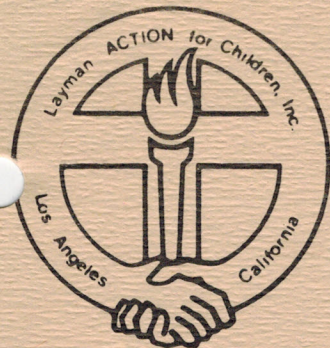


layman

# action

for children, inc.



JUNE +++++ 1977

P O. Box 25040

Los Angeles, Ca. 90025

## THE NEW BOYS' HOME DEDICATED

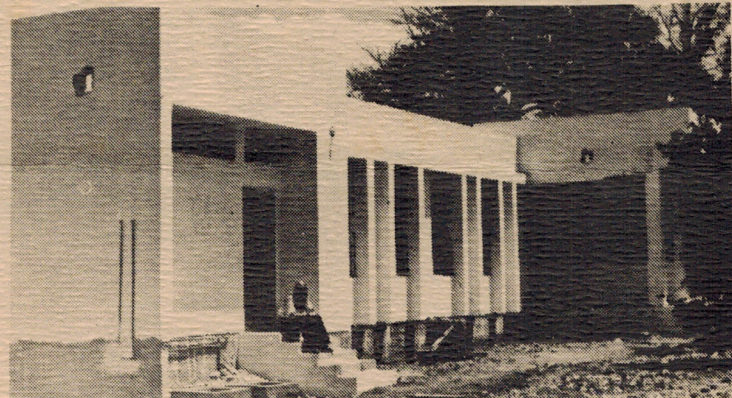
During Easter Week this year the dedication of the boys' home at MAMA PAULITA took place. Monday, April 4th

people gathered to participate in this event and to celebrate a milestone reached. Many came from various places in Mexico. From the U. S. A. came Mrs. Evelyn W. Lindstrom, our previous president for 10 years (now secretary), her niece Christine Wennstrom, who recently has been a volunteer worker in Mexico, her brother Gary, and our director Trygve Jansen with daughter Susan.

The hour approached, the people gathered. We walked from the girls' home to the new building. Some of the dignitaries present were the Mayor of the city of Mante, Lion Club members and their president and others.

### THE RIGHT WING WITH THE ENTRANCE TO LEFT

The executive secretary in Mexico, Mrs. Celia O. de Hernandez, presented some of the guests, and our director had the honor of unlocking the door to the new building and let the crowd in to view the facilities. A NEW GOAL HAD BEEN REACHED. A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT!!



THE LEFT WING OF THE NEW BUILDING WITH THE ENTRANCE TO THE RIGHT. TO THE EXTREME LEFT IS THE GUEST APARTMENT.

IN THE PHOTO TO THE LEFT SOME OF THE BOYS ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF THEIR NEW BUILDING. THEY ARE SO HAPPY THAT THEY HAVE NEW LIVING QUARTERS.

EACH WING WILL HAVE ROOM FOR SIXTEEN BOYS TO SLEEP





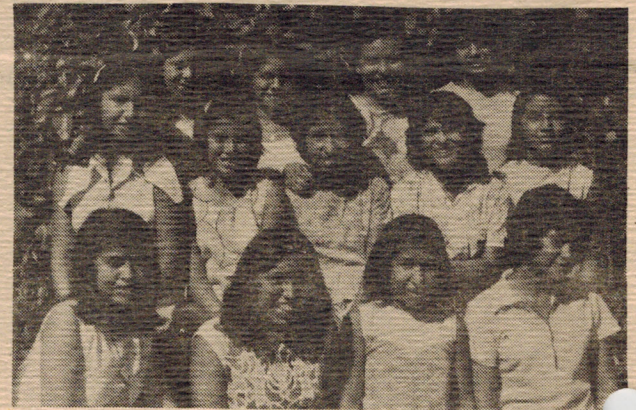
Evelyn W. Lindstrom, secretary of Layman ACTION, had the opportunity to visit "MAMA PAULITA" a few days during last Easter. She says that it was a worthwhile trip and be able to meet the many children we have supported for years.

"My support of these children over these many years has not been in vain," she says.

In the picture to the left she is distributing gifts to the children at "MAMA PAULITA" with the help of Susan Jansen (right).

The children always enjoy receiving gifts when visitors arrive. Evelyn seems to like it too.

IN THE PHOTO TO THE RIGHT ARE THE GIRLS AT "MAMA PAULITA" WHO ARE ATTENDING SECONDARY SCHOOL. THEY ARE EAGER IN THEIR STUDIES. THEY ALSO WANT TO REACH THEIR GOALS.



THEY LIKE TO PLAY SOCCER IN MEXICO. IN THE PHOTO TO THE LEFT SEVERAL CHILDREN ARE BUSY PLAYING SOCCER AT THE HOME "MAMA PAULITA."



#### NEW DIRECTORS AT "MAMA PAULITA."

We, and our friends in Mexico, have been busy trying to find new people to take over the directorship of the two homes at "MAMA PAULITA." It has not been easy. The matron, Cipriana Sanchez, who has been in charge for the past eleven years, has increasingly become worse with arthritis. She had to retire. We thank her for her devoted work with the children.

Our prayers were answered and our search resulted in meeting Estevan and Dora Fernandez. They have resided in Monterrey, Mexico, but have now moved into "MAMA PAULITA."

Dora has a teaching credential and is a fine, capable person. She writes, "I have often visited this home. My sister, Esther, was the first matron at this home. It seems that I have had a part in this work since its beginning. I have prayed over and considered this offer seriously, and I feel now it is a call from God. I will do my best to help the children both spiritually and physically with God's help. Please, remember us in your prayers."

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WILLIAM F. SMITH - president

EVELYN W. LINDSTROM - secretary

ELMER E. BERG- JOHN D. ECKBERG - MARTHA H. PEDROZA - CHRISTINE WENNSTROM

TRYGVE D. JANSEN

Director

WILLIAM E. NEDRY - v.president

THEODORE BOE - treasurer



A Mennonite missionary friend in Mexico City, J. MARK FREDERICK, Jr., submits the following article.

In recent years there has been a lot of discussion on the role of social concern in evangelism. In most of our minds there is a difference of importance between evangelism and social concern, although both activities are defended justifiably as a spiritual concern. What we fail to understand and incorporate in our understanding of the Christian Mission to the world is that social concern and evangelism, though distinct, are of equal importance. Both are an integral part of the varying aspects of Christ's kingdom. Christ's words at the beginning of His earthly ministry point this up clearly (LK. 4:18,19). To spiritualize this passage is to overlook the definite social acts Jesus performed in His ministry. That His ministry is not isolated to what he did is also very clearly stated (Matt. 28: 18-20; John 17:18). The works that Jesus performed are the continuing acts He desires that His followers do.



JOHN MARK



CHILDREN FROM "MARIA LUISA" IN SERDAN.

At the Casa Hogar "MARIA LUISA" in the city of Serdan, Puebla, Mexico, there is a definite effort being made to be faithful to the social concern's aspect of the Gospel. Throughout this area of Mexico there are very evident moral, spiritual and physical needs. The Casa Hogar project is making an attempt to meet these needs on the level of helping children. Future plans

as personnel and economic resources become available, are to have vocational training, agricultural projects, etc. Those involved in the Casa Hogar "MARIA LUISA" don't consider this ministry in social concerns the salvation that the community needs in Christ, but they consider it a part of their ministry in Christ. They are also involved in the proclamation of the Good News as they work alongside of the local churches in the area. They believe that Jesus' work on earth is to be reproduced by them (see Matt. 4:23; 9:23; 11:1-6; Lk. 9:2), and although "preaching" is different than "healing," either is just as important as the other in bringing in the Kingdom in the world in which we live.

Some ideas taken from EVANGELISM OR SOCIAL JUSTICE: ELIMINATING THE OPTIONS by Ronald J. Sider, Christianity Today, October 8, 1976, Vol. XXI, No.1.

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WE IN LAYMAN ACTION ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT NEEDY CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY FOR A PROPER EDUCATION.

ONE OF OUR FAITHFUL CONTRIBUTORS, CHARLOTTE WEISS PRESENTS HERE AN ARTICLE DESCRIBING EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.



CHARLOTTE WEISS

About 14,000,000 people of Jewish faith live in the world today. The Old Testament was written by Jews. People everywhere have accepted its teachings as guides to ethical living. Jewish ideals of human dignity helped pave the way for democracy; Jewish emphasis on charity as a duty helped shape philanthropy. Since Jesus was a Jew Christianity is sometimes called the Daughter of Judaism. The Hebrew bible or Old Testament became the foundation of the Christian religion.

Preservation of the law of Jewish tradition and of their identity was of primary concern to the Jewish people for over 3,000 years. The principal responsibility of parents was to train their children so that they would be secure links in the chain of

(continued on page 4)



continuity to transmit religious heritage unimpaired to the following generation.

The command "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" (Deut. 6: 7) was taken very seriously and was included in the morning and evening prayers. Each child had to be instilled with knowledge of Torah - the first five books of Moses and the first third of the Old Testament. There was agreement among all that education must begin at an early age in order that it make a durable impression. It was believed that if one learns early it is like ink written on clean paper. Infants were taught the Hebrew alphabet by associating words with the letters; then the alphabet was used to teach religious ethics. Since books and writing materials were very expensive and scarce studying lessons aloud was recommended. Lessons were repeated over and over until learned.

One reason for the very high value set upon education was a love for learning for its own sake. "If you have acquired knowledge, what do you lack? If you lack knowledge, what have you acquired?" Diffusion of knowledge was most important.

From time immemorial the Jewish people have had an intense longing for children. Children were believed to be builders not only of the family, but also of the community. They were thought of as a precious loan from God to be guarded with loving and faithful care. (Job 1:21). A happy medium was recommended between overindulging a child and not correcting him and being too stern. "If one refrains from punishing a child he will end by being utterly deprived." It was suggested that you push away with the left hand and draw them near with the right, that a man should never threaten his child, but should punish him at once or say nothing.

Probably the earliest record of the adoption of a universal education was a school system created by Simon B. Gamela in the first half of the first century before the present era (B.C.). He instituted the policy that teachers be appointed in every province and in every city, and that all children from six years old be placed in their charge. Instruction was considered most important regardless of the circumstances of their parents. In the third century note was made that poor children were certainly

not to be neglected. Provision was always made for them - whether orphaned or not.

Education was the main goal of parents; when there are no children to teach civilization will cease to exist.

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CHRISTINE WENNSTROM - our newest board member.

Christine has recently participated as a volunteer worker in Mexico and the U.S.A. She has become thoroughly acquainted with our work. The board voted her in as a trustee in a recent meeting.

CHRISTINE

Here are some excerpts from an article she wrote recently: ".....I have been a part of and seen Layman ACTION for Children's response to these areas of need....." "...I have witnessed the atmosphere of love and security in these homes, educational opportunities provided, cleanliness stressed and good food and clothing given to the children. Layman ACTION for Children is attempting to meet the children's needs at all levels - the spiritual, the mental, and the physical..."

"...Over all, however, two things have impressed me the most in my service with Layman ACTION for Children in Mexico: the genuine concern felt for by those working at the homes and schools..."

"...This growth possibility is exciting and you can share in it because it requires constant nurturing... YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT..."

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#### WE ARE SUPPORTING NOW:

IN MEXICO: Full support  
MAMA PAULITA..... 40 children  
MARIA LUISA..... 10 children

Support for Education  
TIJUANA..... 55 children  
MEXICALI..... 14 children

#### IN BANGLADESH

Full support..... 4 children  
Support for Education 10 children  
133 children

SALARY for Kindergarten teacher.

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#### IMMEDIATE NEEDS: Your help is needed

Directors' salary at "MAMA PAULITA"  
\$400 per month

Two matrons' salary \$100 a month  
per matron