Texas, where we spend our last night on the road.

Day 5

It's something over 450 miles home from Alpine, but what a joy it is to get home, tired but blessed by the week's activities.

Five days and 1,900+ miles are behind us once again. We've delivered more than 14,000# of food and personal items, which affect the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of people along the border.

More than that, we've helped to spread the joy of knowing Jesus Christ by sharing His love with those we encounter.

Your Support

It's on our hearts, now more than ever before, to continue and, God willing, expand

New Projects

It struck me a while back, when Charles Knaack asked me to bring some anti-diarrhea medicine on one of my food runs, that the gift of clean water would be as precious to some we serve as a new house.

With that in mind, I will travel to Calgary, Alberta, later this month to attend a four day course at the Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) learning how to build individual family-sized Biosand water filtration units.

The goal of the program is to provide low cost, but highly efficient, water purification for a single household.

We're excited at the possibilities this program may bring. Please pray for a successful trip and a new opportunity for service in His name!

*... whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.
John 4:14*

Grace of Giving's ministry activities along the border. Your support is vital so that we can do so.

Year-to-date, your contributions have covered 72% of the cost of the items that have been purchased and delivered (\$22,635 contributed versus \$31,354 spent). All fuel costs (\$500-600 per trip) and travel expenses are currently funded by us personally as well. We humbly ask that you:

- Pray for us — that all we do would glorify and honor God, and that we would be safe as we travel along the border.
- Pray for God's guidance as to how and whether He would have you support Grace of Giving financially.
- Share this newsletter with others where you worship and work. Help us spread the word of what we do, so that others might have the opportunity to participate by supporting Grace of Giving.

Thank you for your faithful support! We pray for God's richest blessings on each of you as we work together to serve Him!