



MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

December 2017

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given Isaiah 9:6

For there is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord Luke 2:11

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MCCA

Trip Reports

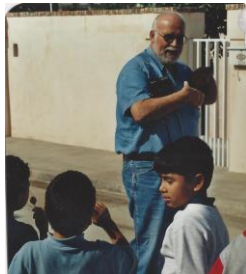
Trying not to sound repetitive, our trips into Mexico continue to go very well. We are still able to take beans and rice from the U.S. for a minimal tariff, which is a big savings each month. The Lord has blessed us with safe travels and workers willing to spend their day on Mexican roads helping children who need the goods we deliver each month.

If you have gone with us on one of the monthly MCCA trips, you know we stop at Coco's in Escondido for breakfast. This has been our regular spot for almost 20 years. For those of you who haven't been with us, you may not know that someone has been paying for our breakfasts. The identity of our generous benefactor remains unknown. We are thankful and pray the Lord blesses the giver as he or she has blessed us.



Remembering our past

During the September, trip we took time to remember **Jay Meinders**. Jay has been a part of MCCA for many years, riding along with drivers making their monthly deliveries. When Jay retired from full time work, he took a more active role in the ministry. He would ride with Jan Van Mouwerik to Glendora or Edison to pick up 4,000 pounds of carrots when we could take produce into Mexico. When a truck of beans or rice was delivered, he would be there to help. He was there on Fridays to help load the trucks when we crossed the border with much larger loads. After retirement, Jay would go with MCCA more often, riding with Gerhard Medema or driving for Ralph Porter in a van full of Marines from 29 Palms.



Jay is still part of MCCA, ordering and picking up ground turkey every three months.

At the start of our October trip, we paused to remember **Pete Kremer**. Pete became a part of MCCA in the 1990's. Pete didn't have a truck, but he could usually be found in someone's truck just about every trip. Occasionally, his wife, Betty, would join him on those trips across the border. He was part of the group that picked up produce donated to MCCA. You could count on Pete being there on Friday to load the trucks each month as well. Pete began life in Holland and came to the United States as a young man and never lost that Dutch accent. Sometimes you had to listen close to understand him, but it was worth the effort.



Pete and Jay are still with us, and we look forward to seeing them at the MCCA Christmas dinner.

President's Thoughts. Warren Arnett

Being a part of MCCA gives my wife, myself, and many others an opportunity to reflect the love of the of Jesus. We drive over all kinds of roads in Mexico (many without street signs) as we deliver food and Bibles. We give thanks for the

support of our donors, and we pray for the ministries that receive the donations.

The year 2017 brought us many blessings. One of those was being able to continue to cross the border into Mexico at San Ysidro with beans and rice without experiencing the "challenges" we encountered at the Otay Mesa crossing. We purchase all other products in Tijuana. We are thankful for the assistance of Pastora Maria Ana de la Godines, who is our liaison with the Mexican government.

We have been blessed with an increase in the number of ministries that we support. We added two ministries in December of 2016 and three more throughout the year 2017. Noemi Espinoza, a long-time servant of our Lord, passed in September. Our total is currently 65.

In 2015, the government of Baja California passed a law to guarantee the safety of all children. The affected ministries were originally given until the end of 2016 to comply with the new regulations, but many are still struggling to do so. The upgrades are good for the children, but thousands of dollars are needed to satisfy the government. Prayer is needed!

I hope you all had a thankful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a Christ-centered Christmas.

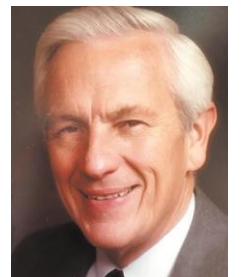
The following comment is paraphrased: If you do not see the cross overshadowing the cradle, you will miss the true meaning of Christmas. God bless you!

Philippians 4:13

To Be in His Presence

Since our last newsletter, two more of our dear friends have gone to be with the Lord.

On September 14, 2017 **John Koen** passed away. John became part of MCCA in the early years. While never driving, he was a frequent rider, always looking for an open seat in someone's truck. When the men would meet to plan the next trip to Mexico, John said "He sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit" in those discussions. John served on the board for many years and was board president in 1999. Illness forced John to forego the trips into Mexico for the last several years of his life. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marie; three children; Sheri, Linda and John; and nine grandchildren.



On October 11, 2017, **Henry Stuursma** went to be with the Lord, joining his wife, Betty, his son Chuck, and grandson Dan. Henry became part of MCCA in the 1970's, riding with whoever had room until he bought his own truck. Henry owned an egg ranch in Mentone and donated many cases of eggs until the Mexican government said no more. Henry also served as a board member and served as board president four years. He is survived by five children, Patricia, James, Marjorie, Shirley, and David; 17 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

MCCA received many donations honoring these men and their love of service to the Lord.

An additional gift was received honoring the memory of **Grace Van Weelden**

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 2018

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http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mexican-Christian-Childrens-id/154271117255	
Web site: http://mccaredlands.org/home	

Donation Reminder

As the end of the year approaches, many of us make year donations to help a charity, and get some tax benefit as well. If you are someone who has securities you're considering selling, you can donate those securities to MCCA, receive a tax break, and help MCCA at the same time. If you are interested in learning more about such a donation, please contact Judy Arnett at 909-792-3876.

AmazonSmile Donation

The quarterly checks from AmazonSmile continue to grow as the number of you who have listed MCCA a beneficiary has increased. Amazon has donated millions of dollars to designated charities and MCCA is one such charity. There is no additional cost to the shopper so if you use Amazon, please select MCCA or any other charity that is close to your heart. To do so, go to: https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_rspo_laas_aas

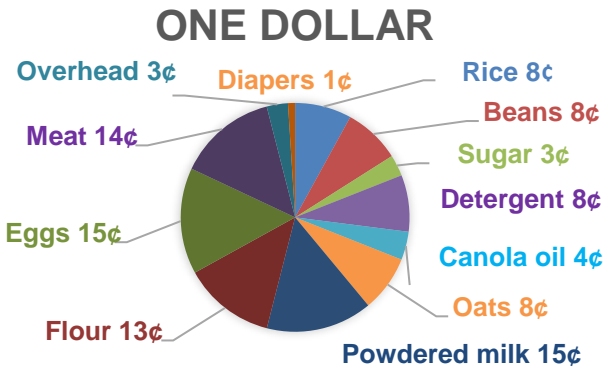
Turkey donation

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians has once again donated 75 turkeys for MCCA to distribute to Mexican ministries. They have made this donation for several years and have chosen to make it again this year. We, as well as the recipients in Mexico, are very grateful for this generous donation. Thank you, Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

The Benevolence Team of the River CRC is also donating funds to purchase turkeys. A single turkey is used to provide many meals and is a great change to the regular dishes prepared at the many ministries. Thank you, Benevolence Team.

What does your dollar buy.

Each month someone with MCCA goes shopping with the money you have donated. All the items you see in the chart are purchased in Mexico with the exception of dried pinto beans, rice and some ground turkey. Chicken, eggs and flour are purchased at El Florido; sugar, detergent and canola oil from Costco; oats and powdered soy milk from Mercado de Abastos. Diapers are also purchased in Mexico. Since everyone covers their own expenses, our overhead is very low. We do have to pay government fees in Mexico, bank fees in the U.S., insurance, etc. We are very grateful to the faithful supporters of MCCA who continue to send their "dollars" to share God's love in Mexico. We pray the Lord blesses everyone of you.



Mexican Christian Children's Aid
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Nonprofit Newsletter
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Change Service Requested



Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn) is the latest addition to the ministries receiving help from MCCA. Nuevo Amanecer is an orphanage located between Ensenada and Maneadero. They currently have 34 girls the ages of 1 and 18, and 4 boys between 3 and 10 years of age.

Their Facebook page has a mission statement that reads "Our goal is to help young children who have been abused and/or abandoned in addition to special cases, such as children with parents on drugs who want to



rehabilitate themselves but have nowhere to leave their children, single mothers who cannot take care of their children and cannot afford to pay for their care, and children with problems of behavior, discipline, lack of care, disintegration of the family, and poverty." For more information see there Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nuevoamanecercasahoga> r/ They will be added to our "Gabriel House" run.

Board Officers. At the November board meeting, is was voted that the current officers for 2017 will continue for another year. Thank you all for your faithful service to MCCA.

2018 Schedule		
January 6	February 3	February 7-Chula Vista
March 3	April 7	April 11-Chula Vista
May 12	June 16	June 20-Chula Vista
July 14	August 11	August 15-Chula Vista
September 8	October 6	October 10-Chula Vista
November 3	December 1	December 5-Chula Vista

Prayer Requests Many of the orphanages are still struggling to meet the government safety requirements. Please pray that the Lord intervenes on their behalf. Please pray that as we deliver products to the children in Mexico, we do this because of Gods love for them and pray they come to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Next trips in 2018: January 6, February 3

If anyone gives a cup of cold water to these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth; he will certainly not lose his reward. Matthew 10:42

What MCCA Means to Me

By John Koen

Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap at harvest if we do not give up." God's spirit may prompt us to do something that appears to others as random and impractical. What began as a contact to an orphanage in Tijuana in 1963, has blossomed into a non-profit group which helps feed, clothe and provide New Testaments and Bibles to more than 2,400 people every 4 weeks. Imagine feeding 7 times more than our church attendance!

I am amazed how few members of the church know much about Mexican Christian Children's Aid ("MCCA"). We are registered with the IRS as non-profit and governed by By-Laws. Six of the twelve board members: Art Cooper, Rich De Witt, John Koen, Hank Stuursma, Jan Van Mouwerik and Herm Verhoeven, are members here at the Redlands Christian Reformed Church. I appreciate the spirit of the twelve men and many friends who make the trips possible. Pastor Garcia, in Tijuana, faithfully obtains signatures from three different Mexican agencies to allow us entry.

The Wednesday before our trip, the grunt work starts. Carrots and potatoes are from Bud and Gene in Bakersfield. Other produce, eggs and vegetables are also often donated. On Thursday and Friday, load-master Clyde, loads between 10-12 trucks with this food as well as loading the tons of rice, beans and powdered milk that is stored in our warehouse. Then on Saturday, at 5:30 A.M., we leave and often do not return until 9 P.M. Our first stop is breakfast at Coco's in Escondido. We then unload food for 30 students and families at Westminster Seminary. Pastor Monsma, from the area, had alerted us to the fact that many of the students live on only one meal a day and were losing weight. What an

opportunity!

Many times we see that when the Lord closes a door, He opens a window. Very few places that we go to mishandle the gifts that are given. Recently we substituted several day care centers instead of churches. There, Christian workers give Sunday school lessons 5 days a week to the children whose parents are away for 10 hours a day, earning about \$8.00. (The Mexican peso is worth about 13¢ to our U.S. dollar). Comic book style New Testaments in Spanish are furnished besides the food and clothes.

The Mexican government provides no financial support to the orphanages or day care centers. MCCA's goal is to help needy children find a new life in Christ and become good citizens of Mexico, while helping with their physical needs.

Many new colonies are sprouting up in the areas where we go. Cardboard and tin shacks remind us our blessings. Several Bible Institutes give out the precious word with the food in these colonies.

We covet your prayers and gifts and thank you for the offering that you took for MCCA in November. 99% of the gifts go directly to the needy. In December, we spent \$11,905 for powdered milk and \$10,000 for beans. That's more than 20% of the MCCA budget. Bibles and New Testaments disbursed cost about \$4,000 per year. Without help from many people of the community of believers we could not continue to do this work every 4 weeks. As a board we see the Lord of the Harvest at work and we ask for your continued prayers and financial support for our work.

Too many people pray only for emergency rations rather than asking God for daily bread.