



layman

# action

for children, inc.

JANUARY - MARCH 1987

P.O. Box 83023  
Los Angeles, CA 90083



HAPPY CHILDREN  
AT THE "LA FAMILIA" HOME

We are starting our twenty first year as Layman ACTION for Children, Inc. Your contributions and the volunteer work of our staff have affected many lives in Mexico. We have helped build two homes for children, big enough to house 100 boys and girls, one community trade school and several houses for needy families.

Most of you know of our accomplishments, but we wanted to summarize for the benefit of any new people who might be interested in future mission. The daily physical and spiritual care in the homes continues. We are expanding the support for the needs of young adults. After they leave the homes, they should know that we still care and will help with their vocational preparation. Right now, 40 such young adults are receiving money and guidance as a result of your gift. Eight of these students are in seminary preparing for full time ministry. Your seeds will bear fruit!

We also help families in remote regions when they have emergencies. Most of the time, these are Indian families which are outside the normal Mexican care system. We depend on missionaries assigned in these regions to tell us of the needs.

The money for these mission projects have come from individuals and some groups in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and U.S.A. This newsletter is published in Norwegian and English. The staff members of this organization do not receive pay for their services. They work to serve you and God's children in Mexico.



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As a non-profit, interdenominational organization, it is our goal to respond to the needs of the underprivileged 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. When put into ACTION, this means providing food, shelter, and clothing to meet the children's physical needs; providing educational opportunities to enrich and enhance the mental capacities of the children; and providing the opportunity for worship thus encouraging spiritual growth.

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TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE  
MAILED TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.



#### JANUARY VISIT TO MEXICO

A team consisting of May Jansen, Susan and Steve Fiske, and David Aguilar Martinez, as pictured on the left, visited our missions to meet the children, encourage our Mexican workers and find out what the most urgent needs are. They found so many (about 80) happy and healthy children in the "Mama Paulita" and "La Familia" homes. YOUR GIFTS ARE WELL SPENT.

The food is mostly beans, tortillas, and sometimes meat. Three meals a day, their own bed, and a chance to go to school. This is more than they ever had before! We could take in many more children if we had the financial resources.

The team also visited the student program in Monterrey and saw some of the poor communities the students came from. With your help they have a chance to make a better next generation.

Susan and May concentrated on learning of the living conditions in the homes and listening to the needs of the people. Steve looked at the housing conditions and made lists of all the problems which should be repaired. David made the travel arrangements in Mexico and was a tremendous help in translating.

The most immediate needs are to find persons for individual attention and spiritual nurture for the children. When a visitor comes, they are so hungry for talk, touch and smiles. The homes also are in great need for repair. Water and heating systems are inadequate and do not work often.

We have many pages of reports written by each member of our team. If you would like a copy, write to us.

#### "LA FAMILIA"

At present there are 30 children here from ages 5-18, a house-mother and her own four children, a cook, and a laundress. The atmosphere here is relaxed and the children eat around four big picnic tables, singing, and saying prayers before meals each day. After school they sit on the couches in the sunshine at the end of the dining room and read, do homework, play outside, or listen to music in their room. In the morning though, it's very chilly (32F) since it's 8,000 feet above sea level! There was talk of getting some type of heater.

The directors of this home watch over the children and make certain that all their physical needs are being met, but there is so much more involved in maintaining a home. Another assistant who can provide spiritual growth for the children, travel for the needs of the home, and help with some of the legal matters is needed. We pray to find a willing person and for the finances to support another worker.





#### "MAMA PAULITA"

The children enjoyed the gifts and the extra food they received during Christmas. Every child received a present. The picture shows four of the girls with theirs. The boys received something they could only dream about: a complete soccer uniform and a chance to play against other teams. We are happy to hear that this gift was arranged by the "Mama Paulita" committee with the help of Mexican donors. The committee is taking over all responsibilities as we have planned for a long time. 43 boys and girls are at the home now. Mrs. Hernandez, age 79, directs the home. She is trying to find a younger director couple who can help her with all the administrative duties.



#### HELP TO FAMILIES

We continue to help poor families when we learn of the need from foreign missionaries and Mexican lay ministers. They travel to primitive Indian people in the mountains, teach them about Christ and get them to medical clinics when needed.

The picture shows Ignazio Santiago and his family at their home. He is a lay minister who spreads the gospel to his own people.



THE ACTION STAFF TRIES VERY HARD TO ENABLE MEXICAN PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER EACH PROJECT. AS THIS GRADUALLY OCCURS. WE WILL PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK ON NEW MISSIONS.



#### STUDENT PROGRAM

The students in the program come from the poor areas of Monterrey. Most live at home in crowded conditions but are determined to help themselves and their future families. Marcos Antonio Lopez, pictured on the right, is 15 years old and works in a candy and peanut distributor store in the daytime. From 6-10 in the evening, he attends school. He lives with his mother and brothers in 2 rooms and helps to support them with his earnings.

Marcos is one of the 40 students which we currently support. More are waiting for help. Can you invest for their future?

In Monterrey we have also helped with scholarships and supplies for children who attend in-home Bible studies and summer Bible camps. Some of the older children are now teachers for the young.



MARCOS ANTONIO LOPEZ  
with 2 of his brothers

You can get an idea of the home conditions the students live in from the picture of girls doing the laundry.



Our financial statement for the year of 1986 has been completed. We had hoped for a better year.

There are many children in Mexico who are in great need. They would like to have the opportunity also of living in one of our homes. There is space and beds available for more but the finances are not there. CAN YOU PLEASE HELP THESE CHILDREN?

(A copy of the financial statement will be sent to you upon request.)