

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

Grace of Giving



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The Times They Are a Changin’

by Keith Blanton

For any of you who do not know, I would like to announce a rather important change that has taken place at Grace of Giving. Greg Beard has taken a job located in Singapore. He and his wife Dara have been there the last two weeks looking for a home as they will officially relocate later this month. I am sure even the most geographically challenged among us know that Singapore is a long, very long, way from Clifton. In fact, the time difference between here and there is thirteen hours making it almost exactly half way around the world.

The obvious questions are: What about Grace of Giving? Will it continue? Will it change? These are understandable concerns for anyone who knows the history of Grace of Giving. After all, this ministry was born in Greg’s mind, and he challenged many of us to get on board with this vision to make a difference in the lives of literally thousands of people. The answer is, of course it will continue. And may I be so bold as to suggest that it will not only survive but it will thrive, make a larger impact in our world, and will be even better in the years to come.

First of all, Greg is still intimately and actively engaged in the day to day activities of the ministry. Technology is a great thing. Greg is in daily communication with those of us left here to do the leg work. He talks to the missionaries along the border and places all food orders, provides technical support, and continues to maintain official records and legal filings.

But his absence expands the opportunities of many here in Texas. I myself have taken on a larger roll in food procurement, logistical organization for deliveries, and daily record keeping requirements. Already I have seen volunteers step up to pick up the slack. Right now as I write this, our good friend Gary Waller is delivering over 14,000 pounds of food along the border. I have been approached directly by another volunteer willing to make the delivery trip in November. Others have expressed interest in going on a delivery trip so they can be “trained” to make subsequent trips.

Chad Kroeker of Burluson has taken on the responsibility of organizing and managing the house building aspect of the ministry. But even that challenge has been met with overwhelming support of friends. Chad’s Sunday school class, who has gone with us to build houses in the past, is

expanding their commitment by providing not one but two building crews this year. The always faithful men and women at FBC Clifton are stepping up to not only build a house but also to get out front by taking steps to make our border crossing easier and more reliable.

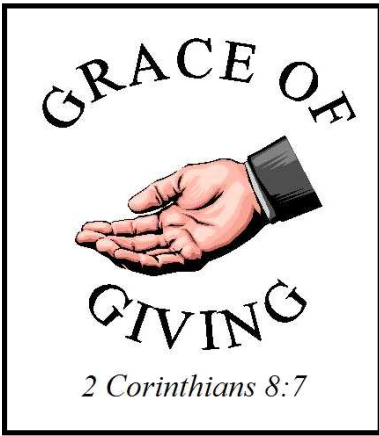
If the old saying “Two heads are better than one” is correct, then all of these people pitching in and carrying on the activity of feeding and housing people has got to make this ministry stronger in the long run. I know, having discussed it with Greg, that he does not nor has he ever felt this ministry belongs to him. It is not about any one individual. It is about serving a mighty God by caring for people so they might hear His voice and come to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I know it is hard to see someone go, especially when they mean as much as Greg and Dara have meant to many of us associated with Grace of Giving. Change is often a frightening prospect, and we have a tendency to resist it. But please allow me to encourage you to embrace this change. Embrace it by expanding your commitment to helping others. Just think – over the next two weeks, three families who have been without a home will receive a warm, dry, and safe place in which to live, thousands will be fed, and children will brush their teeth and wash their hair. More importantly, a mom, dad, and child will be in a church service where they are told that God loves them. They will be filled with food you have given them through Grace of Giving. Maybe, just maybe, without the distraction of a growling tummy they will hear and believe that God really does love. Maybe, just maybe, they will give their heart to Christ. And maybe it will be because of a bag of rice or beans that their eternity will be changed.

You see, for these people change is surely good, and it is for the hundreds like these that we must embrace our own change.

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:40 (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

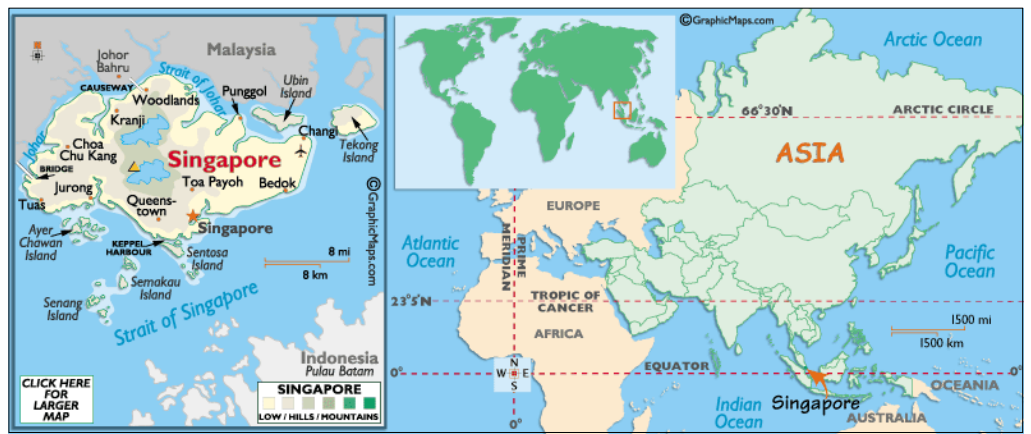
Memorials & Acknowledgements

Grace of Giving has been blessed in recent weeks to receive several gifts:

- from Paul and Ann Hollingsworth in honor of the 36th wedding anniversary of Jerry and Brenda Smith (Brother Jerry is the pastor at FBC Clifton);
- from Kathy Carpenter, to honor the memory of Ralph Heid, father of Barbara Aars of Clifton;
- from Rhoda White in Clifton in memory of Dusty Martin, who faithfully attended FBC Clifton for many years;

- from Catherine Bearden (secretary of the Bosque Baptist Association) and family in honor of Mr. Roger Walker of Conroe, Texas; and
- from Maudie Monroe to honor the memory of her parents, Ernest and Norene Ragsdale, on the occasion of their birthdays.

Grace of Giving's October activities are dedicated to these loved ones. We are indeed grateful for the opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in their honor.



Build Trip Update

Our building trip to Jimenez, Coahuila, is proceeding as scheduled for October 11-17th.

We have three crews of 9 people assembled for the building process and several other incredibly brave souls have "volunteered" to cook for everyone. Our camp reservations are confirmed, and we have the process well in hand to (God willing) avoid any difficulties in crossing into Mexico with our tools and building materials.

The slabs have been poured at the sites and

materials procurement is proceeding on schedule both in Mexico and in the States.

In short, we've done what we can do from the human side. Now those of us who are not physically going on the trip need to be prayer warriors for those who are going.

Please pray persistently for safety and success for all on the trip. Most of all, please pray that God will use the efforts of these servants in a magnificent way to bring glory to the Kingdom and salvation to those who are lost!!

Financial Report

Year-to-date Grace of Giving has received contributions totaling \$78,607. Of this total, \$24,685 was designated for non-food purposes, leaving \$53,923 for food purchases.

Through September, the food delivered to

our ministry partners cost \$55,417.

Thus, for the first time this year, we are falling behind a bit in receiving enough money to cover our food costs.

Now you know about the need. Please join us in praying about how God will meet it!