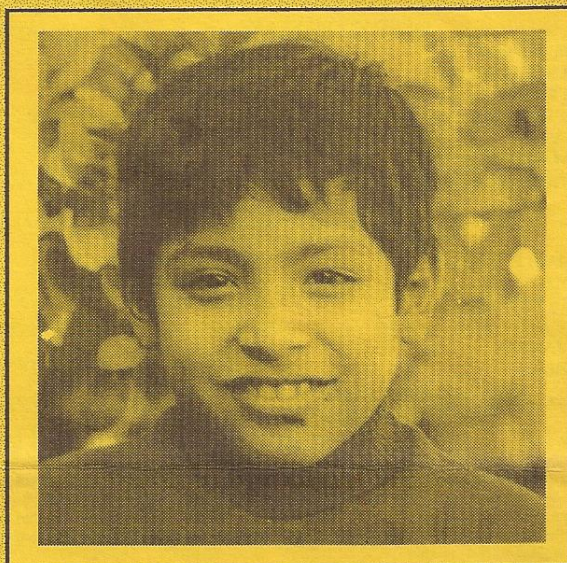


Caring **Action** for Children, Inc.



JULY 1997
31 years in Mexico



VACATION TIME IN MEXICO!

What do you do when you have your children home all day during summer vacation? With one or two in a typical family it may be no problem. You think of places to see, activities to do and perhaps send them to a church camp.

Just imagine when you have 50 as at the Mama Paulita Home or 30 at the La Familia Home or even just 16 at the Esperanza Home. The houseparents have to be very resourceful just to maintain their sanity! They invite local Mexican churches or organizations to come and take children out a few times. Then they think of work and craft projects which can be done with very little supervision. A few groups from USA also come for a week to work and play with the children.

This year Caring Action advertised on the Internet for persons who were willing to give of their time for the children. Such help would be great for the houseparents. Perhaps they can get a much needed few hours off each day. Two young ladies, from the many that responded, were willing to pay their own expenses and satisfied Caring Action requirements. They will serve at the Mama Paulita Home. They are Susan Fischli from New York and Christie Ann Jochem from Minnesota.

The boy on the above picture likes vacation time. In Mexico it starts about the 10th of July and ends about August 20th. In the free time of the cooler evenings, the boys like to play soccer and some like to play marbles. The girls like volleyball and doing craft projects. The older boys and girls tend vegetable gardens and do a yearly painting project.

The children are usually restricted to the home unless they run errands for the houseparents. They know they are in a Christian home and must follow rules. Most remember where they came from and do not want to go back to their former life. Many children from outside like to come and play with the children. Some children have relatives visit and take them out for a treat. That leaves it to the houseparents to comfort those who never have visitors.

Thanks to all of you who contribute for the daily expenses of the homes and projects in Mexico! The Houseparents, Children, and Youth in your care wish you God's Blessings!

Caring **Action** for Children, Inc.

P.O. Box 64324 Los Angeles, Ca 90064

OPERATING STAFF

| | |
|--|---|
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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 - 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.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS CAN BE MAILED TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

The federal tax registration number is 95-61155992

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
CARING ACTION FOR CHILDREN, INC., TOR W. JANSEN
38 ELSIE DRIVE, SOUTHAMPTON, PA 18966

TRAVEL LETTER OF TRIP TO MEXICO

By Helge Jansen (Norwegian Coordinator)

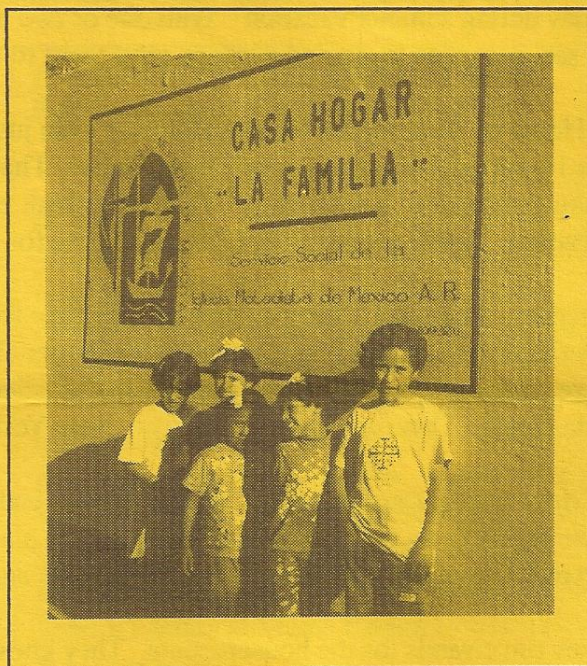
Finally we were able to board our flight on Saturday morning the 26th of April. The travel to Mexico had originally been planned for November 1996 but delayed due to my health problem which kept me confined in bed for some time. The delay turned out to be a blessing because this time my wife Edel, daughter Charlotte, and a supporter of many years, Anne Fidjeland, could also join me on this trip. Anne was in many ways the representative of the many donors in Norway who make it possible for us to help the poor children and youth in Mexico. (Edel and Charlotte help us send out over 1500 Newsletters five times a year in Scandinavia)

It was very strange, yet exciting, to land in Mexico City after a twelve hour flight from London. The Mexican customs and passport control took a long time but finally we saw a familiar person waving at us in the waiting area. It was Tor and with him was Eliseo Rios, the president of the board of the La Familia Home. Now, it took two more hours by bus. The trip from Stavanger, Norway to Puebla, Mexico had taken a long time.

LA FAMILIA HOME FOR CHILDREN

After a good nights sleep and care by Eliseo and his wife Olga in their home, we drove on to the La Familia Home. There we were well received by the houseparents Eliezer and Berna Bravo and the 23 friendly and happy children living there. It was like a culture shock to be with them and experience how well they functioned together and how they all participated in daily tasks with harmony. With only two adults assigned as staff and the difficult backgrounds of the children in mind, the operation of the home must be regarded as very impressive. My background in the school system of Norway tells me that an equivalent institution in Norway would have a staff of 50 and still the children would not have behaved in such harmony. So, do not have any doubt, the funds received are applied with rich results!

Every day we experienced something new and exciting. In the city of Serdan, where La Familia is located, we saw the festive Monday market day. Merchants and farmers had moved all their goods out under tents on the streets and the whole area was filled with lively shoppers. One could buy everything from shoes to mini-bananas, oranges, different nuts, chicken, etc., etc. Most were by the pound at unbelievable prices. (Example : oranges at 12 cents per pound)



*The La Familia Home
has a new sign*

In the evening at the home we got special attention. A fiesta was prepared outside with a barbecue. All the children were involved in the preparation and the housemother, Berna, grilled beef and onions for over 25 persons. After dark, the high altitude at the home made it chilly outside, so the festivities continued inside with the children in charge. They had prepared different performances which we enjoyed. Then we joined the children in a type of folkdance just before bedtime.

MAMA PAULITA HOME FOR CHILDREN

After two days at La Familia we continued by bus to Mama Paulita via Mexico City. It was a long 18 hours on three busses but they were fairly comfortable and we did not suffer much travel stress. Mama Paulita is located near sea level so here we noticed the heat! 100 degrees F with high humidity was a lot for us who live in the North.

We were impressed by the orderliness in this home also. The children looked well cared for and they did their household duties. They were happy and participated in games and fun activities too. Here also was a very small staff (for 50 children) but those in charge had a good grip on the required tasks.

Little Jose, who Lise wrote about in the February Newsletter, is improving steadily. He had an extremely difficult environmental background. Now he uses his arms and legs like other children but is lacking in oral skills. He can only use a few words.

MONTERREY

Another long bus tour and we reached the city of Monterrey. Here we were received graciously by Caring Action friends who gave us supper and drove us to where we would stay for our three days in Monterrey. It was at the Shelter, the home for babies and single mothers. We also received a very compact visit agenda when we arrived. Every event looked so interesting, giving us much to anticipate.

The first day we visited the **Mano** Student Home for Girls which NORAD (Norway) had supported with 280,000 Kronor (US \$40,000) to purchase a house last year. It was not difficult to understand how the 15 girls living at the home were happy and enjoyed living there with their adult leaders. The building is a villa of about 1500 square feet on two floors. It has a living area, kitchen, five bedrooms, two modern baths and a little annex in the back yard. Expansion possibilities exist such that more girls can be helped in the future. The building functions as planned and represents a great improvement over the poor conditions of the past home.

The corresponding home for boys students, **Cinco Banderas**, also appeared to function very well. The 15 boys received us with a beautiful evangelical song accompanied by their own guitarists and housemother as a soloist. The House Directors, Ana Luisa and Cristobal Lara, are doing an excellent job with the boys. It is nice to see how the Christian atmosphere was working positively both in this home and in Mano. The young people are receiving a special educational opportunity which will give them an advantage to start a successful adult life.



NORWEGIAN VISITORS AT THE NEW MANO HOME AND THE SHELTER FOR BABIES.

The **Shelter** for babies, young children and their mothers, was built from funds received from Sweden. It is a modern building with up-to-date equipment in the baths, kitchen and laundry room. The children have plenty of space both in the bedrooms and playroom. We slept in rooms intended for mothers of the children. Up until this time it has been very difficult to motivate young mothers to live with their babies. Most choose to live a life of freedom without responsibility rather than live a disciplined and secure life with their children! Remember these young mothers in your prayers such that they will be inspired to change their lives!

The last day in Monterrey we had an **Outreach to Children** meeting in a slum area outside the city. A church, with which we have contact, has regular visits to this area. Members travel twice weekly for food distribution which Caring Action for Children support. The road up the mountainside, where we were to meet these people, was like a Norwegian tractor trail of the steepest kind. We rode in a 350 HP American van and we used all that power to make a successful climb. Both children and adult residents appeared when we came to have a children's service under the sunshade of canvas tarps. The participation of all in the meeting and their thankfulness to us for their support, will not easily be forgotten. It gave us something to reflect on. These people who do not have it well materially, obviously have discovered that other values in life are more important. They have kept the ability to be happy for the small things in life!

CONCLUSION

The return home started with the night bus to Mexico City. It was a comfortable experience in a first class bus. We arrived early in the morning. Our flight departure was not til 8:30 PM so we had one day to spend in the capital with Tor as a guide. It was the 5th of May and we had spent a quick nine days in Mexico. On the airplane home we had a good opportunity to ponder our impressions. Some are still continuing in our minds even as time passes. Although we feel the needs are formidable and we can do so little we also feel gratitude that we can participate in such a meaningful mission to children. We saw clearly that your help reached its goal and that many children and youth will have a better life now and in the future!

IN MEMORY OF HOLGER HANSSON

Past Coordinator of our friends in Sweden

Holger, our co-worker, went to be with the Lord on the 15th of April 1997. We will greatly miss him. He worked his last day preparing for school children in Sweden to earn money for children in Mexico. The following night he passed peacefully to his Heavenly reward. He provided support for the missions of Caring Action for Children for more than 20 years.

Holger was our good friend, always smiling and giving everyone encouragement. He and his wife Ingrid came to Mexico every two years to meet the children and see what new projects they could help start. The Shelter for Babies and Mothers was built by Grants from Sweden which Holger had arranged. He was also a partner in obtaining funds for the Cinco Banderas Student Home and the Trade School Facility at Mama Paulita as well as for many improvements at the other homes.

Holger demonstrated with his life that "Caring Action is Love!". He truly demonstrated that Christ, who was in the center of his life, should radiate to those around him, especially to the poor children and youth he found in Mexico!

We give prayers of thanks for Holger and pray God's blessings on Ingrid as she continues the mission.



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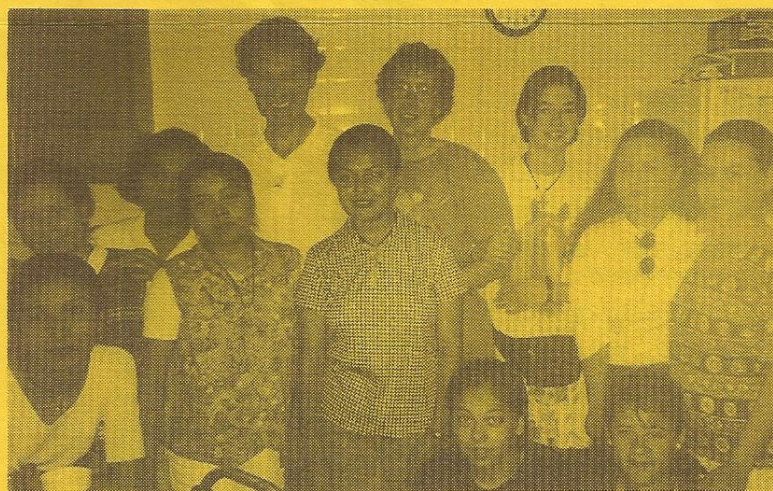
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