



# MCCA Newsletter

MEXICO CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2004

Volume 40, Issue 2

*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. Matt 18:5 NIV*

*A blessed Christmas season for you and your family from the MCCA Board.*

### BORDER NEWS

The current situation at the Mexico border is that MCCA is not permitted to cross with bulk quantities of beans, rice, potatoes, powdered milk, eggs and poultry products. Crossings have been routine since the loads are planned with these restrictions in mind. However, the obvious result is less of the food staples that are needed by the orphanages. We are applying to government offices in Mexico City for special permits to bring these items once again but have had no answer to our petition yet. Please pray that the MCCA petition for these permits will be approved.

### TRIP REPORTS

- > Pastor Javier R. Diaz asks for prayer concerning the funding obstacles that Seminario Teologico de Baja California in Tecate now faces. There seems to be diminished financial support for many mission efforts in Mexico right now.
- > New requests for food were received and are being considered for Jericho on the Hill and Gabriel Chavez in Tecate as well as from Sara, the daughter of Martha at Ciudad de Refugio, to support kids at a battered women shelter in Tijuana.
- > Dr. Yolanda at San Juan Bosco asks for antibiotics to treat their boys when they have infections. The cost for one course of treatment is around \$60 from a Mexico pharmacy.



*Max from Orfanatorio Emanuel carrying carrots that weigh almost as much as he does.*



*Children from Orfanatorio Emanuel receiving food and bibles*

### BOARD NEWS BRIEFS

- The MCCA Board typically meets every 4 to 5 weeks at 7:30 PM on the Monday evening following each MCCA trip.
- August 16** – Donation of playground equip. from city of Redlands will be made available to orphanages. Committee investigating procedures to bring food through the commercial side of the boarder crossing.
  - August 27** – Special meeting for prayer about new obstacles at the boarder and planning for new permit procedures.
  - September 13** – Ironing out problems with the permit for restricted items that must now come from Mexico City for each trip. Also working on form to collect updated orphanage name, phone and address info.
  - October 11** – Tom Van Mouwerik joined the Board. Obtaining 10 sets of new signs for the trucks.
  - November 8** – The Board prayed for the health of Vern Edmonds at Tecate Mission. Working to improve trip communication logistics via driver cell phones and CB radio's. Nominating committee for 2005 Board officers appointed.

### 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.

### MCCA TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2005

Jan 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, Apr. 30, Jun. 4, Jul. 9, Aug. 6, Sep. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3.

### MISSION

Mexico 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 Mexico 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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## *Return Service Requested*

### **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, time spent doing the business of MCCA and 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 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.

In this issue, we honor two individuals who have helped with the work of MCCA for many years. We thank God for the faithful work of Ralph Porter and Gene Belk.

### **29 PALMS CONNECTION**

Ed O'Brien writes about the longstanding relationship between MCCA and Ralph Porter.

For over a dozen years, MCCA has enjoyed a "covenant relationship" as Ralph Porter calls the informal partnership of his Twenty-nine Palms Ministries with MCCA. Back in 1991 or 1992, Ralph was introduced to the ministry of MCCA by George Isaak, a long time board member, when he was involved with the ministry of Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) at an air strip near the Marine Corp Base at Twenty-nine Palms, California.



*Ralph Porter in foreground.*

Ralph usually brings six to eight Marines or sailors every month to provide the much needed and appreciated "muscle" to unload our trucks in Mexico. The 560-mile, 19-hour day, gives the service men and women a vision and a close-up look at foreign missions. It also provides Ralph an opportunity to share his commitment with each of the Marines and sailors, share the Word, and answer questions on what this means in our lives. Ralph calls it his "covenant relationship" with the service members, the Mexico people, and the children and orphans in Baja California. Usually, once these Marines and sailors have gone along to Mexico, they want to go again.

Sam Edge, who has been one of Ralph's primary drivers over the last three years, says Ralph's commitment to these Marines and sailors, is "So good to them". Sam refers to the monthly MCCA trips as a "once-a-month men's retreat". He enjoys the encouragement, strength, and joking that goes on every month.

He also loves the "camaraderie" of having a good time and working with the MCCA team made up from many different churches and denominations.

Speaking on behalf of MCCA, we really appreciate Ralph and his team from 29 Palms who help us serve the Mexico missionaries, churches, and orphan children in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



*Regular Marine helpers from the 29 Palms Marine Base.*

### **THE ONION CONNECTION**

For many years, Gene Belk has obtained and picked up onions for MCCA in Lancaster. Gene recently turned 80 and decided that younger volunteers needed to take over this responsibility. Art Cooper takes note of some far-reaching MCCA history as it relates to Gene Belk.

Ray Zimmer (Herm's father-in-law) was one of the original members of MCCA. He went to the Calvary Baptist Church. I am assuming that is where he met Gene Belk. Gene was/is a farmer-processor. He makes various food products and had contacts with several major farmers.

One was Rod Grim who had just gone into business for himself in carrots. We have been getting carrots from Grimway Farms in the Bakersfield area ever since. Rod Grim died, but in his will, he stated we were to get carrots as long as we are in action. Grimway also bought controlling interest in King Pack, a potato "shed", and arranged for us to get spuds from them

Gene also knew John Callandrie, who was a big onion producer/processor. We still get our onions from John's son.

Gene also brought us into contact with Bob Jackson, who was one of the world's largest egg producers. We got eggs for many years from Jackson. He died about 3 years ago and the local ranch was closed down. Bob Jackson's daughter was married to Louie Davenport. Louie is the man who hauls the beans from Idaho and the rice from Texas for us -- no charge. Years ago, we used to get turnips from Gene's plant in Bloomington. The orphanages did not seem to care for them so we dropped them. Although orphanages disliked turnips, they love the onions. We greatly appreciate the faithful support of Gene Belk and his generous contributions of work, food and food contacts that have been used to benefit the poor children of Baja Mexico.