

layman

# action

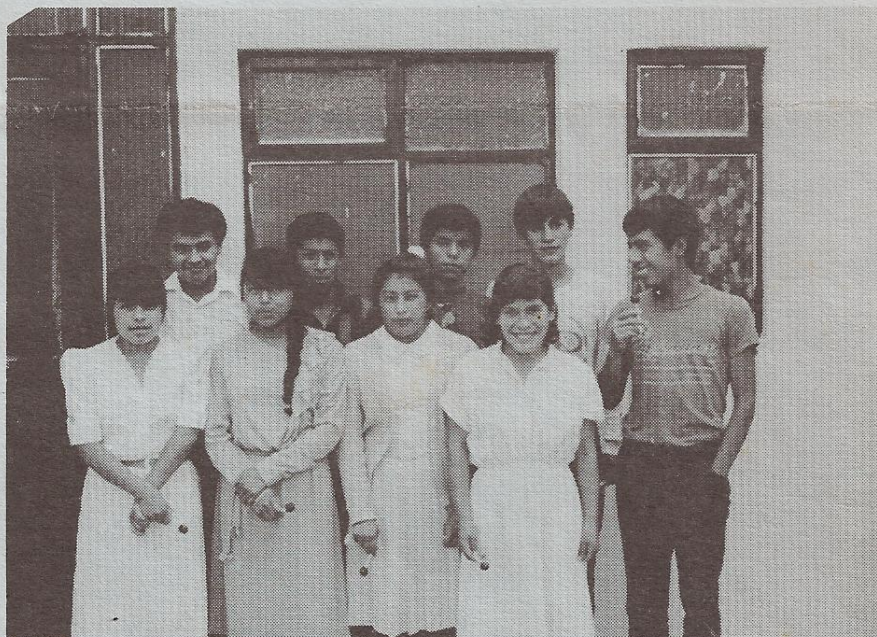
*for children, inc.*

APRIL - JUNE 1987

OUR 21st YEAR OF SERVICE

P.O. BOX 83023  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90064

TEENAGERS AT "LA FAMILIA"  
WHO FOUND A NEW MEANING TO  
LIFE



Dear Action Partner:

I wanted to write this letter to give thanks for my trip to Mexico in May. I, Tor Jansen finally was well enough to travel to Mexico as your new director of Layman ACTION for Children. Also thanks for prayers which speeded my recovery from the heart operation. This trip was a joy because I really could see the fruits of your money gifts. You should have been there! Let me tell you about my experiences:

## "LA FAMILIA"

The highlight of the trip was to meet the nine teenagers you see on the picture. In April, Lourdes, the director, had written to me that "something" was happening at La Familia. The attitudes of the previously difficult teenagers were changing. She wrote, "I can see that the Lord is preparing each of them. At night I can see them in bed reading the Bible and praying individually." She also wrote, "Many of the older teens decided to accept Jesus and be baptized. Now the pastor is training them spiritually for the next step."

You might remember that in the last newsletter we asked you to pray for another worker to help with the spiritual growth of the children. Well, our prayers worked, but not the way we thought. Instead of finding that person to help, God sent a group of young people from a church located in the town of Orizaba,



about one hour away by bus. These youngsters shared their faith and keep coming back every week-end.

Oh, I wish you could have been with me, the La Familia teens kept me up late at night, singing their new learned songs and just radiated their excitement. David Aguilar, the assistant to the director, told me that just a few months ago these same boys and girls would go into town and sometime get into trouble. Now they were happy to stay in the home, help with the little ones, lead after meal worship and go to the local church for services.

God also worked on the small church in the neighborhood. Up until a few months ago the older members of the church did not welcome the children from the home because they did not fit in with their type of service. Now, their whole attitude has changed. I participated in the baptismal service for the nine teens. Every elder in the church, it seems like, had to speak their praises to the Lord and the celebration lasted for over three hours.

The La Familia home is also being fixed up physically. David Aguilar had been working with the children to plant flowers and trees. A large garden was also prepared for vegetables.

The picture below shows the smiles of Lourdes and David who are directing the happenings at the home.



I received a list of urgent needs for the home such as washing machines, emergency escape doors, roof repairs, heat for the winter, more pay for the helpers, and eye examinations for the children. With your help, we will do what we can.

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#### "MAMA PAULITA"

I spent 1½ days at Mama Paulita. Mrs. Hernandez at 79 is still giving strong leadership to the part and full time staff of 8. The fifty children were well taken care of. While there, I spoke to two doctors who give of their time for medical problems.

I also found two young ladies from the U.S. who had volunteered to spend their college vacation working at the home. I asked Laurell and Lisa to write about their experience and the following page will describe it to us.



HERE IS A PICTURE OF LAURELL AND LISA WITH SOME OF THE GIRLS AT MAMA PAULITA.

"We wanted to meet and live with underprivileged children somewhere outside the United States. Some friends in our Christian fellowship group in Billings, Montana suggested we work at the Mama Paulita Childrens home in El Limon, Mexico during our summer vacation from college.

We have never met so many children who needed so much love. The children welcomed us with warm smiles and open arms, and already after only two weeks, we feel like part of the family.



We speak practically no Spanish, but the children are very patient and are teaching us to talk their language little by little. We have experienced that the love of the Lord needs no words for expression. A touch here, a hug there—that speaks a thousand words. We wish we could take each one home with us. What we can do is pray and help with finances whenever possible.

Since we've been at Mama Paulita, we've also earned the children's love and trust. We were very excited to be welcomed so readily.

Our previous work with children in Billings had made us realize the importance of gaining trust and love in a relationship. The Mexican children made that task easy.

Our prayer is that more people in the world will realize the importance of meeting not only the physical needs of these children but of the great emotional and spiritual needs as well.

Together in Christ, Laurell Thielen and Lisa Milsop."

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#### STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Dora Valdez, our Mexican director for the support of 45 students is recovering from a cancer operation in February. When I visited in May, she said, "God has given me a miracle! The doctors tell me I am well, and they have taken me off the medicine!". Then she asked for more work to do! We asked her to help with the financial reports from La Familia and she gladly accepted.

I met with many students and some of their parents. They all said that without your help, they would not be able to be in school. We only give each \$13 per month, but that makes it possible for them to raise themselves from the poverty conditions they come from.

Six of the eight seminary students, as pictured on the following page, came as a group to meet me, the representative of all you foreign givers. They expressed their appreciation and offered prayers for you. Dora told me how she was comforted by the seminarians when they visited her in the hospital. God seems to be blessing everyone working in this mission.





SIX OF THE EIGHT SEMINARY STUDENTS WHICH YOU SUPPORT.

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#### OUTREACH PROGRAM TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

We continue to support Mexican volunteers in Monterrey who will go out to the poor communities to help. Doctor Graciella Gonzales, a full time physian who spends all her spare time helping others, demonstrated to me visual aids and techniques she had developed with our support. She now has 23 teams of volunteers who go out and meet with children in their neighborhoods. The Bible teachings really become alive. She and her husband are looking to start a Christian home for the many lostchildren they find. I promised we would help. Other volunteers spend time with the mothers teaching cooking, nutrition, sewing, and health care.

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I have tried to give you a feeling that your money is well spent in this mission. We try to stretch the funds as much as possible to benefit the children we serve. The Layman ACTION for Children board have a long list of action needing funds. During our June 1987 meeting, we stepped out in faith and authorized additional funds for: Children's summer camp and to pay increases for our Mexican workers who receive less than \$100 per month each for all their work. U.S. workers do not receive pay.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A BETTER WORLD.

Please send you tax deductible contributions to: LAYMAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN  
P.O. Box 83023  
Los Angeles, CA 90083

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

As a non-profit, interdemonimational organization, it is our goal to respond to the needs of underprivilged children of the world. It is our belief that these needs must be met at all levels in a child's life - we must relate to the total being: the physical, the mental, the spiritual.