



# MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER, 2009

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

## GIVE THANKS AND BE GRATEFUL

As we approach the end of another year of MCCA ministry and think about the holiday season approaching, we are both thankful and grateful.

We are thankful for the blessings we all experience in our lives; we are thankful for our friends and family; we are thankful for the ability to provide Bibles, food and products to the needy children of Baja California; and we are thankful for the ongoing generosity of our donor base who make it possible for this ministry to continue.

We are grateful for the fact that Jesus Christ came to this earth, died for our sins, and now is seated in the heavenly realms, where he serves as our advocate and eternal Lord. We are grateful for the fact that as believers in Christ, we will live forever with Him, and that He will return, and sin, pain, suffering, hunger, crying and sadness will be no more.

We are living in challenging times. Think of Him especially at this time of year and do not forget to be truly thankful and grateful for what He has done. As we keep our focus on Jesus Christ and consider our blessings, we should be grateful and continue to show His love to others for His sake. Do not look to this current age for comfort and peace but, look to God and His word, and trust in Christ as he leads by His Spirit in your daily life.

The officers and Board of MCCA would like to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving, and a blessed Christmas this year. We are thankful and grateful for all of you. Your personal decision to be financially involved with MCCA is what makes our work possible!

If you are not part of our donor base, we would like to ask you to consider a special financial gift to the ministry of MCCA for this time of year, or on a regular basis throughout the next, if possible. A one-time gift, a monthly commitment, or a special Christmas gift given as an individual or as a family would go a long way in helping us meet the needs of the various ministries we serve, as well as helping to meet the needs of numerous additional requests for help we are continuing to receive.

Thank you and God bless you!

~ Joe Martin, Treasurer.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For MCCA to gain approval for needed restricted items (beans, rice, powdered milk, potatoes) to be allowed for entry and distribution in Mexico.
- To praise God for devoted Christian workers who invest time to care for the disadvantaged children of Mexico 24 hours a day.
- That the physical needs of MCCA kids are met, leading to thankful hearts and a blessing which is pleasing to God.



Two children at Door of Faith Orphanage

## THANKS TO GOD'S WARRIOR

Ralph Porter is a dedicated servant for Christ who has been going along on the MCCA trips for the last 19 years. Ralph is from Twentynine Palms. His life has revolved around the Marine Corps and being a chaplain. Ralph has taken many Marines with him on these trips, and their muscles moved many pounds of food and supplies. The Marines have not been able to go since the war started, so Ralph has had other people accompany him on these trips.

On his first trip to Mexico, Ralph saw a family living in the side of the hill in a dirt hut. All these years Ralph has continued to minister to this family. He has brought them supplies and shared the gospel with them. The Marines and individuals who have traveled with him have witnessed how the Lord has provided for those in need. Ralph always has a supply of Christian literature or coins with Bible verses to hand out.

Ralph and those who have traveled with him have shown true dedication. The trip from Twentynine Palms starts in the middle of the night in order to arrive in Escondido to meet the MCCA group for breakfast. The day lengthens when you consider that those same miles have to be traveled back at the end of the day. That calculates out to many hours on the road to do Christ's work.

Now Ralph has come to a different chapter in his life. Ralph broke his hip in September and Ralph's wife has been battling leg infections. God has spoken to them, and Ralph has decided to discontinue his trips to Mexico. His prayers will continue, and his heart and thoughts will be with MCCA and their travels. Not only has Ralph touched the hearts of many people in Mexico, he has touched the hearts of those that make the trips with him.

MCCA has been blessed to have Ralph helping all these years. God provided a true crusader for this mission. Ralph's firm belief in the Lord was very noticeable to all who met him. We thank him for all his years of service to his country and to God. We will miss him but know that God will watch over him and guide him in a new direction and service for the Lord.

THANKS to you Ralph--with love filled hearts--MCCA!!!

~ Helen Babcock, Board Member



Ralph Porter (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with some of the Lopez family, Tomas the pastor (Augustina's husband), receiving gospel tracts and coins for their weekend Gospel Crusade in La Mision, Mexico.

## 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 children in Baja California, Mexico, by providing food and other assistance to local Christian organizations. At least 97% of all funds are used for food, Bibles, and other aid provided directly to orphanages and other Christian organizations in Mexico.

## BOARD CONTACTS

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**Return Service Requested**

**HEARING THE CALL?**

My name is Paul Vela; I'm a 19 year old student at California State University San Bernardino. I am the newest board member of MCCA. It will be three years of going on the monthly trips March 2010. As many as you know, I grew up in The River Christian Reformed Church. I have my grandfather, Leopoldo Vela to thank for, on more than one occasion, dragging me to church week after week.

As a sophomore in high school, I started going to a small group Bible study led by Curtis and Lisa Van Meeteren. After about a year, we became what we consider a family, very loving, very supportive. Around this time, Curtis started bugging me to go down on an MCCA trip. I, of course, heard the stories, a bunch of older gentlemen going down to Mexico taking food by the tonnage down to orphanages in the Baja California Peninsula. The deal-breaking part was Mexico, the almost lawless land to the south of our borders. After three to four months of almost constant nagging, I had enough. I asked my mom, Rosa Vela, for permission to go down on a trip, and to my surprise, she allowed it.

I no longer had any excuse; I went on my first MCCA trip, and from there, a series of events unfolded where I couldn't make any more excuses for the future. On this trip is where I got to know Fred Jacobs just a little better. During the course of the trip, I came to find out that Fred, and his wife Linsey, led a Bible study of their own for college students, and was a driving force behind Curtis and Lisa entering the youth ministry. What a coincidence, I thought. Next were the children, little boys and girls bum-rushing us, begging to carry things that weigh twice as much they do. Next was the hill coming out of Tijuana, where a ravine separated what appeared to be Beverly Hills style housing on one side and tarpaper shacks and dilapidated housing on the other side. But what finally melted my heart was the then mass-distribution stop at Miracle Ranch, where orphanages from several miles south of Ensenada come up to receive their supplies. I saw the Lord work that day in ways I couldn't fathom when I left Redlands at 5:30 that morning.

Almost three years later, and I'm still amazed by how the Lord works. Due to my bilingual talent, I am a rare commodity among the MCCA volunteers. My ability to communicate at conversation speed in Spanish, which is usually fast, makes me well liked when purchasing goods down south or negotiating the border at the Otay Mesa crossing. More recently, I've stepped into the world of MCCA logistics as Judy Arnett's understudy. I've also been given a teaching role. I attempt to teach whoever wants to learn Spanish every Wednesday night at the River. I also oversee the MCCA Facebook page, where people can see pictures and read about what they can pray for. The website is: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mexican-Christian-Childrens-Aid/154271117255>

I am honored to be given my seat on the board of directors. God has given me a chance to serve Him and I will continue serving Him as long as He allows. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge Him and He'll direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6  
~ Paul Vela



Fred Jacobs, Paul Vela, Andrew Thompson, Jonathan Voncarl, and Taran Rhodes at Rancho Milagro (Miracle Ranch).

**TURKEY AND HAM DONATIONS**

During the holiday season, MCCA has special border clearance to take turkeys and hams across the border. It's a nice alternative to hamburger for the orphanages and well received. So if you can, pick up an extra one, call any board member in this newsletter and we will come to pick it up!

Thanks, Richard DeWitt, Board President

**BOARD NEWS BRIEFS**

- The MCCA Board meets at The River CR Church in Redlands, CA. at 7:30 pm on the Monday following the regular Mexico trips.
- June 29** – Prayer about restricted items that can't be brought across the border. Working to obtain more Spanish Bibles. Three applications for food received, one approved pending a visit and two rejected due to lack of DIF numbers.
- Aug 3** – Trip reports indicate 3 hour wait to cross border. Approved visitation questionnaire. Approved visited applicant. MCCA brochures published in Spanish. Paul Vela approved as a new Board Member.
- Aug 31** – Our Mexican liaison has formed a new civil association, Cristo Viene-A.C. "Christ is Coming", in order to meet new DIF requirements. General liability and executive board liability insurance purchased for Executive Board and Board of Directors. New egg vendor in TJ; cost increasing for both eggs and meat.
- Oct 3** – Routes reorganized with good results for the trip. One support decision tabled. 2010 trip schedule approved. Paul approved to start MCCA Facebook site.

**MEXICO TRIP SCHEDULE**

Dec 5, 2009; Jan 9, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 8, Jun 5, July 10, Aug 7, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 4, 2010



Child in back of truck at Miracle Ranch