



Oskaloosa
1st CRC
Newsletter

July – August 2025

If My People's Hearts Are Humbled

*If My people's hearts are humbled,
If they pray and seek My face;
If they turn away from evil,
I will not withhold My grace.
I will hear their prayers from heaven;
I will pardon every sin.
If My people's hearts are humbled,
I will surely heal their land.*

*Then My eyes will see their sorrow,
Then My ears will hear their plea.
If My people's hearts are humbled
I will set their nation free.
If My people's hearts are humbled,
If they pray and seek My face;
If they turn away from evil,
I will not withhold My grace.*

From Pastor Spronk's Desk



THE ONCE AND FUTURE CRC

For CRC Synod 2025 there are several places to hear what Synod did including CRC News (google search: CRC News), the *Banner* and conversations that I have had with the congregation by the time this newsletter is printed.

However, in this reflection, I want to focus on one aspect of the future of our denomination. The battles of the past few years, specifically over sexuality, seem to be over. We have made our positions on Biblical sexuality known, have demonstrated that they are faithful to the Bible and in alignment with our Creeds and Confessions and with the Church Universal. Churches and Pastors who could not stand with those decisions have begun to exit the CRC (30 churches and around 100 active and retired pastors).

In the aftermath of these discussions, we need to look ahead. We have been so inwardly focused in the last decade that now is the time to look outward. We have a faith that is needed in the world and a Reformed witness that others need to hear. Many of us were challenged at Synod 2025 with the realities of church planting in our denomination. Frankly, the number of members and churches in the CRC has been in decline since 1995 and the trends are only accelerating.

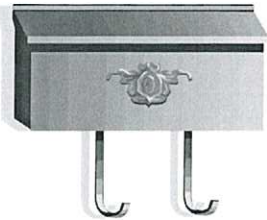
With that numerical decline there has been a decrease in CRC Ministry Shares given to our denominational agencies and the financial realities are that denominational funding is getting cut. Currently, the biggest impact is to Resonate (the combined Home and World Missions agency of the CRC). A budget shortfall of \$4 million in the next year has meant that Resonate is changing its church planting model. No longer is Resonate going to be able to give funds/grants to new church plants. Those church plants or church planters are going to have to rely directly on local churches or Classis (regional church associations) for financial support.

Now some of our local churches and Classes are very active in the church planting movement. Many, including us in Classis Central Plains, are not. But things are starting to happen. Pastor Erik has started making connections with a network of CRC Hispanic church planters in Houston that are need in financial support and could perhaps help our Classis think about Hispanic ministry in Central Iowa. I (Pastor Jon) have connected with some Iowa Chinese and Korean churches that are looking to further plant in our state. Others in Classis are having discussions about where next in the region of Central Iowa do we need CRC churches.

My challenge to us is to prayerfully consider what God desires for the mission of church planting now. My prayer is that God would send more workers and more resources for the harvest. How can First CRC Oskaloosa participate in this Great Commission of our Lord? What opportunities are there in our state, our region and beyond that we can support with our help and our treasure? May we in a generation, say in 2050, look back and see how the seeds of new churches were started in our times. To God be the Glory.

Pastor Jon

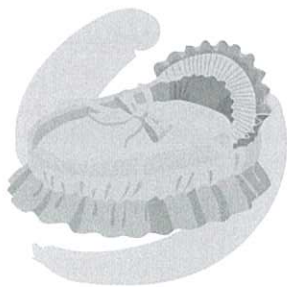
Church Family News



Jim & Marilyn Brummel
Fairhaven East, Apt. 306
607 East 3rd Street
Pella, IA 50219

Pat & Eveline Franje
4503 143rd St.
Urbandale, IA 50323

Marion & Dorothy Vos
2102 S. Market Street
Room #152
Oskaloosa, IA 52577



Kaisley Faith De Bruin – 5/1/25
~ daughter of Lucas & Bethany

Rosalynn Rae Abrams – 5/14/25
~ daughter of Carson & Rachel



Membership Updates

Released: Kandi (Van Kooten) Henry
~ to Libby Baptist Church in Libby, MT, 6/22/25

First CRC Council 2025

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor		641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor		641-417-9433	
Keith Brink	Elder	2026	641-660-4031	Youth Elder
Lucas De Groot	Elder	2027	641-777-4970	Worship Committee
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Evangelism Comm., Bulletin, Communion, Care Groups
Allen Groenenboom	Elder	2028	641-660-6719	Building & Grounds Comm.
Tim Jabaay	Elder	2027	319-899-8343	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Steve Kaisand	Elder	2028	641-891-2672	Elder's Clerk & Council VP
Doug Richards	Elder	2027	641-660-6455	Education Comm. & Library
Luke Roozeboom	Elder	2026	641-660-4150	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Jeff Van Donselaar	Elder	2027	641-295-3286	Fellowship
Kirk Veenstra	Elder	2028	641-295-3056	President, Pulpit Supply
Mike Boender	Deacon	2027	641-660-3957	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Adam De Bruin	Deacon	2027	641-295-2111	Benevolence & Enduring Gifts
Dan McKinney	Deacon	2028	641-931-6491	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Chris Pierson	Deacon	2027	641-670-0081	General Fund Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Sherwin Plate	Deacon	2028	641-670-0584	Special Offerings Treasurer & Tech. Committee
Mitchel Veenstra	Deacon	2026	641-660-3653	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer

Sue De Bruin	Church Secretary		673-4272 673-7303	(Office) (Home)
Katelyn Van Donselaar	Custodian		1-641-226-1495	

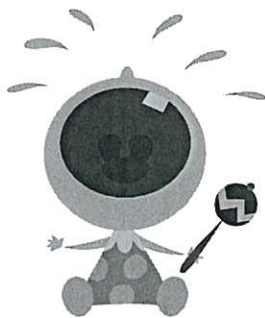
Updated 12/3/24

Nursery Schedule

July - August 2025

A.M.

July 6	Cassia B, Arianna J Malaki B
July 13	Ellize C, Aubrey K Kohen DB
July 20 (Communion)	Kynnah C, Taylor H Natalie B, Avery K
July 27	Mary Beth J, Finn S Larissa H
August 3	Bethany DB (L), Dean DR Peyton V
August 10	Karen DB, Kristina G Nora DG
August 17	Heather C, Luke VD Kwynn DB
August 24	Kahrey C, Dylan R Caroline J
August 31	Deb B, Anna Belle C Caleb R



Greetings JCA Partners,

Thank you so much for your prayers, volunteer work and financial support. The lives of our students have been greatly blessed and enriched by your involvement with Joshua Christian Academy.

God blessed me with a loving, kind and empathetic group of kids this year. They love playing sharks and minnows together during recess, and participating in our bible class which has focused on heroes of the bible. The rest of our classroom learning was driven by the Abeka curriculum, which was fun to spice up with some in-class games, treasure chest prizes and brain break videos!



As a class, we also enjoyed time out of the classroom. First, we made a trip to a local senior living facility to share our bible verses, sing some Christmas carols, and spend time talking with the residents. Next, we visited Pella to enjoy the tulips, eat a pastry from Jaarsma bakery, then finish with a picnic lunch and playtime with our Pella Christian penpals. Lastly, we visited Reiman Gardens in Ames. The students enjoyed learning about flowers, pollinators and checking out Stinky Floyd who thankfully didn't bloom on the day we visited. Thank you again for your monetary donations which have provided a bus for trips out of Des Moines, and continued prayer.



Please continue to keep JCA in your prayers. In His timing, and for His glory, thank you for reading about our class.

The Best is Yet to Come!

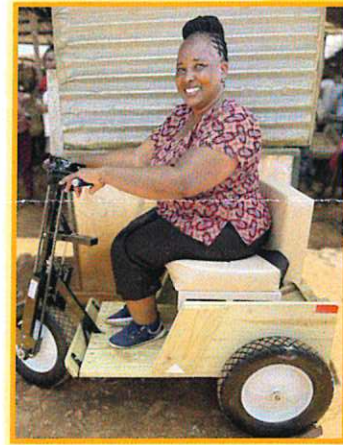
Mrs. Karkiainen, aka Mrs. K.

SPRING/SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Thank you to ALL who have been a part of this Ministry!



When Koya was 19 years old, she began to experience the loss of using her lower legs. Life in the desert region of northern Kenya can be brutal for someone with limited mobility. In her village of Korr, the harsh climate makes it difficult to acquire basic necessities like food and water.



Lifting Others Up in Partnership with Mobility Worldwide.



She learned to move around by bending from the waist and crawling with knees on the ground. When one of our partners heard of Koya's situation, he rented a vehicle, hired a driver, and set off across 122 miles through sand and areas of unrest to reach her. Koya was lifted out of the dirt and given a Mobility Cart. She had crawled on the ground for 47 years, and this was the first mobility device Koya had ever received.

Koya and her family are so happy! The gift of mobility truly restores dignity, renews hope, and changes lives... just like Koya's.

A Mobility cart provides access for work opportunities and healthcare. It also removes the stigma of immobility and improves how others see their value in society.





Shop volunteers gather for reflection when a milestone cart box is filled—this time #8400! They take pride in their part of the process knowing every time a cart is packed, a person on the other side of the world will receive the extraordinary Gift of Mobility. A gift that the person never dreamed possible. The recipient immediately also experiences the gifts of dignity and hope as well! You are as vital to this milestone moment as the shop workers who volunteer their time week after week. Without YOUR financial support and YOUR prayers these carts could not be built.

Blessed by businesses/individuals who provide services and products at no cost or at a significantly reduced cost.

Janco	Midwest Sanitation
Vermeer Corp	Skunk River & Pallet
LDJ	Geetings Inc/Warehouse
Medalist Mfg.	Creative Inspirations
Ruiter Innovations	Roozeboom Trailer Sales
Midwest Sanitation	Shueyville Men's Group

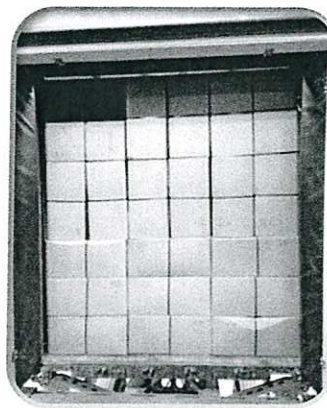
Tours of the Mobility shops are welcomed. It's a great way for you to become aware of what is involved in the building of the carts, how many volunteers are involved and how far reaching this ministry is.

For more information about our ministry contact:

Pete Verhey Larry Geetings
641-204-1972 641-780-1274

email: info@petia.org

Visit us on the web at mobilityia.org



Grateful to
Cornerstone Church
who provide strong
arms and servant
hearts that help load
the containers.

thank you!



A Team Effort

120 carts from Leighton's shop, 28 pull-carts and 30 small-person carts from the Columbia, MO shop and 24 full-sized carts from the Minnesota-Twin Cities shop, for a total of 202, were shipped to Uganda and distributed through Pathways to Hope Africa.

Tabitha Kyambadde, co-founder of Pathways to Hope, shared that one of the recipients was a child whose mother had been carrying him on her back 1 1/2 miles to school and who was growing too heavy for her to continue to make sure he received an education. The cart transformed both of their lives.

MOBILITY WORLDWIDE - IA LEIGHTON DONATION SLIP

Yes, I want to give the GIFT OF MOBILITY to a person whose legs do not function

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

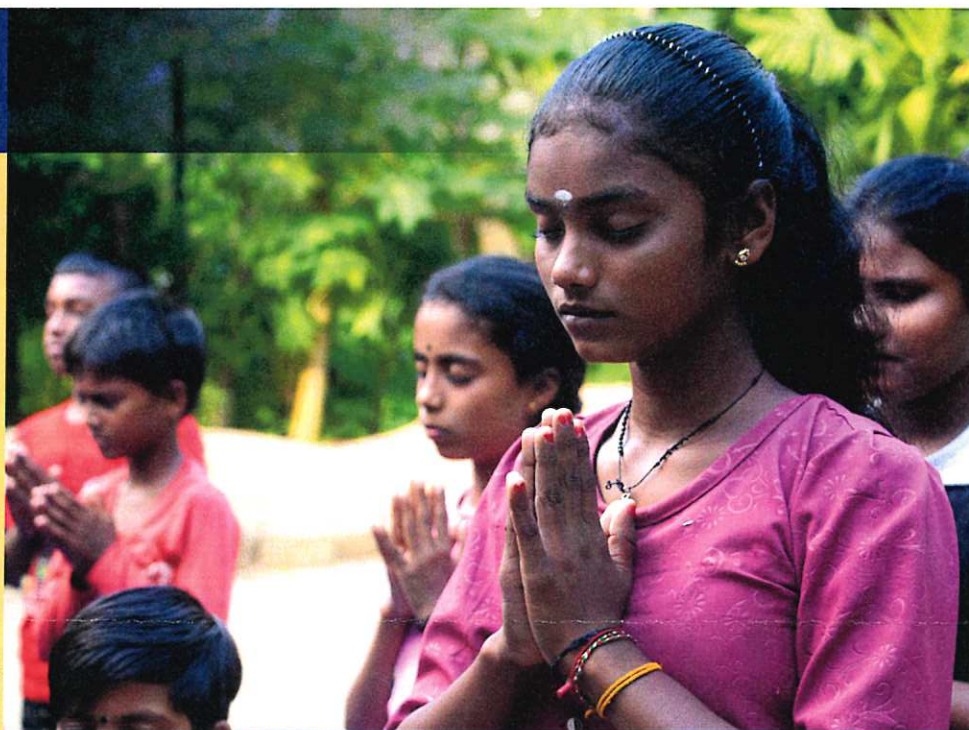
CITY, ST, ZIP: _____

Employer matching gift: _____

Make check payable to Mobility Worldwide IA -Leighton and mail
to: Pete Verhey 100 Kirkwood Pella IA 50219

All donations to Mobility Worldwide are tax deductible .

SHARE *the Word* CHANGE *Young Hearts*



Your loving support is transforming young hearts in Sri Lanka and around the globe.

Share the Gospel with Young People Worldwide

Kids and teens are often more open to the Gospel and eager sharers of it. Their faith is strong and uninhibited. Through them, siblings, grandparents, and parents discover the hope of Jesus. Entire families transform.

Last year, people like you helped nearly 3,000 children and youth study God's Word each day. They heard God's

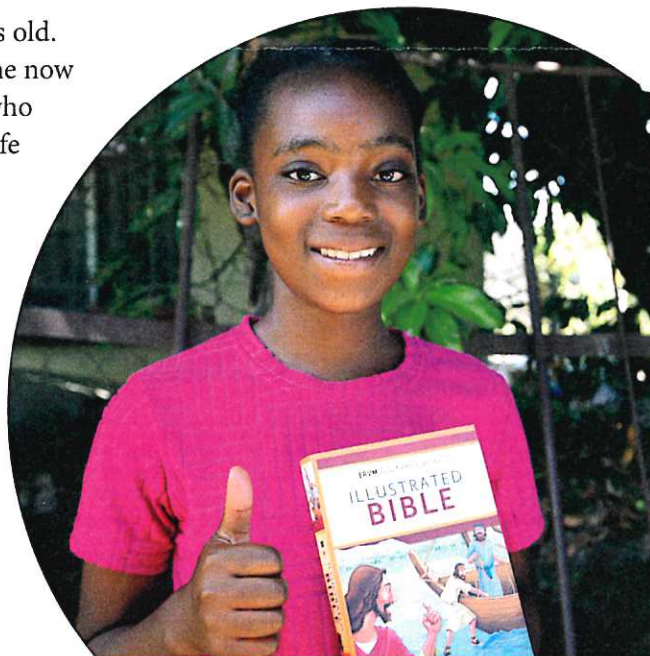
message of love through Bible League's Bible studies and Bible-based Literacy classes. Whether it's in schools, through sports, or at church, God is doing a mighty work in young hearts. With Bible League's new Bible study materials for children available in 40 languages, imagine how many more young ones will discover the joy of Jesus.

God's Word Transforms Lives and Communities

Tinevimbo's mom abandoned her when she was only three months old. Even though her aunt took her in, her mom's rejection hardened the now 10-year-old's heart. She struggled to forgive her mom and others who wronged her. Yet, Tinevimbo (pictured) discovered a new way of life when she attended a Bible League Bible study for children at her Sunday School in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe.

She explains, "The pain I felt never disappeared until, during one of the Bible studies, we read about how God knows everything and has a purpose for everyone." As Tinevimbo studied God's Word, her faith grew and her heart softened. Now, she has been able to forgive her mother. And through the support of friends like you, she received a Bible of her very own.

She beams, "One thing I liked about these Bible studies is that when we finished the booklet, I received my first ever Bible, which I love the most." Today, Tinevimbo's faith continues to



Continued on next page

God's Word Transforms Lives *(continued)*

flourish as she reads her new Bible. Her heart is no longer bitter, but full of love from the new family she has found in church. Because of your generous support, Tinevimbo can find comfort in the pages of God's Word. She says, "Whenever I get sad, I open it and read Bible stories that give me comfort that everything is well."

Tinevimbo is grateful for how you've made a difference in her life. She gushes, "Thank you very much—sincerely. I always look forward to going to church on Sundays because I have found another family who helps me learn more about Jesus."

How You Can Be Praying

- Ask the Lord to root young hearts in His Word through Bible League's new children's Bible study curriculum, which is now available in 40 languages.
- Pray for the little ones as they suffer violence, poverty, addiction, homelessness, and so much more. May they feel the love of their heavenly Father.
- Young children living with their moms in Nairobi, Kenya's Lang'ata Women's Prison, are hearing about Jesus through Bible League's Bible studies for children. Ask the Lord to transform these young lives.

Recognitions

God works powerfully through Volunteer Ambassadors, and we recognized a few examples at our Spring National Ambassador Meeting. It is an individual as well as team effort to fulfill our calling of PRAYING, RAISING AWARENESS, and RAISING FUNDS—and God gives the increase.



Marlene Broek
Prayer Recognition

We recognize Marlene for her compassion for others through her prayer ministry. Marlene was one of the first people to sign up for our Crisis Prayer Team in 2020 and has prayed for more than 650 unique requests on behalf of others around the world.



Ted Postema
Awareness Recognition

Ted is working hard again to provide imprinted Scriptures to graduates. His dedication to make God's Word available to young people in a special way beautifully demonstrates the calling of awareness. This year, Ted has imprinted more than 500 Bibles. And over the course of this project, more than 3,500.



Starla Reitsma
Fundraising Recognition

Starla has been serving the Lord as a Volunteer Ambassador for a few years now. The Lord has empowered her with enthusiasm, ideas, and a team that brings it all together for ministry in big ways.

We thank the Lord for these volunteers, the teams that help bring success, and the callings they represent.



MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. Matt. 18:5

Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964

SUMMER

2025

MCCA's Latest Adventure: Overcoming Borders to Bless Baja's Children

An Article by Chris Glaze, MCCA Board member, and Monthly Trip Team member
The trip referenced below took place on Saturday, March 3rd, 2025

Dear MCCA Family,

Our recent mission to feed orphans in Baja California was a testament to God's faithfulness, even when obstacles arise. This trip, our team of volunteers faced a tougher-than-usual Mexican border crossing. All 10 lanes were being filmed, with at least 3 agents per lane scrutinizing every vehicle. Our truck's bed was thoroughly searched - toolbox, bags, and even two boxes of men's diapers, which earned us some amused glances from the agents! We were cleared to proceed, but our second truck, carrying Spanish translated Bibles on the back seat, wasn't as fortunate. It was sent to the duty area for evaluation, requiring forms, a two hour wait, and a \$250 duty payment.

Despite the delay, our spirits stayed high. At the market, we purchased beans, rice, oats, powdered milk, and more - all sourced locally in Mexico to avoid border duties. Our 14 volunteer-driven trucks delivered these supplies to over 50 children's homes and feeding programs across Tijuana, Ensenada, and Tecate. The set-back only made the day's joy sweeter as we shared the Bibles, and the Gospel with the children. Their smiles and the gratitude of the childcare centers reminded us why we press on.

Thank you, volunteers and donors, for making this mission possible. Your support turns challenges into victories. Want to pray, give, or join us? Visit mccaredlands.org to learn more.

In Christ's Love,

The MCCA Team



Heading into Mexico at about 7:00 am usually involves a brief stop where a Mexican Border Agent takes a quick look into the truck bed and cab. A minute or two and we are on our way. On May 3, 2025 one of our trucks was detained for over 2 hours and forced to pay a sizeable Duty Fee on donated Spanish Bibles that we give to the Orphanages. The story is explained further in the article to the left.



Heading back into the USA at the end of the day in Otay Mesa.

Border wait times of one to two hours are the average experience. Occasionally, the time to cross can be a daunting three to four hour wait in an idling truck cab. All in a days work with a group of wonderful MCCA volunteers who are blessed by the Lord, abundantly, to be a blessing to the children.



Did you know, there is a great alternative to a Snail Mail Newsletter?

By signing up to receive a digital newsletter, you help us keep our costs down. It also makes it easy for you to forward a copy to family and friends if you so desire. With your smartphone scan the QR code, on the right, to easily sign up for email delivery of the quarterly Newsletter. Or, go directly to: www.bit.ly/MCCA_mailing_signup.



Donations, which may be tax deductible can be made by visiting our website at <http://mccaredlands.org/>

Founded in 1964 in Redlands, CA., Mexican Christian Children's Aid is a, 501(c)(3), Charitable Organization. It began when a group of Christian business people were moved to address the sharp contrast between the affluence in the U.S., and the abject poverty found just across our southern border in Mexico. We purchase and provide monthly bulk food deliveries and other assistance to local Christian organizations in the northern Baja region. We deliver the food donations primarily to organizations that sponsor Children's Homes and or operate periodic Feeding Programs to needy families. Along with the food, Spanish translation Bibles, Gospel Tracts, and other items are generally a part of our deliveries. Our monthly runs consist of all volunteer drivers and riders who donate their vehicles full of fuel and literally everything needed to complete the mission each time we go.

The MCCA does not own or rent a building, nor are there any paid staff.

The result is that 100% of all monetary donations goes directly to purchase food products.

Proverbs 16:9 - "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."

The verse above has been special to me since I first read it many years ago. It has given me great comfort as I think about God's personal and watchful eye on our lives as Christians. I think He wants us to be active and to plan our ways, day by day. This verse is, at the same time, a wonderful promise to believers that, surrendering your life to Jesus Christ provides a light unto your path, through thick and thin, joys and sorrows, difficulties and successes. Through it all it is God who aims us in the direction that His perfect will desires for us go. Not always easy, but always what is best for us.

A good example of a person's steps being directed by God is our friend and fellow MCCA team member Tom Rasmussen. At our last MCCA Board Meeting on Monday, May 5th, our friend Tom was mentioned with admiration for all that he did to make our organization better during his years of involvement in our charity. In recent years, Tom has stepped back from the MCCA, but we thought it would be nice to mention him in this month's newsletter as a way to say thanks for all he has done, and wish him and his wife blessings in retirement.

Case in point, consider Tom's path since back in 2007. At the time he was a successful and accomplished Medical Doctor / Anesthesiologist when, one day, he picked up a copy of the Press Enterprise Newspaper. An article about a local charity, the Mexican Christian Children's Aid, caught his eye. The article planted a seed of interest, and Tom made contact with Warren and Judy Arnett. Not long after that he joined Warren and Judy Arnett in their truck, heading for Tijuana, Mexico delivering food to needy children. God had shined a light on a path and Tom decided to proceed upon it. That obedience to God's gentle call blessed Tom's life along with many others for many years.

Most of us who have become involved with the MCCA will always remember our first few ride a longs. The experience tends to touch a person's heart profoundly. For many it's a "heart of stone turning to flesh" kind of thing as you visit the orphanages and homes for disabled kids. After only about 3 of the monthly trips with Warren and Judy, Tom began to consider purchasing a truck of his own, that he might contribute by being a driver. Eventually he bought a truck and became a very valuable member of the MCCA. A member of his family, Max Lowry rode along routinely.

Tom served faithfully as a driver, and eventually became a member of the Board of Directors. He was nominated to the Executive Board serving for approximately 5 years as Treasurer, a very time consuming job. He made thoughtful contributions and improvements to the MCCA such as, using an MCCA Credit Card instead of cash converted to Pesos to purchase the monthly food in Mexico. He produced GPS Coordinate charts for all of the stops we bring food to, saving many drivers from getting lost. He developed a system for sorting and packaging the Spanish Translation Bibles according to each individual route of travel. He developed load sheets used each month for each driver to simplify and help to insure accuracy.



Sincere thanks to you Tom for your quiet example of faith and humility, hard work on behalf of the MCCA, and your thoughtful contributions to the organization that have certainly been a path of blessing, from the Lord through you, to us all.

- Love you Brother -

A Board Meeting photo, several years ago, from left to right Mike Ramirez and Daughter Josephine, Warren and Judy Arnett, and Tom Rasmussen

*** TONY HERNANDEZ ***

March 17, 2025 marked the passing of Tony Hernandez, the founder of Rancho El Milagro also known as Miracle Ranch.

Edna, Tony's wife and the family were at his side in the final hours. Edna shared in a letter that the oldest granddaughter sat with him, and he told her the following: "I have done my part by teaching all of you about God. I taught you all of His ways, what you needed to know since your childhood. Now it is up to all of you to follow His way.

And, Praise God, I have seen all of you become adults that love and serve the Lord."

Edna and family have asked for our prayers, as they plan to continue the El Milagro Outreach Ministries.

Mission Statement




MCCA is a ministry obedient to God's call to care for children in need by supplying those in Baja California with food, Spanish translation Bibles and the opportunity to know the love of Jesus Christ.

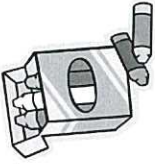

MCCA Executive Board Contacts

Paul Vela	President	psvela76@gmail.com
Charles Shinski	Vice President	ninovivola@yahoo.com
Steve Diaz	Interim Treasurer	stevediazwhosoever@gmail.com
Don Dresner	Secretary	donandglady@msn.com

Facebook:
Web Site:

<https://www.facebook.com/MCCA1964>
<http://mccaredlands.org/>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July</h1>						
6 Prayer Service (am) TEC Meeting – aft.	7 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	8	9 Church Softball	10 Council Agenda Items Due Love, INC Foundation Classes	11 	12 Church Rented Out
13 Prayer Service (am) Homestead ----- \	14 Friendship Class	15 Church Softball	16 Church Softball	17 Church Softball	18 Christ Weekend - - -	19 Delmar V's Birthday
20 PM Service at Bethel due to TEC	21	22 Church Softball	23 Church Softball <i>Ruth G's Birthday</i>	24 Church Softball	25	26 Don DB's Birthday
27 Prayer Service (am) TEC Reunion – aft.	28 Blood Drive 	29 Cadet 5- Day	30 Camporee in S.D. - - -	31 Church Softball		
Gene VG's Birthday	Friendship Class	Church Softball	Church Softball	Church Softball		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <h1>August</h1>  </div>						
3 Prayer Service (am)	4 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	5	6	7	8 9	2 Camporee ----- \
10 Prayer Service (am) Homestead 2 nd Sunday Sundaes	11 Friendship Class	12	13	14	15 Van Donselaar &	16 Dykstra Wedding
17 Prayer Service (am)	18 <i>Jim D's Birthday</i>	19	20	21 <i>Marvin DB's Birthday</i>	22	23
24 Prayer Service (am) Parking Lot Praise	25 <i>Elmer V's Birthday</i> Oskey Chr, Oskey Public, PCHS, PCGS, EBF, North Mahaska all start	26	27	28 Love, INC Foundation Classes	29	30
31 Prayer Service (am)	Friendship Class			Love, INC Foundation Classes		<i>Jeanette DB's Birthday</i>