

December ushers in celebrations and traditions at the Mission. One of the celebrations is Las Posadas, a religious festival celebrated in Mexico between December 16th and 24th. It commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem, in search of safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.

From the early 70's, Los Posadas was performed at the mission. On Christmas Eve, the long-anticipated celebration would begin around dusk. Dozens of excited children and staff gathered at the old motel. They began their own journey around the Mission singing "Las Posadas". The singing procession would stop at the doorways of other staff members homes and invite each of the occupants to join, until all were singing in unison. Their destination was the flat roofed chapel on the other side of the road.

The children would show their acting talents as they gloriously re-created the nativity of Christ. The night would then be culminated with a delicious, traditional dinner of homemade tamales.

From 1990 to 2010, there was a tradition at the mission of American style caroling in the migrant camps. The children eagerly learned the Christmas carols so they could join in. Staff and children would pile into school buses and be taken to the camps where the dirt-poor workers and their families lived. Each would exit the bus and a candlelight presentation of Christmas carols would begin. All enjoyed the melodious voices caroling them. After singing, each child from the mission would give their favorite toy to a child in the migrant camps who never had a toy.

Beginning in 1989 to present, there is a dramatic presentation at the mission of "Night in Bethlehem". For 3 evenings, school buses bring thousands of migrant workers, their families, and farm workers from far away camps to see the presentation. Staff and children perform to the delight of many who have never seen a dramatic performance. At the end of the evening, all are given gospel tracts, prayed for, and treated to hot chocolate and cookies.

A blessed Christmas one and all. **Charla Pereau** Founding Director

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## Alternative



**Higher Education:** Once one of our children turn 18, they can enter into our transitional living program. They move to the apartments in Tijuana and continue their education or find a job. We hope they continue to receive the support and discipleship they need while moving towards independence. You can provide a scholarship for the youth who are studying at the university level.



Books, Uniforms and Shoes: Education is critical to us as we believe it is key to breaking the cycle of poverty in our children's histories. Our children in Baja and Oaxaca attend our Christian schools at the mission bases for elementary school. The rest of their schooling is at public schools in town. We need your help to provide the basics needed for their education.



**Feeding Children:** Our missionaries in the mountains of Oaxaca, Manuel and Glenda, feed breakfast and lunch to children in their education program. These children live in extreme poverty, and this is often the only nutrition they receive in their week. We need your help to provide needed food in this impoverished community of Huajuapan.



**Dispensas:** As part of our outreach programs in Baja, Oaxaca, and Sinaloa, we regularly put together "dispensas" or basic groceries for families in need in the surrounding communities. You can help us provide rice, beans, flour, and other necessities.

# Christmas







**Vehicles:** Most of our vehicles at all of our locations are old and have many miles on them. We are always in need of new vehicles to replace those that are beyond repair. We need your help to supply this need.



Christmas gift for a child: We currently care for approximately 150 children between our homes in Baja, Oaxaca, and Tijuana. Through donations from friends like you, we can provide Christmas gifts for each of these children.



**Tijuana Children's Home:** God has made it clear that we are to expand our ministry and open a new children's home in Tijuana. This summer, we purchased an apartment building to house our young men and women studying in the university or working. We are now working on remodeling the house where the university students lived to use as a children's home. We are working on painting, new flooring, and other changes to meet social service's requirements to be able to open. We need your help to make this dream a reality.



**Mission Needs:** Each of our locations has budget needs, such as staffing, electricity, and food essential for our ministry's operation. We believe that God will provide all the funding needed for what He has called us to do. And He answers those prayers through donors like you.



## **FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY**

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