

THE CITY OF CHILDREN STORY

1987 - 2009

by Stan Stout

Stout's History with the City of Children



Earl Farmer
Administrator
Home:
Norco
Congregation:
Church of Christ,
Yorba Linda



Ray Estes
Chairman
Home:
Norco
Congregation:
Newland St.
Church of Christ,
Garden Grove



Stan Stout
Vice-Chairman
Home:
Yorba Linda
Congregation:
Church of Christ,
Yorba Linda



Ralph Monroe
Secretary-Treasurer
Home:
Woodland Hills
Congregation:
Church of Christ,
Woodland Hills



Seth Rehkop
Public Relations
Home:
Upland
Congregation:
Church of Christ,
Upland



O.C. Watson
Public Relations -
San Joaquin Valley
Home:
Caruthers
Congregation:
Church of Christ,
Caruthers

In 1978 I was asked to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the City of Children. Carole and I had been regular donors and supporters of the work since its beginning. The Board of Trustees had monthly meetings at the Yorba Linda Church of Christ building. Afterward a public meeting was held. The brethren attending these meetings were called the advisory Board which was comprised of anyone interested in the City of Children. There would be 30 to 80 in attendance.

Board of Trustee members were expected to promote the City of Children. They were expected to present programs and encourage visits and donations to the City. They had duties to perform based on their individual talents. There were some dinners held in areas like Fresno. Programs were presented by different Board members, even as far away as Alaska. When rumors arose about the work with a supporting congregation the whole Board went to meet with that eldership as soon as possible keep gossip from hurting the work.

Carole and I started visiting the home regularly in the early eighties. We were given an apartment to use behind the old church building. We bought a TV and VCR to show movies to the kids because they had no TV. We had a dorm of kids over for a visit and lunch each weekend. The sandwiches and treats were really special at that time because they had a very limited diet. They didn't have much for food or entertainment. We became good friends with the kids during these visits. The teens hung out with us in the evenings.



We sponsored Martha Hernandez one of the girls we had grown close to for about 6 years until her mother took her and her sister to Aurora, IL.

In 1982 the Board decided to build a house to replace the old trailer Earl was living in at the home. The Board voted to raise the funds at the next banquet. The Board counted the donations at that banquet and found they were very short of what was needed. Carole was ill and didn't get to attend. I had a bank loan for \$10,000 due the following Friday. One of the Board members made another plea for more money. I felt compelled to help more and wrote a check for \$10,000. This was the only time the Board decided to have a second collection. I put in what was needed. An interesting fact was God blessed us the next week with profits that allowed me to pay the loan on the due date after giving away what we had saved. This was a faith building experience for me. This helped me to be more generous and trust in God more the rest of my life. I also didn't know that house would become our home in the future



I was hired as President of Cruttenden and Co. in 1985. The previous 3 years I was a VP of Paine Webber and prior to that I was one of three partners in our own firm . Cruttenden was a venture capital company and wanted me to set up a retail brokerage operation for them. I accomplished that for them but then God answered our prayers opening up the opportunity to serve him at the City of Children. I went from making a substantial income to \$3000 per month for the two of us. We paid off all our debts. We learned to live on a lot less. We completely changed our lifestyle choosing to put God's work first in our lives. We made the commitment to serve him and we never looked back. We have never regretted that decision.

1987

Carole and I started full time work with the City of Children on January 1, 1987. We had volunteered to become the American Directors in January of 1986 when Earl announced his plans to retire. We had prayed for about a year for the opportunity to serve God since my return from a mission trip to Ghana, Africa. We decided that if we could sell our house in Yorba Linda, Ca. and our 33' boat before the end of the year it would be God's will for us to take over direction of the work when Earl retired. The boat sold in the summer, but the house didn't close escrow until December 22.

Earl Farmer started training us but Sue, his wife, had a serious heart attack. It became necessary for him to spend much of his time caring for Sue. In those days Earl took cash down to the home every two weeks which they deposited in the local bank. Earl usually spent the

weekend there meeting with the two Mexican Directors. Pepe and Josaphine Talamantes were the Mexican directors for Rancho Coronita and Lupe and Maria Vasquez were the directors for Centro de Amparo.



Our initial responsibilities were to set up appointments and give slide presentations in as many congregations as possible to increase the donations to the City of Children. We also were responsible to pick up the monthly food and other donations from the 35 congregations in southern and central California each month and to transport it to the homes in Mexico.

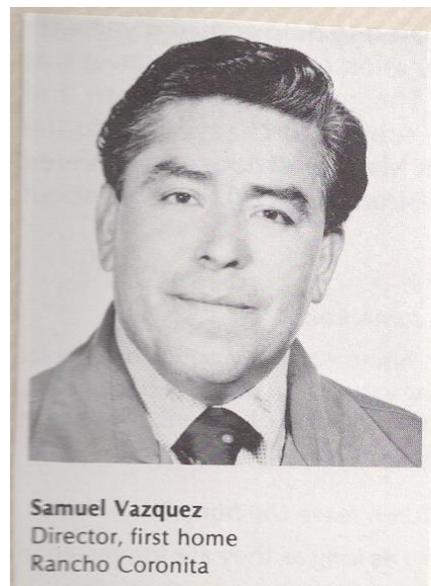
Earl found it necessary to retire in February 1988 due to Sue's condition. She lived until May 31, 1989.



Earl and Sue Farmer

The first two weeks after we took over we were attending a Spanish immersion class in Ensenada. The teens at the home started telling us some very disturbing news about what had

gone on at the home. After looking into these allegations, it became necessary to fire Pepe and Josephine Talamantes, the Mexican Directors. They complained to the Mexican Association of Directors for children homes in Baja. All the members of the Mexican Association came to the home and told me I would have to leave. I contacted Samuel Vasquez, the previous director, of the home and the man who started the Mexican Association. He immediately came to help. He supported me and told them to leave and then we hired an attorney to protect the home and children from them. The battle continued for two years. It was finally necessary to shut down the old corporation and establish a new Benevolent Association. The Hogar para Ninos Corporation transferred all their assets to Nueva Ciudad de Ninos, the new Association. This did away with all the previous founders and Mexican Board's authority and rights and gave the new Mexican Board the land and the rights to operate the home.



The reason Sam Vasquez wasn't working as the Mexican director was because he left his wife for one of the women working at the home. He had been a preacher for many years so he was fired because of this. He was a huge help in keeping Pepe and Josaphine from regaining control of the home. We thank God for his help. We were new to Mexican law but God provided the help we needed to prevail and save the City of Children.

The Assistant Director was Alejandra Villa. She took over directing the home after Pepe and Josephine were fired. She continued in that position until we hired Servando Suarez in May 1988. Servando was a preacher in Torreon with many years of experience as a preacher and school administrator at Torreon School of preaching. During his first month it was obvious he could NOT grasp the concept of managing a children's home or the money so we let him go. He went to the Ensenada congregation and became their preacher.

1988

In 1988 we had 5 congregations send summer groups to the homes, Bellevue, WA, Tigard, OR, Roseville, CA, Oceanside, CA, and Bellingham, WA.

The first annual City of Children Homecoming for our graduates was held at Rancho Coronita July 23, 1988. There were about 45-50 young people who returned to attend the fiesta. It was really good to get together with the young adults who had been raised here. Everyone had an enjoyable time.



The annual City of Children banquet was held on March 4 at the Buena Park Hotel with about 1000 in attendance. \$15,000 in donations was given to purchase and install tile in the dorm bathrooms and kitchens. The tile work was completed for a total of \$12,000. The tile was needed because the porous concrete created a breeding ground for bacteria and disease in the showers.

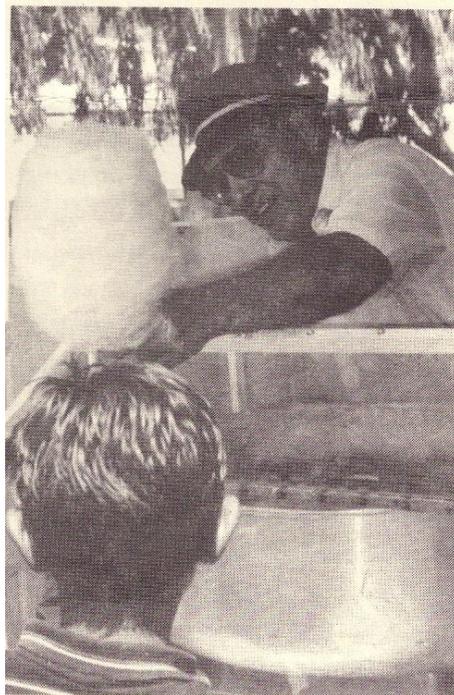
Bill Johnson the former minister of the Newland St. congregation in Garden Grove was hired to help with public relations. Bill only stayed three months before finding a congregation in Tennessee to hire him as their preacher.

There were 7 baptisms in July at the Ranch facility. They were Alonzo Barajas, Sergio Lua, Josue Banuelos, Juan Lopez, Israel Vasquez, Soledad Flores and Juan Pablo. Brother Ernesto Reyes was working there as our preacher at the Boys ranch.

Following routine medical exams our doctor found 15 children in need of tonsillectomies and 6 needing circumcision. God supplied the \$8700 required for these surgeries through many generous donations. All the medical needs were performed.

Harry and Pat Saehlenou donated funds to build the teen girl visitors dorm. Ron and Dee Brown donated funds to build the boys visitor dorm the previous year.

Ron Brown made monthly visits to provide hamburgers, chips and nacho cheese for everyone. Afterwards he made cotton candy to provide that special treat for the kids young and old. He also brought candy for each staff member as a gift. His visits were very special to all. He paid for all this out of his own pocket for over 25 years.



We became close friends of Harry and Pat Saehlenou who own Anaheim Fullerton Towing Co. They came about 4 times a year to bring truck loads of food donations. They provided many of the things we couldn't afford to give the children and staff. They always called to get a list of needs and wants two weeks before they made their trip south. Excitement filled the air when

their dually truck came rolling through the gate. The teens would come running to help unload but mainly to see what they brought. Out came bags of tortilla chips, nacho cheese sauce, bags of pretzels, cases of mayonnaise, and 40 pound blocks of white cheese. Coolers filled with wieners, ground beef, bacon, hams and bologna, next cases of tomato sauce and paste, tuna, margarine, peanut butter, Jelly, Jams, spaghetti, macaroni, Ranch dressing, canned fruit, Jalapenos, Jell-O and pudding. Then the teen girls would squeal as the cases of shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, mousse, and gel were unloaded. He brought styling gel for the boys. All the goodies came next like large cans of Kool Aid, Planters Peanuts, cases of Cracker Jacks, Hershey Kisses, Red Vines, Hershey bars, bags of marshmallows, and MM's both plain and peanut. 50 cases of sodas would top it all off. That was just the first day. In the evening Carole and I would go to dinner with them at Las Rosas Hotel where they always stayed in the honeymoon suite. The next morning we met them to go to the wholesale vegetable and fruit market where they bought enough to fill two pickups. After delivering that to the home it was on to the meat market to buy Chorizo and chicken. The third day Harry and Pat drove 50 miles to Rosarito to buy 36 gallons of ice cream, cones, and cookies from their favorite ice cream store. In addition, that December they brought 85 new back packs and 100 photo albums as Christmas gifts, plus they went to town and purchased Christmas trees for every dorm and all the decorations to make them beautiful. Harry always did things first class. They spent about \$15,000 for food every time they came to visit. They gave our children and staff the things we couldn't afford. They enjoyed their ability to give and provide for the children. The staff had a thank you party with three home made cakes and cards signed by all the children at the end of this trip.

It is difficult to relate how truly giving our brethren were. Christa Skates (12) from the Sunny Hills congregation got them to donate one gift for every child. The East Visaila Congregation quilted 36 new quilts for our children. A 91 year old sister from Yucaipa knitted two sweaters for the kids in the preschool dorm. God provided for the children and staff through his people.

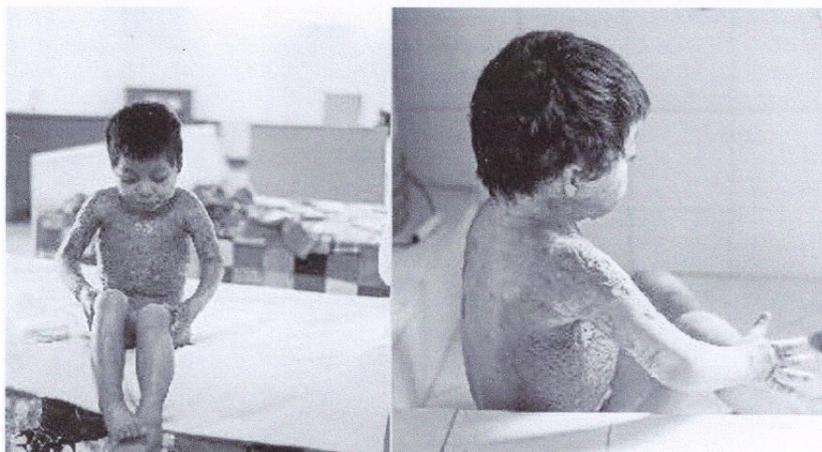
We didn't publish a financial statement at this time.

1989

We had 41 boys living at Centro de Amparo Ranch. They needed more visits.

In June we agreed to take a little 4 years old girl, Lupita Lopez, who had been burned over 52% of her body Feb 25, 1989. Lupita was walking by a trash fire when something exploded spraying her with fire and hot liquid from her face to her knees, melting her polyester dress right into

her skin. The Mexican officials arranged for her to be taken to Shiners' Hospital in Galveston, TX after being rejected at the local hospitals. She was treated there for 6 weeks then sent home to her mother to care for. They lived in a dirt floor shack with no way to keep her clean. Shortly her condition had become much worse and had to be returned to Galveston. Her mother didn't want her because she couldn't care for her. She had 5 other children. The hospital social worker contacted the City of Children through the DIF because we had two young men training to be doctors. We agreed to take her. Miguel Roman was the young man in training to become a pediatrician who started providing her care. Shortly thereafter Carole had to take her to Galveston for surgery so she was appointed her medical guardian. Carole took her for over 40 surgeries over the next 15 years. (Miguel is a pediatrician in Mexicali now.)



The Board of Trustees were Ray Boatright of Diamond Bar, Ron Brown of La Habra, Duane Canby of Yorba Linda, Jay Hockett of Pomona, Shelby Krider of Yorba Linda, Ralph Monroe of Woodland Hills, Bud Smith of Garden Grove, and Stan Stout of Norco.

Ray and Cam Boatright were hired by the Board as the part time Assistant Directors for \$1500 per month. Their main job was helping transport food and donations to Mexico and help with visitors to both homes.

Eleven new children were added during the first 5 months of the year.

The cost to sponsor a child was raised in the fall of 1989 from \$175 to \$250 for the first time. This figure was arrived at by taking the total expenses of the home and dividing it by the number of children. Total expenses were approximately \$450,000 and we had 150 children which meant \$3000 per year or \$250 per month to support one child.

Our electric bill jumped from \$200 per month to \$1500. This was partially due to installing lights for security that we started leaving on all night. There was also a large increase in price due to the devaluation of the peso.

Alejandra Villa returned July 15 to be the acting Mexican director after Servando was let go. She only stayed about a month because she was not a Christian and didn't agree with some of the Christian principles we wanted taught.

Luis Bizueth had recently graduated medical school so we made him the next Mexican director.

Tim Smith was hired by the Board for \$4,500 to produce our first video tape about the work. He was the son of Bud Smith who served on the Board. Tim worked professionally as a cameraman and director for ABC sporting events.

We needed \$35,000 to build a larger water reservoir, equipment, and dig a new well.

The middle aged girl's dorm was planned with an estimated cost of \$65,000 plus \$10,000 to furnish the 5000 square foot building.

We also needed \$28,000 to build additional workers quarters consisting of 8 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

The new kitchen for the middle age children was completed with seating for over 100 at a cost of about \$40,000.

Three brethren, Luther Hubell, Billy Baird, and Jimmy Mathis, from Totty's Bend congregation in Hickman County, TN drove a 12 passenger van out and donated it along with a check for \$1,500 to pay for the importation expenses.

We needed a small work truck at the home so Harry Saehlenou donated a 1984 Toyota Pickup.

Raul Cordova graduated from college becoming an accountant and started work at the home as our accountant.

David Vasquez graduated from Law School as an attorney. He was the son of Sam Vasquez who was the director before Pepe and Josephine. One of his University Professors became our attorney for the Mexican Corporate reorganization.

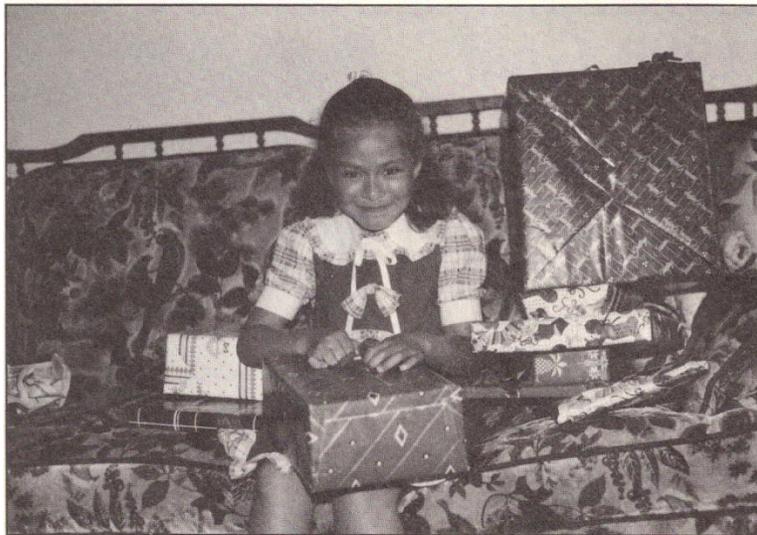
We hired a graduate couple from the Tijuana Bible Institute, Enrique and Maria Villa, to be the new daily Bible teacher and preacher for our congregation at the City.

We were caring for 145 children. We had 47 children who need to be sponsored and 20 partially sponsored. 26 children were baptized during the first 4 months of 1989.

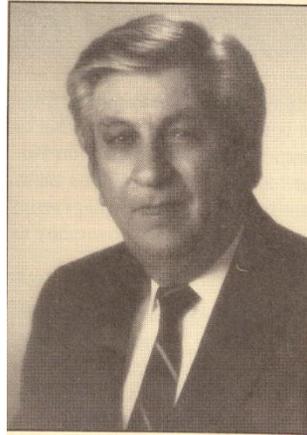
Diana Lara Rivera came to the home at age 8. After two months she was asked what she wanted for Christmas. The only thing she wanted was Papa Americano, which is an American daddy. She had seen and talked to the other girls about their American daddies and decided

that was what she wanted. She wanted one that would visit, play, and take her to town like some of the other girls Papa did. A daddy you could show where you live; one that makes you feel loved and special while walking around holding your hand; one you can tell your friends, "He is my daddy". Two months later the Chris Murray family from Yorba Linda took half sponsorship and the Joe O'Neal family of Murfreesboro, TN took the other half. Both families had children of their own but wanted to share God's blessings with Diana after reading the article about her in the newsletter.

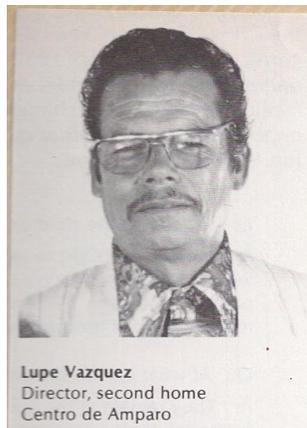
Diana Has Hopes Fulfilled



Alan Bryan was hired as the fund raiser for the City and was added to the Board. Alan was a member of the Antioch, TN congregation. He had held a number of successful soul winning workshops in California where we first met him. The Board decided to hire him after interviewing him. He traveled all over the Bible belt states telling the City's and Lupita's story. He even wrote a pamphlet called "Turning Scars into Stars." In the three years he worked he raised over \$200,000 per year in additional support from Tennessee congregations and the surrounding states.



The Palm Ave. congregation of Fresno came for a week in the spring. They assembled new wood closets for the teen girls that Harry Bedoian, a cabinet maker, had precut. We also had groups from Anchor Pt., AK, Bellingham, WA, Roseville, CA, Nacogdoches, TX, Oceanside, CA, Tigard, OR., Tacoma, WA, and Livermore, CA.



After many months of prayerful consideration, the Board of Trustees decided on November 14, 1989 to withdraw their support of the other home, Centro de Amparo, called the Boys Ranch. All 28 of the remaining children were moved to live at Rancho Coronita. The management of that home refused to take direction from the City of Children Board, therefore we were forced to make that decision.

The old carpenter shop was remodeled into a dorm for 17 older middle age boys because we desperately needed more room because of taking the boys from the Ranch.

Pilar Natera (17) was selected as first princess at her High school.



In the later part of 1989 we took a group of 10 children to Tennessee by van. Alan Bryan had arranged for us to visit and to speak at Lipscomb University, Ezell Harding Christian School, and congregations. The student bodies and faculties of both schools were very impressed with the City and especially Lupita Lopez's story. We also visited North Blvd. congregation in Murfreesboro. Johnsie Henderson was their youth minister. Ever since Jennifer, their youngest daughter, had heard about Lupita she had been praying Lupita would get to come and play. They were both the same age. Johnsie always tried to explain where she lived and why she probably would never get to come. One Sunday morning Alan Bryan came down the aisle of the church with Lupita and Jennifer's prayers and faith were rewarded that day.



Donations for 1989 totaled \$558,090. Total Expenses were \$558,356.

1990

We changed the City of Children address from the PO BOX 418, in Yorba Linda, CA to 2785 Reservoir Dr., Norco, CA 91760. This was necessary since Eva Harrell, the secretary for the City, quit to marry Earl Farmer. Carole took over the secretarial duties.

We hired a young lady from the Norco Church to help convert the hand written data to a computer program we had written. She stayed a few weeks then announced she was quitting leaving it all for Carole to figure out. She learned by trial and error and eventually took a couple classes that helped.

Raul Castillo (10) had breathing problems the past couple years. He could never play for very long without being exhausted. He was treated by the local doctor for Tuberculosis but continued to get worse. Friends of Melanie, my daughter, arranged for additional testing to be done at the Orange County Children's hospital by a specialist. He was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. His case was later transferred to U.C. San Diego and Dr. Ivan Harwood treated him for free.

The 1990 annual Banquet was held March 3 with Jeff Walling giving a stirring message to over 500 people. He made the plea for funds to help build the new middle age girls' dorm. God blessed the event with donations of \$15,979. We took the Lopez family, Alejandro Guzman, Lizeth Gonzales and David Vasquez. Alejandro and David both gave good speeches. When little 5 year old, Lupita, stood up in her beautiful white dress and bandages and told everyone "God bless you and I love you in" English" the place exploded with tears and applause.



*Stan and Carole Stout and
Children whom came to the banquet.*

The new workers quarters behind the middle age kitchen was nearing completion. We also added a laundry room on the end of it for the middle age dorms. The cost to build the facility was \$28,000 and was paid out of the general fund.

Group visits were encouraged but the Board had to establish new guidelines and rules to help with the scheduling. The maximum size was limited to 30, consisting of 12 girls, 12 boys, and 6 adults. We warned them we were not a teen camp or a Mexican vacation destination to see the sights. The purpose of their trip had to be to serve God by serving the needs of the children living at the home. Our daily visit schedule was established at that time.

We had visits from Purdue University Bible Chair in May. In June Bellevue, WA visited and passed out 1000 Bibles in Ensenada plus one for every child at the home. 19 came in July from Norman, OK.,

During fall of 1990 the Cassarubias family - Chano, Bernadina, and Susanna were given to the City by the DIF. They were true orphans. Their father was killed in an accident 9 years ago and their mother died 5 years ago of cancer.

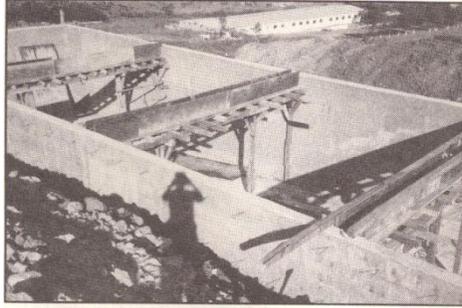


Oct 11, 1990 Alan Bryan arranged to hold the first Tennessee Banquet at the Hermitage House Buffet in Hermitage, TN. with 125 in attendance.

Our church building at the home was small and very hot with no windows and a low ceiling. It was becoming more crowded as we grew and some of our graduates returned for services. We knocked down a wall to enlarge it.

Bill Simcock of the Sierra Madre congregation was added to the Board after Ralph Monroe resigned because he was retiring and moving to Visalia.

We had prayed for 18 months for help with our lack of water. Our new 120,000 gallon water reservoir was nearing completion under the supervision of Ray Boatright and Bill Simcock. The cost of this project was over \$40,000, but the lack of water for days on end had become a crisis. Never knowing when you would have water strained us all. All but \$11,000 had been donated. Finally the Mayor approved us to be hooked up to the El Sauzal water system. We no longer needed a well but still needed the reservoir for our water storage.

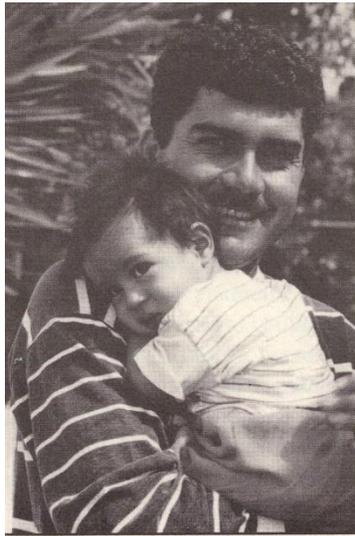


Donations were \$ 677,356. Expenses were \$602,928. Cash in banks were \$183,102.

1991

Sad to report we had only one newsletter in 1991 to refer back to.

Dr. Luis Bizueth was still the Mexican Director holding Diego Hernandez.



Plans were being made for a new multipurpose building. The building was to be a basketball court with adjoining classrooms, restrooms, showers, storage and kitchen areas around the outside wall. The gym would be used to hold our worship services. The early estimate was \$250,000. We received a \$6,000 check to kick off the fund raising drive. The motto was "Our God is Able."

The Bellevue Washington Group brought two new 14' trampolines. In an effort to cut down injuries they dug holes to set them in so the kids were at ground level when they were bouncing. The kids enjoyed them but they didn't last very long because too many wanted on at once. They also built a wooden jungle gym for the middle age boys.

Chayo and Chano Galvan were moved to Assistant Directors of the home. They had been room parents for the teen boys for 12 years.



The Galvans

The senior saints of North Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN donated a new serger sewing machine. Gloria made uniforms for every school age child.

Debbie Pate, Spanish teacher at Lipscomb High School, led a group of students for a week visit. Johnsie Henderson led a group of young people for their first summer team to work at the City. As a result of this trip, Mike Lewis from West End in Knoxville, TN is planning a trip for their youth group. Joey Spann led a weekend trip for the youth of West Nashville Heights congregation. They are planning a week trip next year. Doug Hearst of the Levy congregation in North Little Rock, AR visited with some from Southside and Rogers AR. The elders of Eastside, Columbia, TN visited the City also. They sent a generous donation after their visit. Frances Meeker, religious editor, Nashville Banner newspaper came with them. She wrote two good articles about the City. Gladys Gooch, head of the Spanish Department at Lipscomb University was so thrilled with her visit she convinced her home congregation, Highland Heights

of Smyrna, TN to sponsor a child. Others from the Scottsboro and Hermitage congregations also came and both congregations decided to sponsor a child.

We took 22 new children listed in the Nov 1991 newsletter. Antonio and Diego Hernandez were two of these children. They were the two youngest of the Hernandez family. We had taken the 4 oldest of this family the year before. Their mother was mentally ill. Her sister decided she couldn't keep them any longer because it was ruining her marriage.

We were caring for 140 children at that time.

We had a special prayer service at the City and asked all supporters to join in this effort on December 29 to ask God to provide the money for the multipurpose building. We had \$30,000 on January 15, 1992.

We were also raising money to build the new dorm for the middle age girls. God blessed that need with donations of \$103,000

Donations were \$780,335. Expenses were \$658,339. Cash in banks were \$266,127

1992

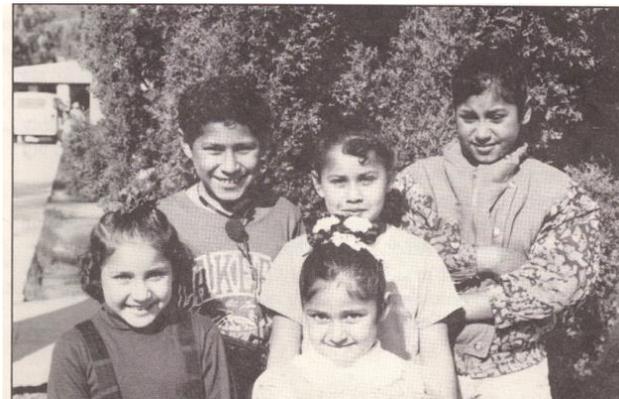
Raul Castillo was hospitalized at U.C. San Diego for 24 days of treatment. Just one of Raul's medications cost \$75 per day. Jack Russell, Murfreesboro, TN had read in our periodic reports of the need for the drug Fortaz, made by Glaxo holding. He met Carl Adkins at church and found that Carl was a rep for Glaxo. Jack and Carl immediately went to work with Dr. Ivan Harwood and Dr. Light to obtain a lifetime supply to treat Raul. We were very thankful to them for their help, but we praise God for answering our prayers concerning Raul's condition and medication.



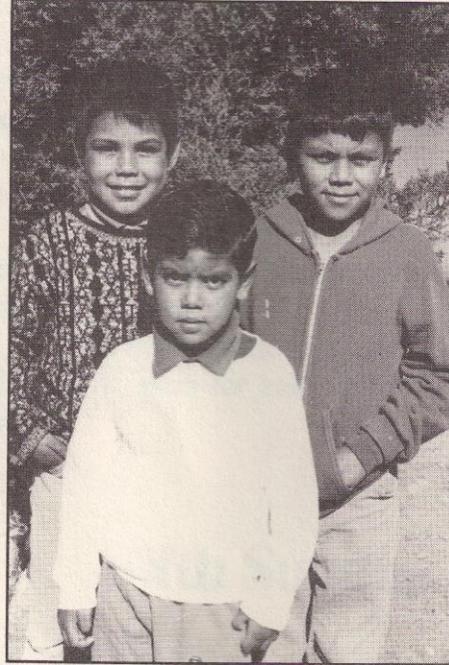
26 young people at the City were baptized into Christ so far this year, 11 on November 3rd. Some people you might remember were Elidia Rodriguez, Felipe Canas, Arturo Vasquez, and Patty Munoz.

The Annual Banquet was held at Painter Ave. Whittier, CA congregation March 7 for the first time. Luis Bizueth was our speaker. Donations of \$13,739 were given.

We took 5 members of the Lopez family. Many of you will remember Christina (8) and Luz Maria (5) Lopez. Their mother asked us to take them. She couldn't support them.



The Moreno- Lozano family also came early 1992, [Jesus (9,) Mario (7) and Juan (5)]. They were brought by their mother and her 80 yr old grandparents who couldn't afford to support them.



The most difficult day in City History: May 12, 1992

On May 12, 1992, our City of Children family suffered its worst day. Four of our children drowned. Forty-three went to the beach. Thirty-three Mexicans went with Blanca and Chano and eight Americans. Chano drove the bus to the beach about 1:00 p.m. The beach is one of the nicest beaches in Ensenada. We have used this beach with many visiting groups. It is next to the military base south of town. Ensenada is at the end of a 12 mile bay with an island at the entrance. The waves were small and the water appeared relatively calm. After being there about 20 minutes, Pilar said 27 were in the water playing in small groups along the beach. Those in the water waist deep or more were caught by a strong undertow. Those who were out of the water ran to help those who were caught. Yohanna Gonzalez came running all excited. She had been in the water playing with Yanet. When the undertow struck, she saw her twin sister pulled under. She thought she had fallen in a hole. Phillip Camp, the 6 foot 5 inch Youth Minister, swam out to where she was last seen, but was unable to find her. A few minutes later Diana Munoz washed up down the beach. Blanca was the first to reach her. Melanie Lawrence is a trained medical technician. She started CPR with Phillip assisting. CPR was continued for about 20 minutes. Chano had found a woman with a Bronco to drive out on the beach to transport her to the military hospital. CPR was continued all the way there, but it was too late. Marianna had been playing with Diana when she was pulled under. Luz Maria saw her brother pulled under, but no one saw Francisco. This all occurred at one time which created a lot of confusion. The Americans didn't realize at first that 3 others were missing. They thought Diana

was it. Blanca called Luis from the hospital. The other Americans and Chano helped gather the children to get them on the bus. They stopped when they saw Luis and Chayo coming. Chayo got on the bus. Pilar went back to the beach with Luis to look for the others. They walked up and down the beach for over two hours, looking and praying. Someone had thought they saw Francisco running down the beach after Diana was found. This caused us to have some hope for him. Luis contacted all the authorities, notifying them of the accident. The Rescue team from the Navy and Marines started searching, but nothing was found. The newspapers charged the management of the home as being negligent, but their report was totally inaccurate. The radio and the TV weren't much better. After the head of the DIF was interviewed on the radio, stories started to change to reflect the tragic accident it was. Diana's funeral was held Friday at noon. The Board of Trustees attended with brethren from Diamond Bar, La Habra, and Yorba Linda. Many of her school mates joined her mother and family for the services that Servando Suarez, the preacher in Ensenada, performed. We were still missing the other three children. We started our own search. Saturday morning we got to the beach with some teen boys at 8:00 a.m. Carlos and I saw some soldiers on the beach. Francisco had washed up. We drove back toward town to get Luis. He was searching along the beach in that area. When we arrived back at the military base, the press, police, and others had gathered. Luis had to identify the body and answer questions. Francisco was taken to the DIF's funeral parlor. We had a call Sunday at noon. Jesus had been found in the morning near the same spot. Luis again had to go for identification and questions. Luis, Carlos, Guillermo, and I left for the beach at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, praying we would find Yanet. As Luis and I started down the beach, we saw her laying in the edge of the surf. Guillermo and I went back to call the police and the coroner while Luis and Carlos stayed with her. She was taken to the DIF's funeral parlor. We had services for all three at 2:00 p.m. and buried them at 3:00 p.m. It was a closed casket service that Servando performed.

The DIF, Welfare department, of Ensenada was a great help. They provided a good part of the cost of the funerals. Most importantly, they stood with us when the media tried to blame us. Their support, along with the support from the State DIF in Mexicali and all the other government agencies involved, was really good. We experienced no problems from any agency or family because of the accident. We praise God for not letting this destroy the City.

In Memory of Our Four Children

Drowned May 12, 1992

Diana Munoz

May 24, 1979



Survived by:
Patti & Joanna

Jesus Vasquez

March 20, 1979



Survived by:
Luz Maria & Arturo

Yanet Gonzalez

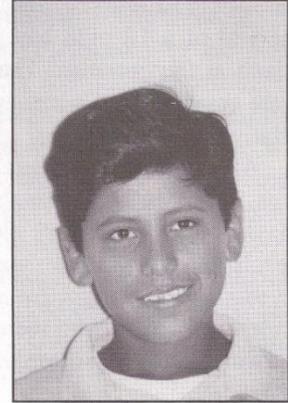
March 2, 1979



Survived by:
Lizeth & Yoanna

Francisco Perez

October 4, 1978



Survived by:
Alfredo

We can find comfort in our Father's words:

The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. – Psalms 34:18

Jesus said, let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. – Matthew 19:14

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. – John 14:1-2

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. – Romans 8:28

The Multipurpose fund had grown to \$100,528.50 as of May 25, 1992. By August it had increased to \$138,402.

Luis Bizueth and Blanca Cortez were married in August.

Raul Castillo was baptized with 27 more so far this year. His father was sent to prison for dealing drugs so he couldn't visit anymore. 431 had become Christians since the work began.

The middle age girl's dorm was completed at a total cost of \$110,862.

Curtis Allen Yorba Linda was elected to the Board of Trustees.

Carole and I helped Xavier Franco with funds to complete the Lomas Turinas congregation church building in Tijuana.

We were caring for 140 children.

Araceli Peralta and another staff member were baptized into Christ.

Donations were \$772,299. Expenses were \$706,269. Cash in banks were \$322,536.

1993

The Annual Banquet was held again at the Whittier congregation's building. There were 350 in attendance. Donations of \$7,352 were collected. This brought the funds for the Multipurpose building to \$189,631.

We completed the remodeling of middle age boys dorm. We also had to redo the plumbing in the teen girl's dorm.

Chano Cassarubias broke an eleven year state record for the 800 meter race for his age group.

We calculated the cost of mixing and pouring concrete at \$6 per yard compared to ready mix at \$38 per yard. Using the teen groups to pour the driveways proved very economical and beneficial giving them a sense of helping build the place.

The following scheduled weeks to visit.

West Lafayette IN., West Nashville Heights, TN, Lipscomb High School, Murfreesboro, TN, Springfield, MO., Knoxville, TN, Richardson, TN., Bellevue, WA., Antioch, TN., Henderson TN., Livermore, CA., Sylvan Oaks, CA., Rancho Cordova, CA., Bellingham, WA., and Tigard, OR.,

Groups were pouring so much concrete we asked them to slow down so there would be enough work for all the teams visiting.

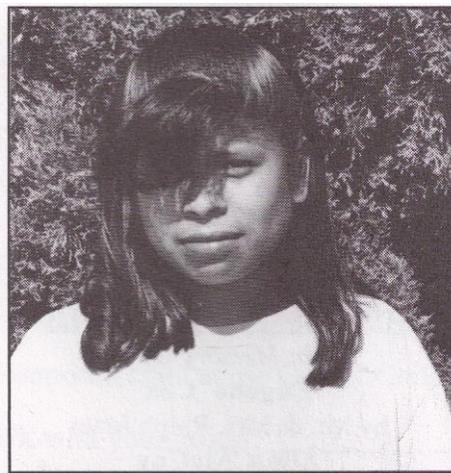
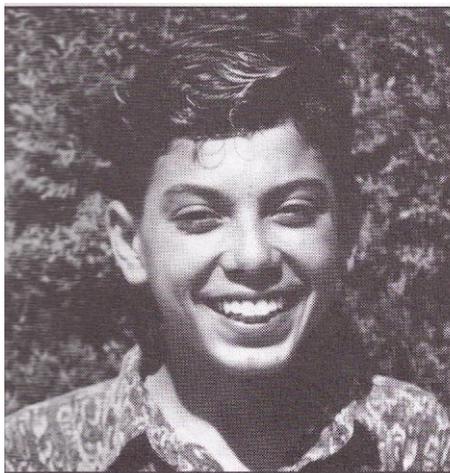
Carole was ill with Hepatitis A and Typhoid and had to be hospitalized.

Christina Lopez and Jesus Lozano were baptized with 4 others. Jennifer Henderson, the daughter of the North Blvd., Murfreesboro youth group was also baptized.

Pilar and Fabiana passed their entrance exams for Lipscomb and was accepted to start college there. The Board of Trustees had voted to send both these girls to Lipscomb.



Alejandro Guzman placed first and Elvia Almanza placed third out of 180 students in their grade. Alejandro later became an architect. Elvia put herself through school and became a CPA.



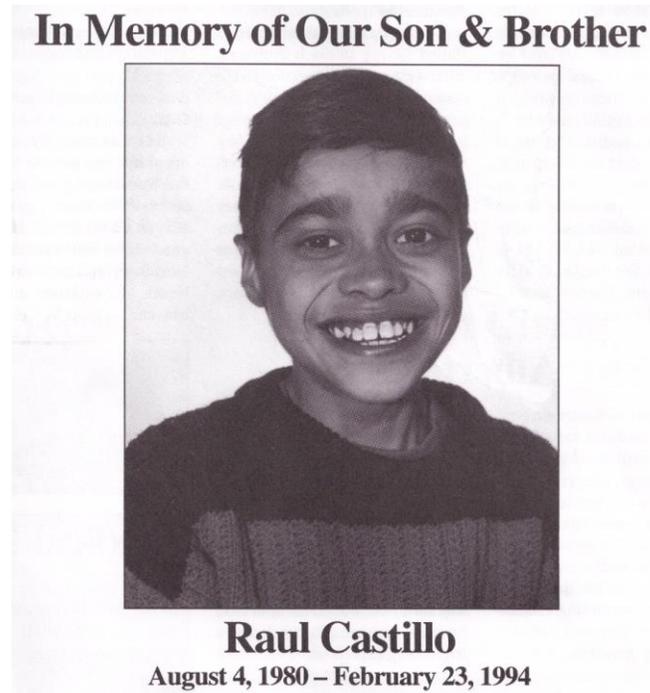
We were hooked up to the El Sauzal water system in January. We were so thankful until we started getting billed \$3,000 per month. We fought all year with the water department over the excessive charges.

Dr. Luis Bizueth was let go and Chano and Chayo Galvan were made the Mexican directors. They had been working as the Assistant Directors.

We were caring for 132 children. We reduced our staff from 37 to 28 and went back to a six day work week from a 5. We had to give raises to get everyone to agree to the new 6 day schedule. Scheduling the 5 day week was a nightmare.

Donations were \$708,051. Expenses were \$779,183. Cash in banks were \$325,963.

1994



February 23, 1994 was the day Raul Castillo died from Cystic Fibrosis. Raul's faith was seen even up to the end. He had a smile that touched everybody's heart. His big brown eyes were beautiful. His room mother Rosie loved him deeply spending hours with him at the hospital.

Recently a visitor asked, "How do you measure success in this work?" I thought for a moment and said, "Let me tell you about Raul Castillo." He came to live at the home when he was 4 years old. It was discovered he had cystic fibrosis, a degenerative lung disease. His last two years required extensive care, medication, and oxygen. He had difficulty just breathing. In spite of all this, everyone who met him was inspired by his big brown eyes, his cheerful smile, and his great attitude. He learned the gospel and became a Christian while living at the home. Three days before Raul died he looked up confidently and said, "I want to go home," and he pointed up toward heaven. In his 13 years on this earth he learned and obeyed everything necessary to spend eternity with God. *That is Success!*

Our medical expenses were \$12,500 for that month.

This was the summer the work project for visiting teams was making blocks for the great wall around the City of Children.

We had a well dug 80 feet deep and it was 8' in diameter but there was no water.

The water bill we hadn't paid had grown to \$31,000.

Bill Simcock did a few programs for us in Colorado and South Dakota in June.

Pilar and Faby completed their first year at Lipscomb thanks to the help of many donors.

The electrical company was convinced to reduce our rate from commercial to residential resulting in a 30% savings. We installed our own transformer to breakdown our electricity. This resulted in additional savings.

We increased the size of our teen visitor dorms to help accommodate larger teams. We have room for 20 in each of the visitor teen dorms. We also have 2 additional dorms accommodating 12 more in each.

Groups visiting for a week; Fresno, Ca, West Lafayette, IN, Lipscomb High School, Nashville, TN, Murfreesboro, TN., Antioch, TN. Bellevue and Northwest WA, Southwest, Jonesboro, AR, Burnaby, Canada, Westend, Knoxville, TN, Hendersonville, TN, Charlotte, NC, Rancho Cordova, CA , Bellingham, WA, Sylvan Oaks, CA, Livermore, CA, Santa Rosa, CA, Lakeview, WA, Springfield, MI. Phoenix, AZ , Tigard, OR.

The Board decided not to hold the annual banquet this year because of declining interest and donations.

We were caring for 115 children at the end of the school year with a staff of 31

This was the year the groups started making cement blocks for the wall around the property as their work project. They also mixed and poured concrete driveways to the mediana dorm and the mediano kitchen. Diana Lara called it the Freeway. Chano said we have more paved streets than El Sauzal.

Dr. Ernesto Martinez was hired to be our new doctor for \$400 per month. Dr. Rosenda Goldhaum , his wife, was also hired as our new dentist for \$300 per month to care for all the kids teeth. Dr. Ron Wright a dentist from Murfreesboro TN. Worked on the kid's teeth. He donated a lot of supplies for Dr. Rosenda after his visit.



Lupita was burned over half her body. She had lived with us for 5-1/2 years. Many of you came to know about the home as a result of prayer requests for her. I still remember the first time we saw her. She was 4 years old and had just arrived at the home. She was being bathed by Miguel, a medical student. I had never seen anyone burnt this bad. She was crying. The whole front and both sides of her body were a giant scar. She had several areas that had not yet healed. I walked out of the dorm with tears running down my face and stood outside. I could not quit crying for 20 minutes no matter what I did. My wife, Carole, decided she was not going to get involved with this child, but God had other plans. During the next few days Carole spent more time helping care for Lupita. Later Lupita needed to fly to Galveston to the Shriner's Burn Institute, Carole took her. She was appointed her legal medical guardian. Lupita stayed with us after each surgery so Carole could care for her special needs. Lupita learned English very fast and became bilingual. Earlier this year Carole had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Susan Kay at the Shriners Orthopedic Hospital in Los Angeles. She is a plastic surgeon and offered to take over Lupita's care. This would end the quarterly trips to Galveston for surgeries and checkups that lasted anywhere from 3 days to over a week. Lupita had an excellent doctor in Texas, although he never took the time to talk with either Carole or Lupita. Carole took Lupita to Los Angeles to meet Dr. Kay. She spent a long time examining Lupita and talking with her. She asked her what was bothering her and what she really wanted to have done. Lupita asked, "Can you fix my ears so I can wear earrings like the other girls?" Dr. Kay told her she would not only fix them for her during her first surgery, she would also pierce them for her and put earrings in at the same time. In August, Lupita underwent a 5-1/2 hour surgery on her neck, mouth, and ears. The earrings Lupita brought to the hospital were too small so Dr. Kay made her some while she was in surgery and replaced them later with gold hoops she had bought her as a special gift. Lupita now looks forward to her visits to the hospital. She was able to discuss not only reconstructive surgeries, but also cosmetic surgeries that can be done as she matures. Dr. Kay explained tissue expanders to Lupita and told her to

let her know if she ever wanted to have them done on her face. Lupita thought about it for several months and told Dr. Kay she wanted them. Dr. Kay told her she was excited and was hoping she would let her do them. This procedure requires two surgeries several weeks apart with continual treatment between. It must be scheduled about a year in advance and has been scheduled for next October 11. Lupita proves the power of prayer. This happy 9 year old girl amazes the doctors and nurses every time they check her. Your prayers made this possible. We all need to be encouraged to pray more about our problems and have the patience and trust that God will answer. He is waiting for us to obey his direction given in Phil. 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Let us give God our stress and build our faith as He answers our prayers.

Lou Shannon, elder at the Mission Viejo Church of Christ and David Giboney, our printer, Inland Valley congregation both were elected to the Board of Trustees to fill vacancies.

This was the first year Mow Wright came to the City of Children.

At the end of the year we were caring for 131 children. We had 24 unsponsored children.

Donations totaled \$749,216. Expenses were \$779,526. Cash in Banks totaled \$401,642.

1995

It was very cold this winter. Donations were solicited to buy blankets for the poor who were living in cardboard shacks. Enough funds were donated to purchase 700 blankets that were distributed through the teachers in local schools in poor areas. Diana Lara's brother was one of the kids given one at the Zorrillo School.



The Annual Banquet was held February 25 at the Whittier congregation's building.

Carole and I started donating funds to Mario Banuelos of San Quintin to build a house for his family and start a church building.

Groups visiting for a week; Columbia Academy Columbia, TN, Huntsville, AL , Fresno, CA , West Lafayette, IN , Lipscomb High School, Woodson Chapel, TN , Westend Nashville ,TN , Harpeth Hills ,TN ,Ft Myers, FL , St. Petersburg ,FL , Murfreesboro ,TN , Springfield, MO , Antioch , TN , Westend , Knoxville, TN , Jonesboro, AR , Charlotte ,NC , Hendersonville, TN , Tigard, OR , Rancho Cordova , CA, Livermore, CA Santa Rosa, CA Lakeview ,WA, Tacoma WA.

After 27 months the water department finally agreed to meet with us to negotiate a settlement of our water bill. All the other times we met they claimed the bill was correct and nothing could be done. They originally computed the first 3 months of 1993 as one family living at the home. This is what drove the price to the outrageous amount. The Mexican director negotiated a change in 1993 to 23 families which reduced it to about \$1,200 per month, but with the interest charges and late payments, the bill still grew at an outrageous pace. On December 1, 1994 we owed about \$37,000 U.S. This was cut in half when the Mexican government devalued the peso. This also cut the monthly rate in half. After the formalities, I told them I was representing the donors. We were not asking for free water or special consideration, only a rate fair for what we are doing. We are not a business, but a home for many poor children because their families could not care for them. In the U.S. a family of 4 in an apartment pays about \$10 per month for water. We have 160 people living at the home which would be 40 families which should cost about \$400 per month.

They said in Mexico, the average family was 4.5 which computed to 36 families. I asked why it wasn't computed on that basis originally. They only had excuses of not being informed of our numbers. I told them to forget the past, refigure our bill from January 19.93 to present using the figure of 36 families living there and drop the interest payments and late charges. Then I would pay the bill immediately.

We paid the water bill in full on July 5th. The bill was \$12,753 which works out to \$472 per month. They forgave \$11,466 in late charges and interest payments which had accrued because

of the dispute. We thank you all for your prayers and help with this problem. We praise God for the successful conclusion.

Oracio Cruz was given to us with a brother and 2 sisters.

Our dental office needed a new x-ray unit. Dr. Mike Jones of White Bluff, TN, led the successful fund raising effort for it.

Donations were \$709,599. Expenses were \$632,375. Cash in banks were \$547,800

1996

Annual Banquet Dinner was held on March 2, 1996

Steve Diggs, Antioch TN, designed and published a new poster for City of Children which was mailed to all donating churches.



Changed all the references of groups to Mission teams to better explain the purpose of their visits. Team rules were first introduced along with standardization of arrival and departure times. Team rules were printed in the newsletter. It was suggested teams enjoy their trips more when a daily schedule is planned in advance and submitted for approval and correction at least a week prior to arrival.

Tigard, OR brought and donated 37 used bicycles for our children.



Groups coming for a week; Dangerfield, TX, Huntsville, AL ,Fresno- Sanger- Madera- Lindsay, CA. GAC Atlanta, GA, Columbia, TN, McKinney, TX , Springfield, MO, Murfreesboro, TN, Rancho Cordova- Lodi, CA , Tigard- Portland, OR, Antioch, TN, Knoxville, TN, Lebanon, TN, Manchester, TN , Jonesboro, AR, Huntsville, AL, Charlotte, NC, Hendersonville, TN, Santa Rosa, CA , Corvallis, OR, Phoenix, AZ

Cesar Valdez head of our maintenance and construction crew was baptized after setting in on the daily Bible classes and then having a study.

Ezell Harding shipped 64 boxes of Christmas gifts for our unsponsored children.

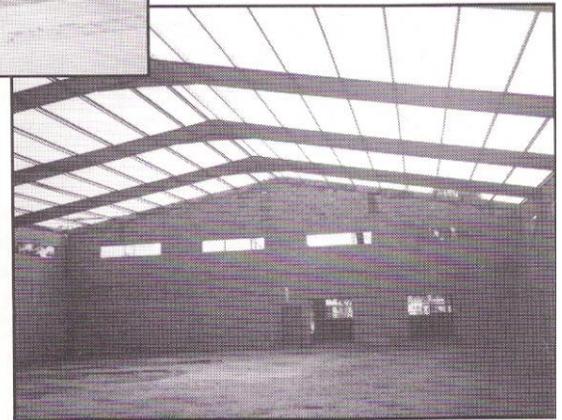
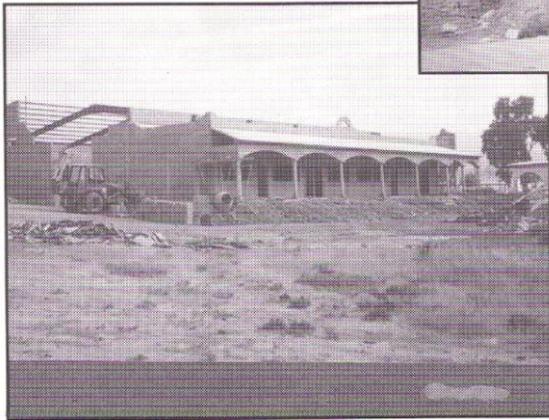
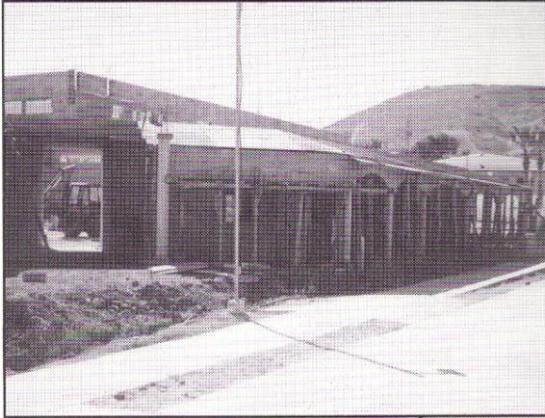
Total Donations \$704,109. Expenses \$649,656. Total Cash in banks \$463,505.

1997

Mow Wright was elected to the Board of Trustees.

The Annual City of Children banquet was held March 1 at the Whittier church building.

Multipurpose Building was completed by our contractor for a cost of \$197,000.



Dedication of the new multipurpose building took place on March 15. We had a meal before the program which started 2:00 pm.



MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

Our new building is finished. We are very pleased to have a new worship facility and gym. It turned out even better than any of us expected. God truly blessed us with a good engineer and contractor to build it. We have 6 large classrooms in addition to the auditorium/gym. The bathrooms have 4 toilets and 4 showers to provide additional facilities for our visiting mission teams.



We had difficulty finding weeks for everyone who applied this year.

The first Annual Team Leaders meeting was held January 24-27 with representatives from 15 congregations. Lee Milam led the meetings. The new leader's manual was used as a guide for the meetings. Sunday services were held for the first time in the new multipurpose building.

This was just one of the many encouraging letters we received. It showed how God was blessing the lives of those who come to serve as well as their families. We printed many letters and comments from our visitors for everyone to understand how God blesses those who come and serve him by serving our children.

Dear Stan,

Early last summer, my son, Chad, visited the City of Children with our youth group. The experience was awesome. He found it very hard to leave the children behind. I can't express the spiritual growth that occurred that week, not only for my son, but for all the teenagers in our group. The glow of their faces as they stepped off the plane was something I will never forget. God's work did not stop there. My husband had been away from the church for some time. The week after Chad came home, things began to change. My husband came to the worship service and has been there ever since. He said if Chad could go to another country to do God's work then he could be at church on Sundays. Our prayers have been answered. All of our lives have been affected by Chad's mission trip to the City of Children. I know of several other families that have been changed forever. Parents are back at church with their children. Teenagers have stayed active in the church because of the bonds they formed with each other during the trip.

Three of our youth were baptized in the Pacific Ocean before coming home. I could go on but I think I have made my point. The City of Children has made a big difference in all our lives and we are very thankful for it. God does work in miraculous ways and we are living proof!

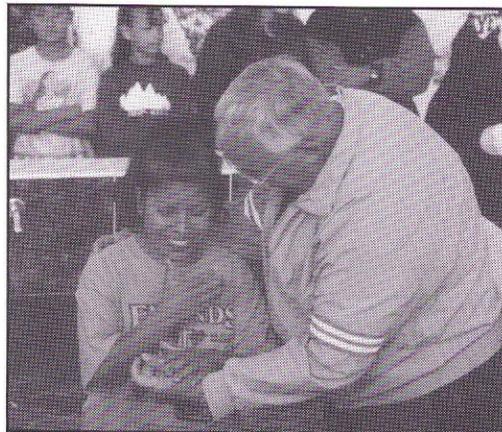
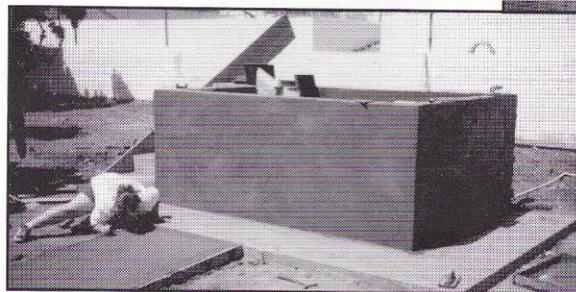
Rene' Coker

Rolling Hills Church of Christ

DeSoto, Texas

April 2, 1997 I took a group of 10 from the Mayfair congregation Huntsville, AL to San Quintin to show them the needs of this poor struggling congregation. Some didn't want to go but arm twisting worked. This was the beginning of Mayfair's involvement with Baja Missions.

April 1997 we had the greatest number of baptisms ever with 29. It started with Irene Almanza. She wanted to be baptized at the home but we had torn down the old church building and baptistery. Cesar built a new one in the devotional area in three days to help.



We completely remodeled and enlarged the American Kitchen and had it tiled in 8 weeks before the summer teams arrived. Our tile man, Hector, worked very long hours to get it done for us. Hector did every tile job at the City. We paid him roughly \$200 per week.

A \$60 per person fee was established as the cost to spend a week at the City to pay for utilities, work supplies, drinking water, and the use of two vans.

Cesar had to retire due to his diabetes attacks.

Jose Velasquez attended the youth Conference in Tijuana and was baptized there.

Francisco Vasquez returned to their mother but after three weeks returned because his mom didn't want him. She told him that her pigs she raised were more important to her than him or his sister.

Teams selected were; Dangerfield, TX, Lipscomb University, Fresno, CA, Huntsville, AL, GAC Atlanta, GA ,De Soto, TX, McKinney ,TX, Murfreesboro ,TN, Harpeth Hills- Brentwood TN, Antioch- Cookeville TN, Tigard OR, Rancho Cordova-Livermore- Fresno CA, Lebanon-Manchester-Knoxville TN, Charlotte NC, Henderson TN, Santa Rosa CA, Corvallis OR, Albuquerque NM, Lakeview WA.

Victor Pelayo returned and was sent to preaching school in Torreon at the request of Lupe Vasquez.



The start of Baja Missions is described in this article I wrote in the fall of 1997. Two sets of articles about the Baja Mission work were included in the August and November City of Children newsletters.

Baja Missions

Since we have more mission teams requesting visit opportunities at the City of Children than time available, I am proposing we establish a new work for the Lord in Baja. These mission teams are a tremendous resource for the Lord's work in Mexico if we can channel their work into productive efforts. The work I envision is building church buildings for the poor congregations, providing Vacation Bible Schools and mission efforts in the community. I propose we set the work up as a division of the City of Children because we need a staging area. The home is the natural place to use because of the extra space. This will also provide opportunities for our teens to participate in helping. Learning to serve and give to others has

long been a needed addition to their education. Ricardo has volunteered to help with this work. As a pilot project, I suggest we start in San Quintin.



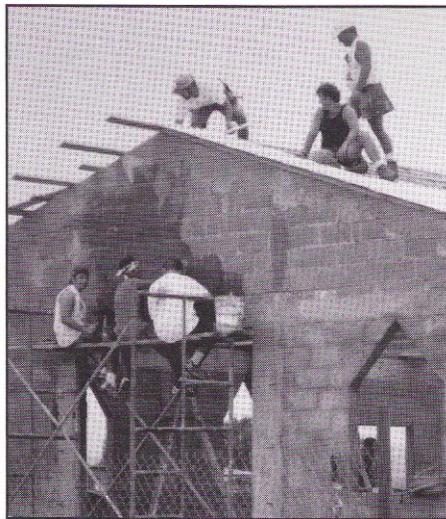
Carole and I provided partial support for Brother Mario Banuelos for a couple of years. We visited and helped start a new building pictured below for the congregation.



The funding has mainly been from Sierra Madre and the Stouts. San Quintin is 130 miles south of Ensenada. The members are mainly Indians who work in the fields as pickers. They have about 50 in attendance on Sunday. They meet in a plywood shack with a car battery for electricity with two little D.C. bulbs. The building they are building is 33' by 75'. The walls need three more rows of blocks to be complete. The floor needs to be poured and they need a roof, doors and windows. I have tried to interest members to help this congregation. These brethren are truly in need. They had old homemade benches until we gave them some of our old chairs. Their communion trays are the old ones we had in storage. They have many needs like many of the congregations in Baja. ***Last year, Brother Mario's' wife asked a question***

which really started my whole thought process about their needs. She wanted to know why every holiday hundreds of Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Pentecostal members visited to work with their local churches and no one ever came from the Church of Christ. This is a sad truth. Brethren, we need to visit and help our poor brethren. Let us determine to change and make sure this doesn't happen anymore. Let us work to encourage more visits and serve our brethren in Baja. This will build our faith at the same time as we are helping them. I had asked Lee Milam about visiting San Quintin on their visit, but he didn't want to spend a whole day away from our children. God must have changed his mind during their visit. I suspect God wanted him to go there. Ten including him from their group went with me April 2 to visit. They saw the need and became excited about coming back for a week on July 6 to roof the building. A group of 20 is planning to come if approved by the elders. They will stay at a motel on the bay called The Old Mill four to a room. I promised to pick them up in San Diego and take them down. We are working on supplies and lists to provide all the needs for this group. Food will be sandwiches and one meal at a restaurant per day. Once we complete the building in San Quintin, I would like to see us build some classrooms that could be used as sleeping quarters. They also need a kitchen. Then San Quintin could be used for outreach programs by visiting mission teams just like the teams visiting the City of Children. A great alternative when we are full. After this is all done, I believe we need to find another place and do it all over again.

Stan Stout, President City of Children



16 of our teens joined 8 from Yorba Linda, CA to go paint the church building in San Quintin.

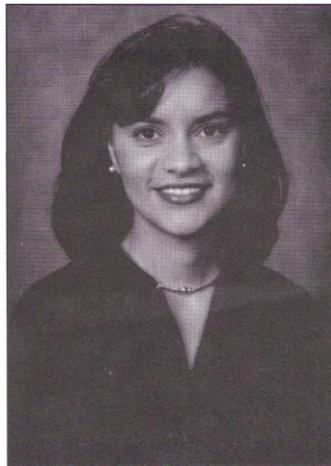
Later 38 from the City went to Murua congregation to clean and paint their building and build a new covering for their entrance.

Elvia and Irene Almanza and Diana Lara left the home this year. Elvia and Irene got an apartment in town we arranged for them. It was a very difficult for them to leave. Elvia was in

her last year of high school but was an adult. They had never known anything other than being cared for at the City. Diana Lara went home to help her mother care for her brother and sisters.

During 1997 50 were baptized at the City of Children bringing the total number of baptisms to 512.

Fabiana Felix graduated with a degree in political science from Lipscomb University on December 20.



Total Donations were \$774,069. Expenses were \$871,495. Cash in banks were \$452,730.

1998

The second Annual Team Leaders meeting was held in January.

The Annual Banquet was held with Mike Gunnels and John Harkins each matching donations for the new baby dorm. \$25,000 was raised at the banquet and they donated \$50,000 plus another \$25,000 so there would be sufficient funds to build the dorm. They also donated two new IBM computers for our kids to use for homework. Six of our kids spoke at the banquet. Lee Milam presented a music video about the City of Children work.

Judy Opel and Mildred Covalt completely organized and planned our banquet.

Mow arranged with the Greens of Charlotte,NC to donate funds to purchase two forced air heaters for the baby and preschool dorms.

The wall around the property was finally being completed. The last segment which was the east wall cost 40% more than the first due to rising cost of steel and cement. The price was \$32,428.

Cesar gutted the old Mexican Director's house and made it into another motel for visitors.

Total baptisms so far are 520. We were caring for 107 children with a staff of 31.

Our teens traveled to Valle de Trinidad over Memorial Day to paint their church building and classrooms inside and out.



Bernabe and Jhedi Rosis were hired to be room parents and for him to be our preacher.

Our new video about the City of Children "To Love is to Serve" was sent out to every donor October 1.

Donations were \$800,543. Expenses were \$779,222. Cash in banks were \$512,965.

1999

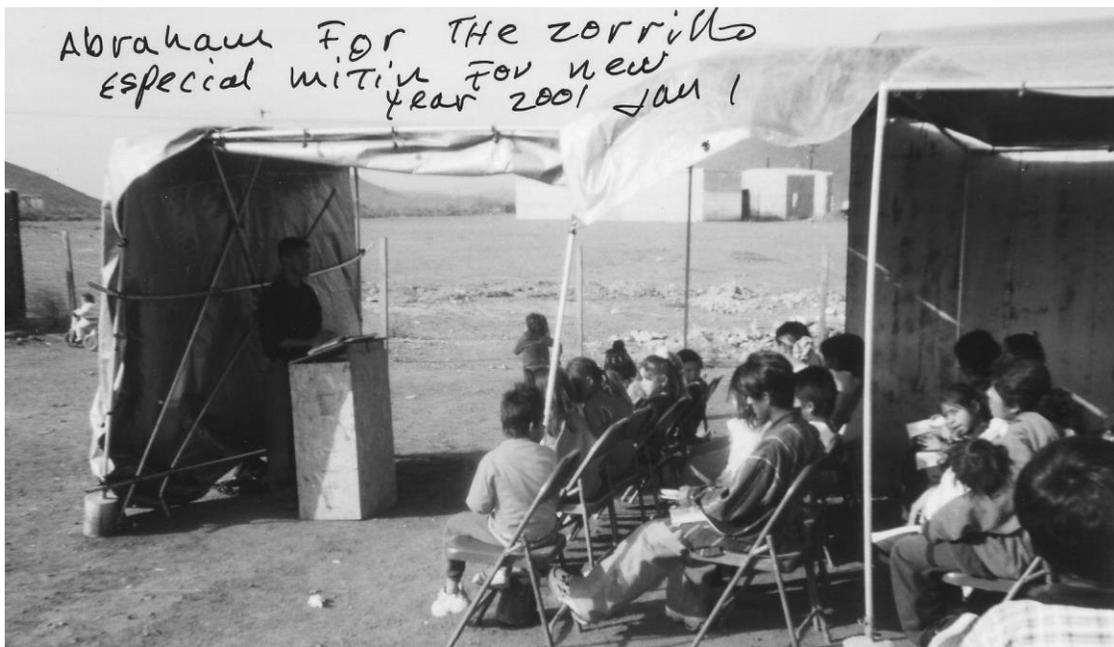
Ivan Sanchez (9) was given to us because his mother was dying of cancer. He got to go the hospital once for a last visit before she died.



Our new black T shirt with the City on a hill emblem was introduced and sold to visitors.

Ken Scarborough, of Upland, CA. donated a soda fountain for our American Kitchen. In addition his work crew came and painted the outside of the preschool dorm.

The Zorrillo Church was started by Abraham and Blanca who had just graduated from the Baja Bible Institute. They were supported by the Lomas Turinas congregation and the City of Children congregation. A lot was purchased from the government for \$3800 to build the new congregation.



Our Annual Banquet was held again at Whittier with Mow Wright as the speaker. \$38,612 was raised for the purchase of a new tractor.

Gary Halford was elected to the Board of Trustees.

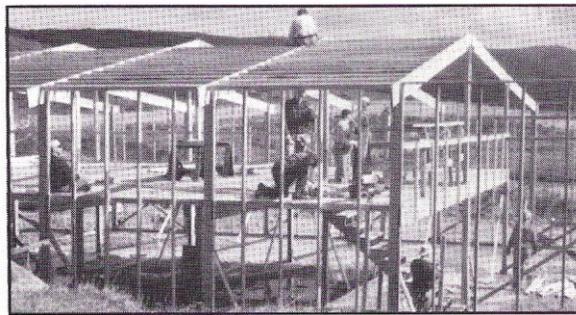
Mayfair sent a mission and dental team to San Quintin. They returned with a girl who had just become a Christian, Gloria. She was hired as a receptionist at the City.

Tim Petty was elected to the Board.

40 were baptized bringing the total to 561 baptisms so far.

The 2 foot addition to the great wall was completed for security purposes. It was a lot tougher climbing over an 8 foot fence to steal our stuff.

The Hammerheads from Huntsville came and built the barn in a week at the City. Cesar and our crew did all the finish work.

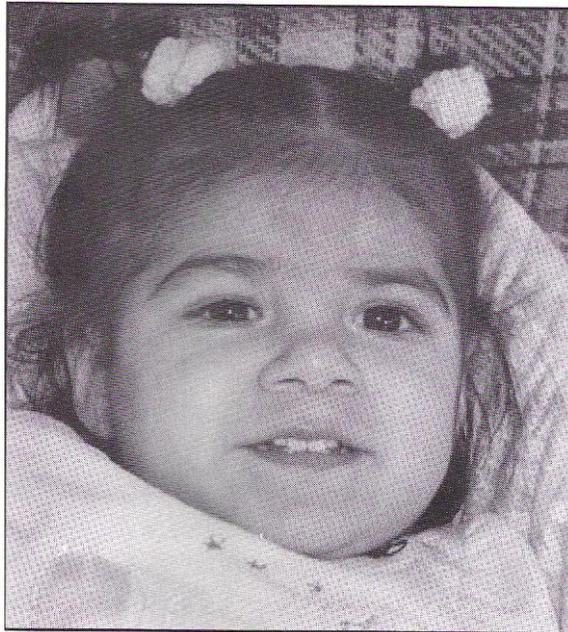


A bathroom was added to the teen girl's dorm so they would have enough room for them all to shower before school.

New beds were made by Cesar for the whole baby dorm.

Just before Christmas we received a call from the Procuradura, which is an office of the court. Sonia, the attorney in charge, had visited our home the week before and was really impressed with the organization, cleanliness, children and staff. She called because she needed to place an 18-month-old girl that no one wanted. The father had beaten, Karla, so badly that she was in Acoma for 7 days. Upon arrival at the hospital, her heart had stopped and she had to be resuscitated. The mother acted crazy, yelling and screaming at Karla the whole week she was in the hospital so the court took Karla away from her. The father was put in prison; hopefully for life. When Karla was released from the hospital, they couldn't find anyone who would take her. Even the government run temporary home refused, so Sonia called us. She asked us to take her until the New Year when she thought the government home would take her. After reviewing the facts, we agreed. When Karla arrived, she had a blank look and was very weak. She moaned all the time. She had a broken shoulder plus she held her legs rigid and did not move them. She would hardly eat. She was so traumatized it was like it was a body with no one inside. She was placed in the preschool dorm and we took her to our doctor. He thought she

could recover some. It was the middle of January and still no one would take her. We started seeing improvement in her condition. The staff and teen girls took care of and wanted her. They were all drawn closer and closer to the child that no one wanted. In our next staff meeting, we decided to keep her. The government had said they would help us financially and provide someone to care for her, but as usual, nothing came of it. It didn't matter because our mothers have taken outstanding care of Karla. She smiles and tries to touch your face when you talk to her. She recognizes people, eats regular food and enjoys TV with the other kids. Join us in praying for Karla's continued recovery.



Tim Petty resigned.

Donations were \$890,272. Expenses were \$774,402. Cash in banks were \$652,935.

2000

Our maintenance crew went to the Ensenada Church building on Cortez and put a new roof on their building.

Teams coming in 2000 were Dangerfield, TX., Lipscomb University, Abilene University, Mayfair, GAC, Woodward Park, Fresno, CA., Laurel, Knoxville, TN., Desoto, TX., Murfreesboro, TN., Jackson, TN., Savannah, GA., Bentonville, AR., Lafayette, IN., Antioch, TN., Springfield, MO., McKnight Rd. MO., Charlotte, NC., Jackson Park, TN., Lebanon, TN., West End Knoxville, TN., Western Hills, TN., Forrest Mills, TN., Lewisburg, TN., Sycamore, TN., Collegedale, TN., Jefferson Ave, TN., Tigard, OR., Dallas, TX.,

Fabiana Felix graduated from Pepperdine with a master's in public policy. The Board of Trustees voted to pay off her \$38,000 student loan that hadn't been paid by individual donations.

We purchased the house in San Diego for \$289,000 which was \$64,000 more than we sold the Norco house for. We made that short fall up in travel expenses fast. The Board authorized \$50,000 to put in the walls, yards, trees, landscaping, sprinklers, and patio. The actual cost came out to be \$58,000. Carole and I donated the overage of \$8,000 personally.

The Mow Dome was built according to his plan with a view of the islands and seating for over 200.

The DIF came out with a new policy that children should not be separated from their parents. Many children were sent back to parents that couldn't care for them and didn't want them. This was a disaster for many kids.

Donations were \$1,035,893. Expenses were \$785,717. Cash in Banks were \$713,848

2001

Annual Banquet was held at Whittier March 3rd. \$ 8,345 was raised.

The Board voted to raise average worker's pay to \$400 per month. This was a pretty substantial raise for the Mexican staff.

Lipscomb provided \$3,500 for the lot in San Vicente to build a new church building there because they were meeting under a tree.

Patty and Ricardo celebrated the birth of their second son May 9th.

Hammerheads built most of the Zorrillo church building May 12-19. Our construction crew from the City spent 8 weeks completing the work after they left.

We were caring for 107 children.

Lupita celebrated her sixteenth birthday and had surgery number 38. We had already spent 2 years trying to adopt her.

We helped the Obrera congregation put a new roof on their building and build a house for Brother Campos, their preacher.

We were caring for 90 children.

We trained Alejandra at the City for 3 months because she was going to be the new director at the City of Angels in Cozamel.

Bud Smith resigned from the Board.



We started work on the San Vicente church building.

We provided funds to build the Florido church building.

We helped with construction on the Flores Magon church building and Antioch visited that congregation for the first time.

We started helping Ariel Villa at Murua because his wife was dying of cancer.

Just before the first of December we submitted letters to the Ensenada Aduana to get permission to take the Christmas gifts across the border. We followed the same procedure we had used for the past 14 years to cross the Christmas gifts. On the 3rd of December, we were notified at a special meeting that the Aduana would not give permission letters for any donations or gifts to cross the border because their tax revenue had declined. This created a serious problem because we had a garage full of Christmas gifts in San Diego and over 100 children in Mexico expecting something for Christmas. We made the decision to take the gifts across the border without declaring them because we didn't have the required receipts and

detailed lists of the contents for each package. This is what is needed to make the legal declaration and pay the proper tax. Also everything would have to be unwrapped and valued by the Mexican officials so they could estimate the tax. This would have taken days, not hours, and a mountain of paper work. Carole and I started taking gifts across the border in the back of our van. Due to the large quantity we enlisted some help. Carlos, the Mexican preacher in Chula Vista, works for Dorians in Tijuana so he would take a couple small ones across everyday and leave them at his mother's home. Maggie and Arturo who live by us also took a few across once for us, but got stopped at the border and were charged \$75 after the border guards unwrapped all the gifts. After that I decided we better do it ourselves because in the past we were always able to reason and talk our way out of the problems because it was for little orphaned children. We started taking them again, but it was obvious we couldn't get it done before Christmas. We called Ricardo to bring our pickup from the home. We loaded the pickup with 5 bicycles and a few smaller gifts. They took it across, getting the green light so they were not stopped. A few days later we had Ricardo bring the truck back from Mexico because we had some very large boxes from Cookeville, TN. We loaded 7 of 9 of the large boxes and about 15 other smaller boxes of gifts from sponsors. Ricardo got the green light again at the border and proceeded to Ensenada. After going a few miles, he was stopped by the tax police who are representatives of the Aduana. He was taken back to the border and detained for about 4 hours. They confiscated the truck and all the contents. He returned the following day with an attorney, but they would not return the contents of the truck and they assessed a fine of \$1,538 to get the truck. Ricardo returned to the border Saturday but they said they did not have the paperwork ready so he made an appointment to return on Monday to pick up the truck. It was still not ready so he returned Tuesday and was finally able to get it. We asked if we could purchase the gifts back from the Aduana but they refused. We expected to be fined and taxed if we were stopped but we never thought they would take the gifts away from the children. Ricardo said everyone was sympathetic about the problem except the head Aduana who took office 2 months ago. The clerk, who unwrapped the gifts and made the list for the Aduana, was even familiar with the home because she was from Ensenada. Ricardo even had the newsletter with all the pictures of our children so they could match up the faces with the gifts, but the Aduana chief didn't care. He said because Ricardo was a Mexican he should have known the law. Carole and I feel so bad about making the decision that caused the confiscation of these gifts, we have donated enough money to repurchase every gift in Mexico so every child will receive something very similar to what you sent to them. We also covered the cost of the fine to get the truck back. We are planning a special Christmas party around the end of January or first of February. We believe we have identified which gifts were confiscated, but if you did not receive a thank you letter from your child and a picture please notify us because we may have missed one. We arranged to purchase all the replacement gifts through Dorians in Tijuana. Brother Carlos, the Spanish ministry preacher from Chula Vista, works there as an

accountant. He arranged a 15% discount and this was in addition to many of the clothing items already being marked down 50% because of after Christmas sales. We even bought some extra items since it was such a good deal. We want to thank Carlos and the Dorians department store to help us recover what was taken from our children. The children will get their gifts, just late. All gifts in the future being sent to the children must include original receipts attached to the outside of the package in an envelope so we can declare them and pay the taxes to take them to Mexico legally.

Mayfair sent a father-son team to put the roof on the San Vicente church building. Abraham and Blanca left the Zorrillo congregation. Victor Pelayo was offered the job at Zorrillo. Victor suggested Reymundo Inungaray for Maneadero. Brother Franco was helping the new congregations traveling three days per week from Tijuana. Antioch came and worked with the Flores Magon congregation in Tijuana.

5 more were baptized at the City, bringing the total to 579.

Donations were \$ 999,837. Expenses were \$860,805. Cash in banks were \$725,981.

2002

Bernabe and Jhedi move to San Vicente to preach for the congregation there.



We took Cruz and Fernanda Garcia who had been adopted but returned to the DIF. Later we took the Garcia – Martinez - Cervantes family of 7 - Yadira, Vanessa, Perla, and Christian Garcia, Ivonne and Bertha Martinez and Enrique Cervantes. We also took the Duenas family - Blanca, Alfonso, Cindy, Sergio, and Johnny.





We also took Alexis and Marlene Sandoval after their mother gave them up.



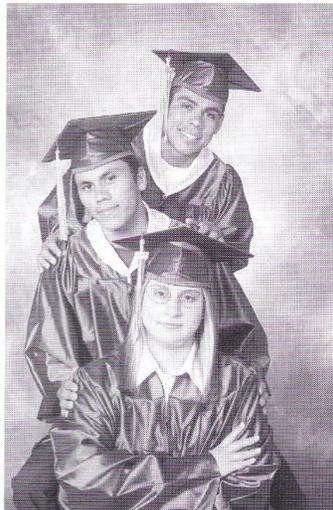
We were caring for 116 children then.

In spring I visited Sister Irasema in Zorrillo for the first time. She was living with her husband Alberto and her son, Angel in the back of an old van up on blocks. She was very ill from cancer. Her husband, a mechanic, had sold his tools to buy medicine for her. They had nothing but were the most hospitable people I had ever met. I took many visiting Americans to see them and to pray for Irasema. I believe she is alive today as a result of all the prayers prayed on behalf of her by those who visited her and her family. Carole and I decided to help this family and did for the next 7 years. We helped with money for medicine and to help Angel go to school.



Iresama

Mario Moreno, Jesus Lozano, and Johanna Munoz graduated from High School.



The land for the Maneadero Church was purchased for \$16,600. Victor Pelayo and Raymundo were both hired May 15 for Zorrillo and Maneadero. Reymundo was the brother of our preacher at the City, Joel Inungaray.

Jack Grosse of the College congregation of Fresno donated and constructed a walk in refrigerator in our central food storage. He later added a walk in freezer as well.

We started sending the weekly reports by the Baja Mission Preachers to everyone interested.

589 baptized at City of Children since the work began. 124 baptized in the Baja Mission work for the year.

Donations were \$912,619. Expenses were \$896,268. Cash in banks were \$666,765.

2003

Evacuation Time!

Can you imagine, having 20 to 30 people from the fire department or police department, shouting right outside your door "We need to evacuate everyone right now!" Well, that is exactly what happened to all of us at the City of Children on Sunday, October 26th. I remember one other time when there was a big fire around the home, but I also remember not having to evacuate or do anything about it, except for the teen boys and fire department controlling the fire. This time it was different, most of the children were getting ready for lunch, luckily I had lunch with the babies, and they had lunch a little earlier that Sunday. I kept seeing the teen boys, teen girls and some of the room parents walking by the baby dorm to see the fire on the hill. I didn't really care about going to see it; in fact I kept eating lunch, and telling the babies that it was alright. Well, about 20 minutes later, I heard a man in a loud speaker saying, you need to evacuate! That's when it hit me; I thought well, this is more serious than I thought. When I got outside, the smoke was very suffocating; the room mothers made sure the babies were all out. By the time I got down to the office I saw many concerned faces, it was time for me to let them know that everything will be alright. Patty and Ricardo had the day off, but Silvia had already called them and let them know that they needed to comeback as soon as they could. Meanwhile I was responsible for making sure we had everyone out of the home!! I started seeing the fire get closer and closer, the smoke was all around us. All the men drove one of the vans, and brother Gerardo drove the bus. I kept telling the children, its o.k. everything will be alright. I knew I was lying, not everything was o.k. but I knew at the time that is what they needed to hear. After I saw all the vans and bus drive out of the home to take the

children to the gym at the elementary school, some of the teen boys, and I drove around the home, Mario got out in each of the dorms to make sure no one was still in the dorm. We drove out to where all the children were. When we got there, we had to make sure everyone was there, so we started counting children by dorm, and also all the employees, and all the visitors that had come for Church. I was very, very proud of all the room parents and all the children, all that I saw is that we were all concerned for one another; we wanted to make sure we were all there. When we made sure we had counted all the children and adults, we felt relieved. When we all got to the gym one of our teen girls fainted, they had to take her to the Red Cross, sister Silvia went with her. A few minutes later one of the visitors fainted and she was also taken to the Red Cross, her grandmother went with her. Other than that I believe God was in control, of course we were all scared but I had to act like I wasn't. I wanted our children to see that we would take care of them, and that everything would be alright. While at the gym the fire department gave the children water. Most of the children hadn't had lunch yet, so they were getting hungry. After a while many people came asking if we needed anything, others didn't ask they just came and brought water, oranges, milk, cereal, sandwiches, Japanese food, blankets, and clothes. I was relieved to see Patty and Ricardo get there and take care of the children. They were able to get a place for all the children to spend the night. Doctor Martinez, the pediatrician and his wife Rosenda, the dentist for the children, offered their home to all 115 children and 20+ adults. They are just wonderful people with their hearts open for the children, they kept saying how this was their opportunity to help in a small way and that they wouldn't let this chance go by. They both were more than happy to help all of us. I have always admired them, now I admire them more. All the children felt very comfortable at the doctor's home, it was fun just to hear some of the children's comments, like: "I am going to tell my friends that we went camping, or, wow we don't have to go to school today!!" Oscar Martinez was concerned about the DVD's. His question was "are the DVD's O.K.?" I had to comfort him by saying that they were o.k. nothing had happened to them. Or Cande asking, "What's going on?" with a big smile on her face. I heard many comments from people saying how well behaved the children are, there were 115 children in the gym and they were all sitting and listening to any instructions we had, the children here are just wonderful. Of course there was a constant long line for the restroom. The next day we were told that we can come back to the home. When we got here we were grateful that only the hills and the brush had been burnt. The smell of smoke was still there and ashes all over the property, but the children were back to their safe place. When you see the pictures you will get a small idea of what all the children and adults went through. I am just grateful to God for taking great care of us that day. Thanks to all the room parents, all the adults that came to visit, thanks for staying to help, thanks to all the teen boys that acted very cool when we needed them most, of course thanks to Patty and Ricardo for coming back so fast and taking care of the situation, thanks to Doctor Martinez and his wife Rosenda for allowing our children and staff to spend the night at their place and being so nice

to all of them. We were all one, and that is how God wants us to be, taking care of one another and being one in His love.

Pilar N.

The Board voted to start making a new video.

5 congregations came to build Benjamin a house in Zorrillo.

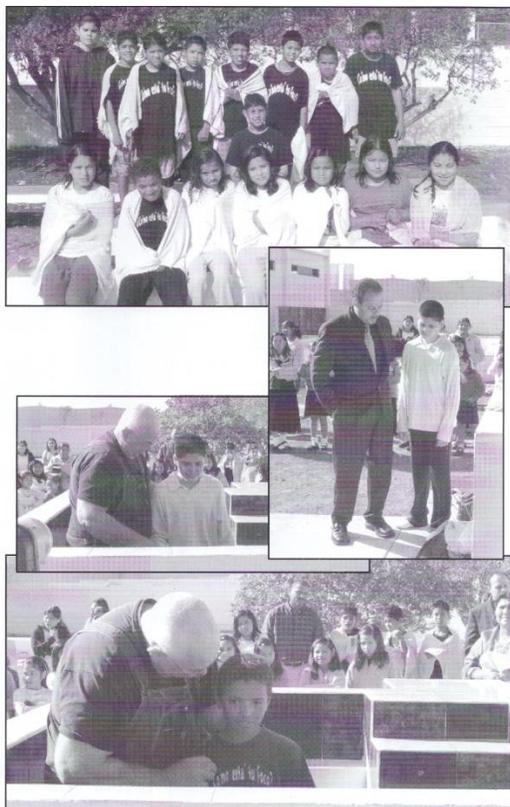
The Yorba Linda congregation built a house for a blind brother, Ramon Ledzema.

Donations were \$880,064. Expenses were \$835,847. Cash in the banks were \$688,852.

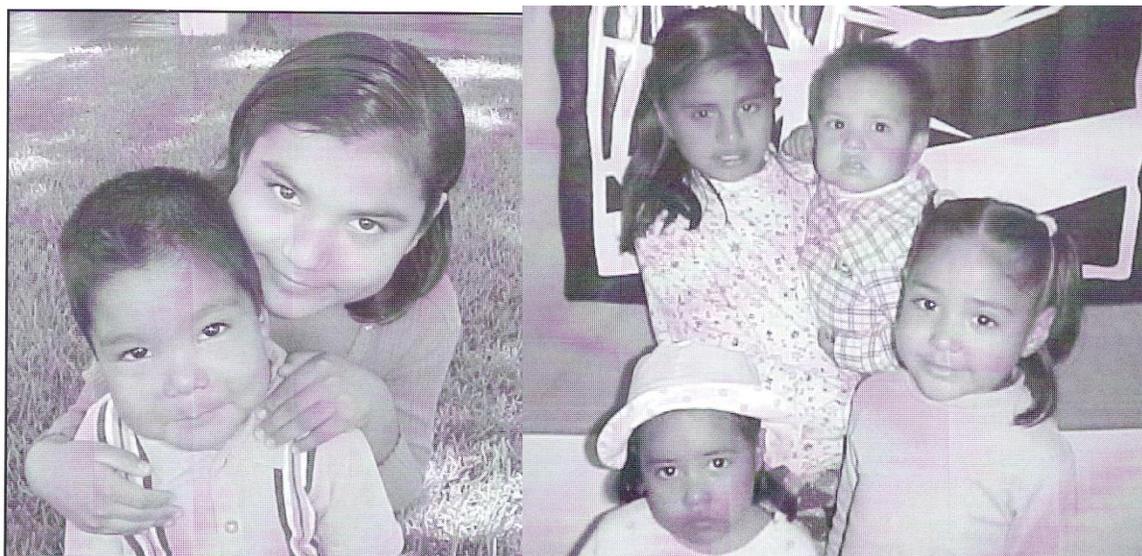
2004

Baja Missions work was given to the Mayfair Church of Christ and is now under that eldership. It was also incorporated as an Alabama nonprofit Corporation and completely separated from the City of Children.

On January 11th we had 16 baptisms - Marlene Sandoval, Yadira Garcia, Vanessa Garcia, Perla Garcia, Fernanda Garcia, Mario Perez, Cruz Garcia, Alexis Sandoval, Antonio Avalos, Santiago Diaz, Johnathon Avalos, Oziel Pizzano, Carloz Lopez, Gerardo Villegas, Violeta Esquivel, and Andres Gonzalez.

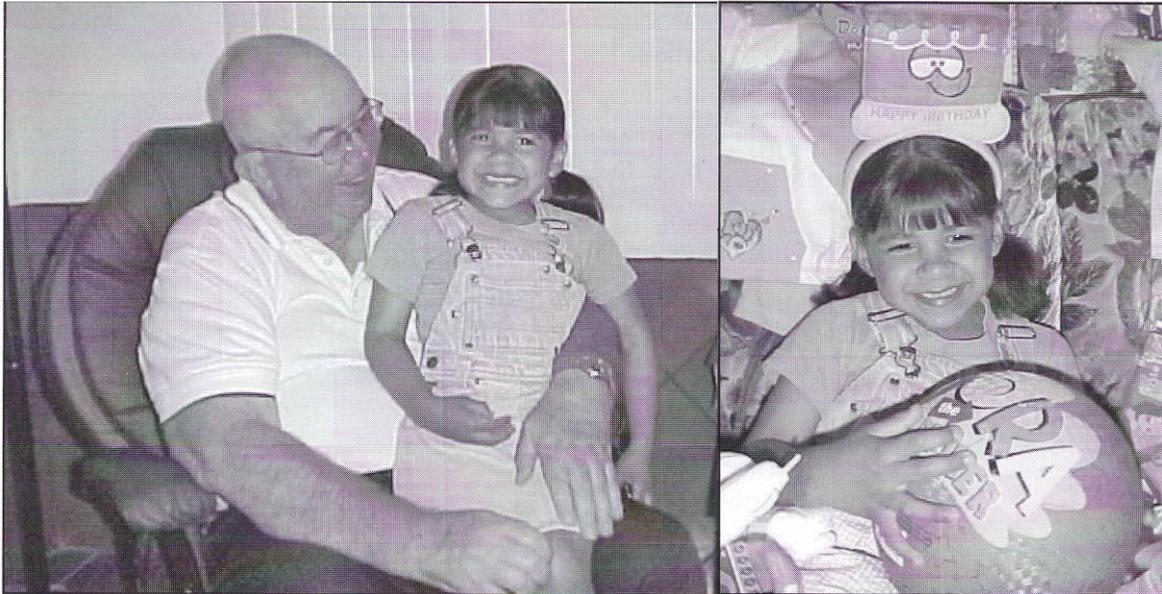


Jacqueline and Ricardo Aranday were brought to the home. Bernice, Zury, Sandy, Josue Cordova also arrived.



Most of the news started being passed on in the weekly email reports.

Karla Patino celebrates her 6th birthday.



Donations were 1,057,690. Expenses were \$1,022,635. Cash in Banks were \$766,660.

2005

Team Leaders meeting was held Jan 21-24 with 50 in attendance. Melany Cost was the principal speaker. Experiencing God was selected as the study material for the Bible Classes.

We took Michel, Alondra, and Alexis Rodriquez, also Fernando, Alberto, Daniel , and Brisa Cota

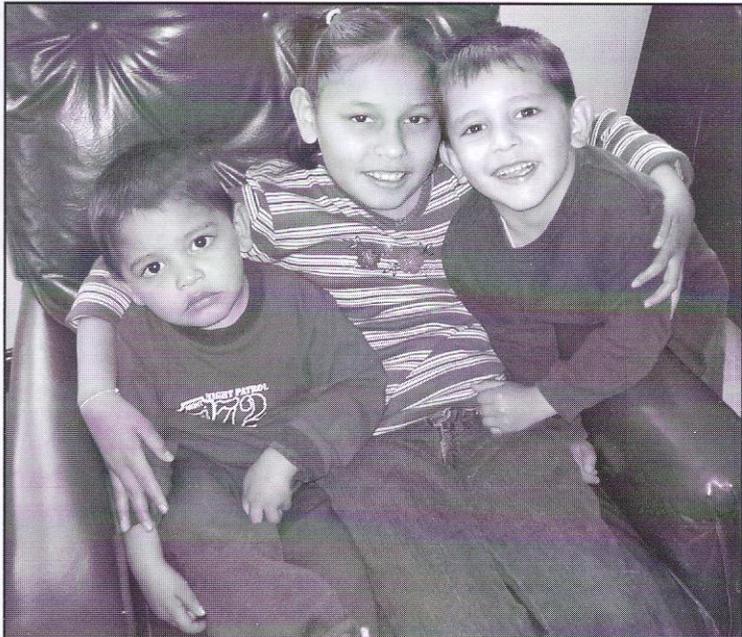
We are caring for 99 children.

Teams coming this year were Lipscomb University, Columbia Academy, GAC, Knoxville ,TN., Western Hills ,TN, (Cedar Lane, Fairlane , Southside Shelbyville ,TN.), Jackson Park ,TN., TN., Jackson, TN., Lewisburg ,TN., Bentonville ,AR., Charlotte ,NC., Murfreesboro ,TN., Pleasant Ridge, TX., Tigard, OR.

We bought 200 blankets for the poor during a cold period where it hit 32 degrees.

Baja Missions built homes for 35 families this year. They also held medical and dental clinics, distributed food to the poor and baptized 146.

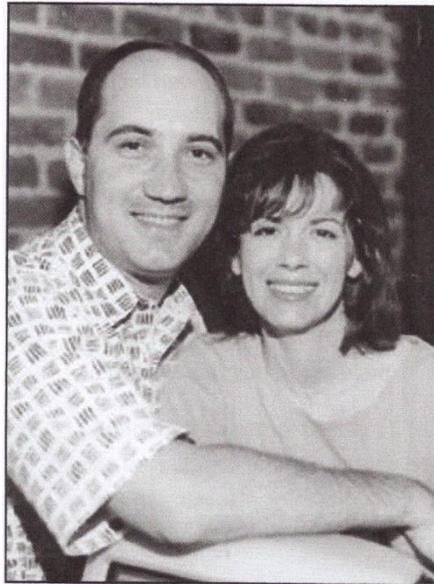
Marycruz , Samuel, and Alexis Aguilar was brought to us, also Carlos and Angela Valero.



We took Lupita and Paulina Arevalo from the DIF.



Chuck and Aprill Jones were hired as Assistant Directors starting May 7th to work toward taking the Stout's position.



Karly Dallas raised funds and bought books for a new library in the gym.

Flor Monzon graduated from High School on June 28th.



Karla Patino is moved up to the mediana dorm.

The following young men delivered sermons: Alejandro, Jose, Jesus, Chano, Mario, Charlie, and Oracio.

Construction was started on Patty and Ricardo's new house.

Teams built new garages for Baja Mission vehicles.

Jose Velasquez graduated from Law School.



Chuck and Aprill Jones announce their resignation at the October Board meeting.

Reyes Medina was hired by Bentonville and Arlington to start a congregation in Colonia 89.

Jeff Fincher and Ricardo Gonzalez were added to the Board of Trustees.

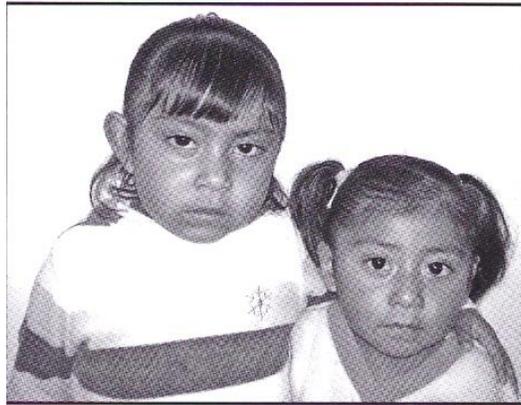
There were 9 more baptisms at the City, bringing the total to 617 since the work began. Lupita Almanza, Jacqueline Aranday, Maribel Bautista, Bernice Cordova, Alberto Cota, Christian Garcia, Daniel Lopez, Jesus Saenz, Saul Ortiz were added to God's church.

On December 27th, Harry Saehlenou, our largest contributor, died.

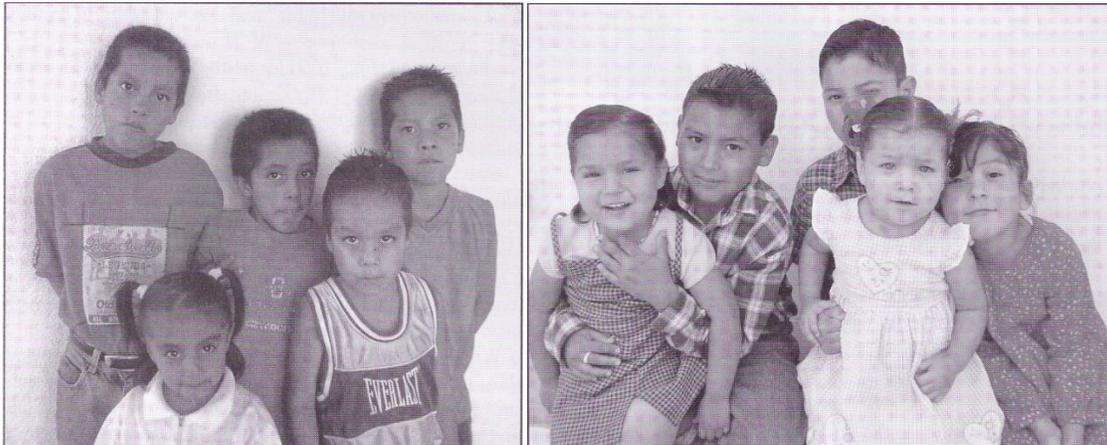
Donations were \$1,199,385. Expenses were \$1,134,408. Cash in Banks were \$862,560.

2006

We took Yuridia and Veronica Lopez after their mother died.



We took 18 more children including the Ramirez family and Cortes family.



Brother Milo finished Patty and Ricardo's house. He also did the addition to the teen girls dorm and the replaced the roof. During the summer he replaced the roof on the food storage because it had caved in. He added an extra 3 feet to pitch the roof better. It made the storage substantially cooler; therefore we decided to do this to all the roofs we replace in the future.

He is preparing to start on refurbishing and reroofing the middle age girl's dorm next.

Lee Milam started work on a new DVD about the City of Children.

Bill Simcock resigned from the Board of Trustees in September.

Donations were \$1,017,971. Expenses were \$1,247,931. Cash in banks were \$679,919.

2007

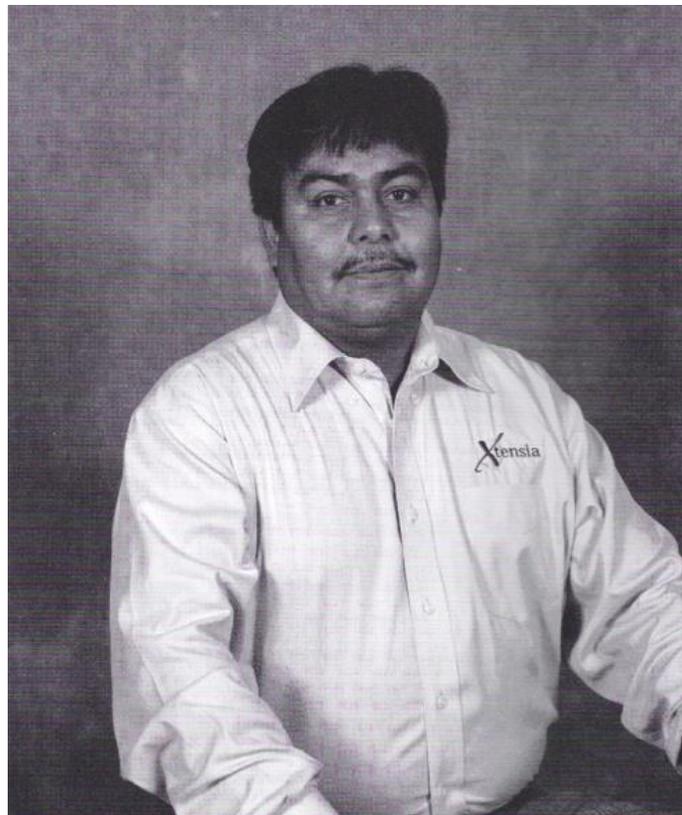
It snowed in the mountains near Ensenada in January.

State Farm canceled our insurance on all our vans after seeing our website. This required us to import all the vehicles into Mexico and to license and insure them there.

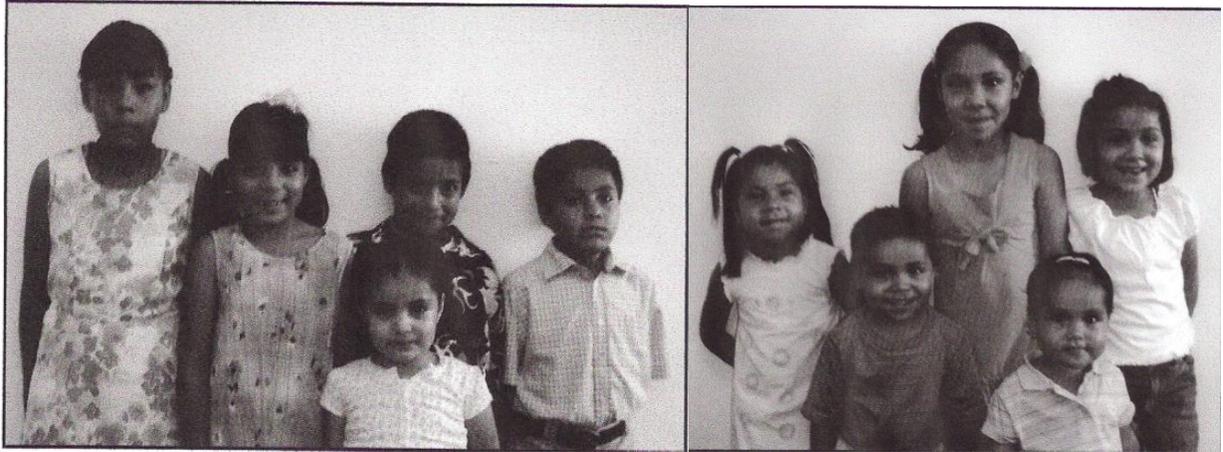
Jim Craig and Paul Caldwell of Winchester, VA. came for a week to do mechanical work on the Baja mission Vehicles.

Mission teams coming were Lipscomb University, GAC, Columbia Academy, Granny White, Nashville ,TN., Western Hills ,TN., Pleasant Ridge, Arlington, TX ., Jackson TN., Goodlettsville, TN., Jackson Park, TN., Troy, TN., Eastland, TX., Mayfair, AL., Murfreesboro, TN., Charlotte, NC. Lewisburg, TN., Denbigh, VA., Washington ,PA., Ventura,CA.

Reymundo Inungaray came down with leukemia.



We took the Banuelos family of 5 and the Lara family of 5.



We were caring for 86 children before the additions.

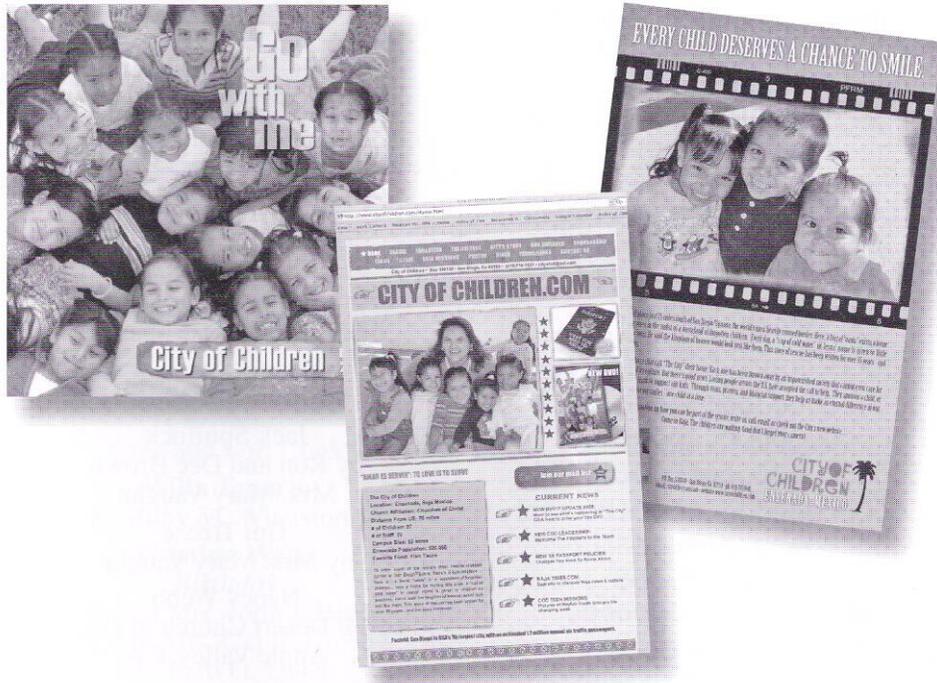
Donations were \$943,458. Expenses were \$1,013,715. Cash in banks were \$578,999.

2008



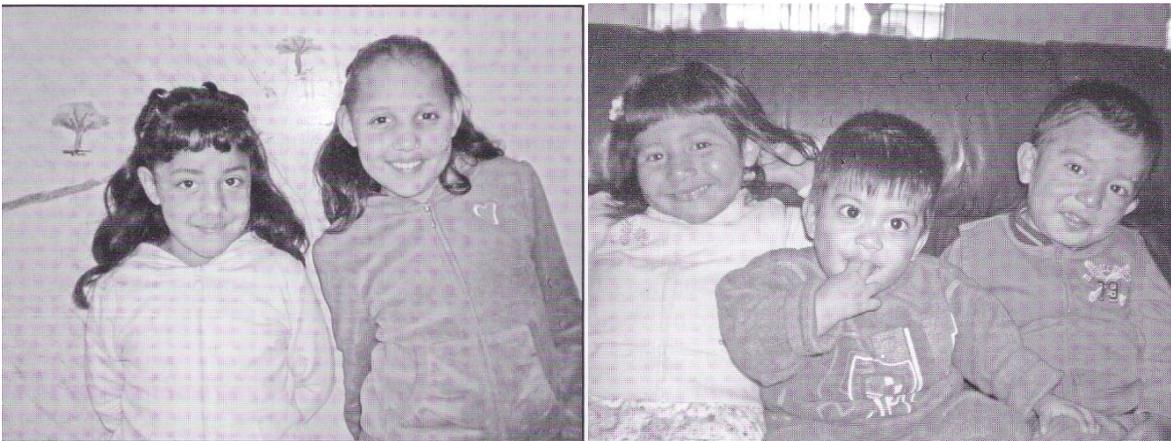
Alejandro Guzman finally graduated from the University as an architect.

“Go With Me”, the City’s 2008 Promotional DVD was released and mail to everyone on the mailing list. The new and improved website was launched and a new promotional poster was released.

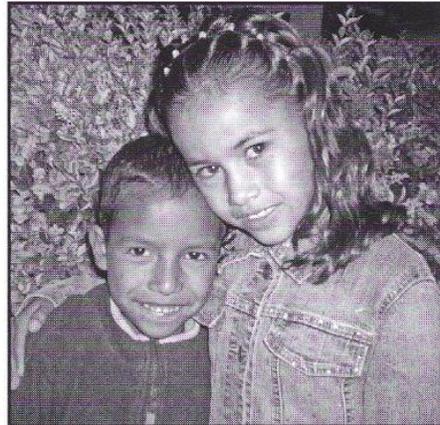


February 8, 2008 was the annual leaders meeting at Lipscomb University and the Board surprised us with a retirement appreciation dinner with our daughter, Melanie, as a guest speaker.

We took Karla and Roza Manzo. We also took Mendoza, Alicia , and Geovani.

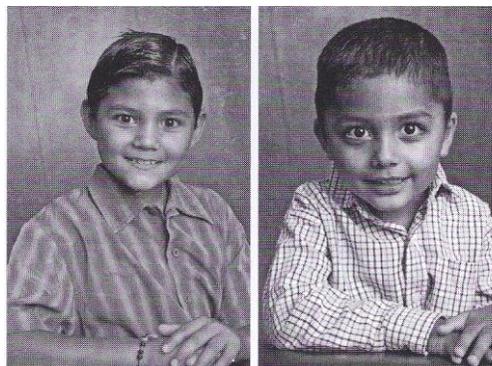
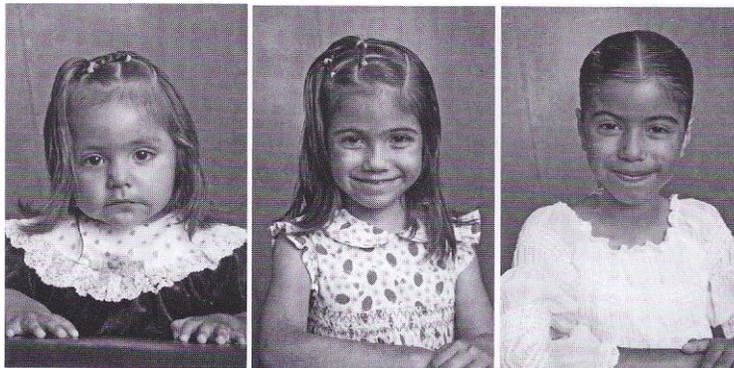


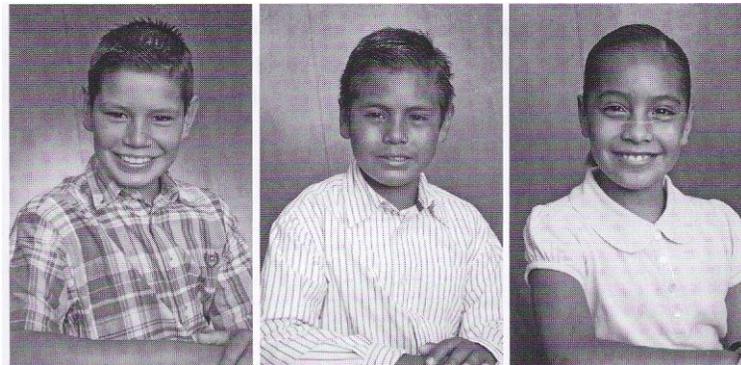
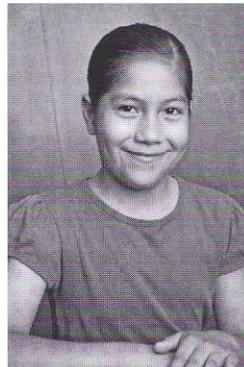
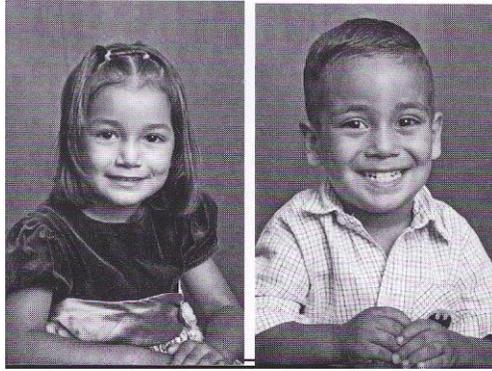
We took Kimberly and Giovanni Rodriquez.



Jeff and Natasha agree to take over the work. They came in August and worked with us until January 1, 2009 when they took over. We were available to answer questions and help wherever needed until September 21, 2009, our retirement date selected by the Board.

New additions were Vanessa, Reyna, and Nathlleli Rodriquez, Saul and Marcos Sanchez, Erika and Manuel Ojeda, Yesenia Aragon, Osmar, Bladimir, and Yoselin Cervantes.





We started remodeling the teen boy's dorm.

Danny Sorrell and Tom Begin were added to the Board of Trustees.

Donations were \$846,363. Expenses were \$969,152. Cash in banks were \$540,801.

We finished our work at the City. We thank God for his direction and answering our prayers. He helped us through every problem we were confronted with. We thank all of our donors for their generosity and help to make this work a success. We especially thank everyone who took the time to come minister to our children. Your love and friendship changed their lives forever.

We turned the work over to Jeff and Natasha Fincher on January 1, 2009 and pray they will enjoy their life there as much as we did.



Stan and Carole Stout

September 21, 2009