

BORDER NEWS

Once again, MCCA is having trouble bringing beans, potatoes and other supplies to the needy orphans of Baja, Mexico. In addition to these items, rice and powered milk were rejected by border authorities on the July 10 trip. This resulted in 3 trucks, loaded with 6 Tons of food, being sent back home. These products constitute some of the most important staples provided to over 2600 individuals in orphanages and missions in Mexico.

We are also having trouble with US border authorities allowing us to bring flour from Mexico back into the US. This practice allowed certain trucks to make deliveries on the following trip without stopping at the Tijuana Flour Mill. This practice was discontinued in July, so now all trucks delivering flour must stop at the Flour Mill.

One positive note is that a source of eggs was found in Mexico near the Otay boarder crossing. Eggs have not been permitted to be transported across the border for some time. We now purchase eggs for each trip to Mexico although this is an additional expense item since eggs were previously provided at no charge by one of our supporters.

We continue to work with the US State Department, Mexican Consulate and Mexican Border officials regarding a solution to these problems and desire the prayer and petitions of our members and supporters to remove this roadblock to the MCCA food ministry.

TRIP REPORTS

> Pastor Javier R. Diaz reports that Seminario Teologico de Baja California in Tecate has lost the majority of their support, which came from one source. They are praying for new sources of support.

> At Mission Bautista, the pastor and his wife are looking for a successor to take over the ministry due their age.

> Vern Edmonds at Tecate Mission is receiving treatment for prostate cancer. Please pray the treatments will be successful and that God will provide healing.

> Campo Christiano is relocating their facility and will not be operational for a few months.

> No further MCCA support will be provided to Casa de Luz due to a lack of response to our contacts.

GLORIA A DIOS

Thanks to God for the gift of His Son, our Lord and Savior.

Thanks for each one of our supporters; those who provide financial support; those who help to supply the food that is delivered; and those who so willingly give of their time to help pick up, load and deliver the food.

Thanks for dedicated Christian workers in Mexico who serve God 24 x 7 in the orphanages.

Thanks for opportunity to serve GOD by serving others



Children from the El Sauzal Orphanage receiving food and bibles

BOARD NEWS BRIEFS

The MCCA Board meets every 4 to 5 weeks at 7:30 PM on the Monday evening following each MCCA trip.

January 12 – Decision to purchase eggs in Mexico; initially 45 cases at approximately \$900 for each trip.

February 9 – Decision to purchase \$100 in Spanish tracts.

March 8 – Fred attempting to meet with governor of Baja to improve cooperation at the border.

April 5 – Ed O'Brien turns President duties over to Fred as he prepares for heart surgery.

May 10 - \$2,000 transferred to the Bible account.

June 7 – Not allowed to bring beans and potatoes. Contingency plans discussed.

July 12 – Not allowed to bring beans, potatoes, rice or powered milk. A delegation will meet with DIF and border officials to seek new permits. Will also contact the Mexican Embassy in Washington DC.

MCCA TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2004

Jan 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 8, Jun. 5,
Jul. 10, Aug. 14, Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 4.

MISSION

Mexican Christian Children's Aid is a charitable corporation founded in 1964 by a group of Christian businesspersons, concerned over the sharp contrast between the wasteful affluence of U.S. society and the abject poverty found so close to our borders. MCCA is dedicated to helping needy Mexican children by providing food and other assistance to local Christian organizations. At least 97% of all funds are used directly for food, Bibles, and other aid provided to Christian organizations in Mexico.

CONTACTS

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RIDER IMPRESSIONS

Raymond Pelling, Crestline
My First Trip with MCCA

The reason I still ride with MCCA can be summed up by relating the experience I had on my first trip. The first stop we came to was a bright blue building in a residential area of Tijuana. On coming through the door with a heavy bag full of food, I noticed there was a large clean room full of things one would expect in a preschool. Going through this room I am immediately confronted by what must have been around 30 pairs of huge eyes in tiny little faces. We have found them at breakfast, and they have been taught how to say "Good Morning" in English. All must be less than four years old sitting there with bibs on. They just stare at you with those big eyes in wonder.

Where do all these kids come from? How do they get here? Where will they go? I don't know. But, I do know that Christians have been supporting this orphanage since it opened and I can actually help put food in the children's mouths. When I think about it, getting up long before the sun and getting back home after it has set to ride with MCCA is an honor and privilege. I will continue to ride with MCCA as long as I can.

Tanja Eddingfield, Crestline
Hi Ed,

On my trip to Mexico, I had a lot of fun but I could not believe that there are so many orphanages within a few miles; but also, how poor that part of Mexico is.

Please contact one of the Board Members if you would like to travel along on one of the monthly trips to Mexico.

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

Although there have been difficulties at the border the last few months, the trips to pick up supplies and produce, as well as the delivery trips to Mexico, have generally gone very well this year. We have also been blessed with some new assistants including the team of Warren and Judy Arnett. Warren is driving the egg truck on the long trip and Judy negotiates the egg purchase. Judy is also learning the role of "loadmaster" from Gerhard Medema and has done a great job when he has been gone. Thanks to all of those who help out by loading and driving trucks, those who help deliver the food, those who help obtain the food and all those who are working behind the scene to help make MCCA the successful ministry that it is.

Irene Sheng, Redlands

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Ring - Ring "Hello?" "Are you able to answer a great question?" "Yes, I hope so." "Would you like to go with the MCCA group on Saturday?" "Oh, yes, yes!" "Be ready at five a.m. Take water and a lunch."

We left on time and picked up a Seventh Day Adventist lady in Loma Linda. She had a huge batch of small blankets and some stuffed toys. We ate breakfast in Escondido - good food. Coco's knows just when this gang comes. Then it was a long drive to Mexico. At the border we had to wait and wait while all vans were inspected and some rejected. Next we headed to the orphanages, some old, some quite neat. Roads between them were smooth and winding, or very old and bumpy and rocky and potholes. Scenery was awesome, mountains, burned vegetation and rocks by the thousands. At all stops the adults and children rushed out, so glad to see the fans and food. A chaplain had some marines with him and they helped with all the heavy bags of food, flour, meat, etc. The blankets went like wild fire, also the stuffed toys. What did I do? Just watched and thought.

This is a world in need and God has provided for these poor by sending a group of men, good natured, kind, patient, driving hundreds of miles, paying for gas, leaving their families for a long day, every month for years and years! What a picture of God! He showers us with His love and salvation, supplies all our needs with no demands or requirement.

Just say, "Thanks Father". Oh, great MCCA men, Jesus said "What ye have done to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

MCCA SUPPORT TEAM

The wherewithal to run the MCCA food ministry comes from a special group of people who provide regular support through time spent in prayer for our needs, through time spent doing the business of MCCA and through the donation of money and other goods. We thank God for every one of our supporters. If you would like to join the MCCA support team, please contact one of our Board members. Besides monetary support, we can always use volunteers to drive and load trucks, prepare and mail newsletters, and to help deliver the food every 4 weeks. We are also interested in donations of dried and easily transported foodstuffs that are acceptable for transport to Mexico. We look forward to hearing from you if this sounds interesting.