



# First RYCCA Camp

Fall 2002

## Caldwell Missionary Review

Written from David's perspective

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Community Church

David and Karen Caldwell  
Serving with Elim Fellowship

**What a bunch of  
9 to 14 year old  
boys did during  
a week at camp  
in central  
Mexico...and a  
story from my  
past to show  
how I felt.**

### Strategy

Using camps and retreats, The  
Caldwells are developing future  
Mexican leadership and communi-  
cating the love of Jesus  
in central Mexico.

### Tax Deductible Contributions

Elim Fellowship  
PO Box 57A  
Lima, NY 14485

Make check to: Elim Fellowship  
Include note stating the donation is for  
the Caldwells

### Mail

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The trumpet blast of reveille at 6:30 a.m. stirred aching bodies. Tents jostled. Dew covered feet made their way to meet at the flagpole. It would be another long but exciting day learning new skills and developing character.

Personal testimonies of lives changed by the living Christ were given. Instructors made numerous comparisons between the camp activities and Biblical principles that the explorer (camper) could apply to his life. Guides (counselors) provided mentoring in every activity.

Speakers were varied and addressed the subjects "Is There a Creator?" and "How do We Respond to this Powerful and Intelligent Creator?". The food was a big hit. The location loaned to us was beautiful. It was a thrill to work with so many committed and loving people.

## Packed Schedule

Camp activities included: kayaking, shot putt, tetherball, trampoline, paper airplane folding, swimming, silk screening, water sliding that featured lots of mud, go-kart "racing", knot tying, blow pipe and sling shot practice, leather working, boxing, marbles, Frisbee golf, compass work, volleyball, gymnastics, and a co-operation course that featured individual

and group balance, swinging, ropes, and climbing. Scripture memory verses, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, earth ball, giant soap bubble displays, night games, a scary thunderstorm, and campfires didn't get left out either. Camp was intense. Kids are looking forward to coming back.

## Once Around

It was a great day just after classes in the spring of 1978. As I was about to enter Carpenter Hall on the campus of Roberts Wesleyan College, I was abducted! Not by thugs but guys on the track team. I was "re-cruited" in the manner of one entering the former English maritime service... kidnapped without warning and bodily carried to the departing fleet... in this case the athletic department's bus. I was pressed into service. I would run the 440.

Still a great day. I love adventures. I stood tense on the other school's track at my position. The "old" guy with the pistol in his hand could see my apprehension. In those long instances that ensued I received two messages that seemed to conflict. The mouth of the "old" man told me to relax (I was wound tight). In the next moment the finger of that same

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coach pulled the trigger. Confusion was overpowered by instinct — I ran!

I went around the track in the right direction. I even stayed in my lane. I have this vivid memory of the struggle to get my body to move faster in the horizontal direction. Rapid depletion of go-power was replaced by an increase of pain. Poured out. Nothing left.

I could hear the voices though. Those of my schoolmates. They shouted. They told me, one who couldn't, that I could. I did. I made it across the line, once around the track.

I had done something I never did before... I raced at the college level and I earned a point for the team! I had given my all. What little there was in my stomach (a peanut butter sandwich) departed as I clung to a chain link fence gasping for life to return. I was depleted of physical strength but elated to have been a part of the event.

I suppose still in the annals of Robert's sports records stands an insignificant name next to an

inordinate number of seconds for a

race run by an ordinary guy.

On a larger score board stand the names of people recorded by the angels of heaven, you who have made possible the very first ever summer camp in

this part of Mexico. Words of encouragement and cheering, donations, scholarships, prayers, participation, and perspiration... You!, We!, He!, did it! It is now a proven fact, camp can happen here.

As spokesperson for this Mexican camp project I'll tell you that the first camp was a hands-down success. **We needed every ounce of help accumulated for years and God's last minute provisions**, in order to fall exhausted across the finish line, once around.

As we reflect back a year ago to September 11, we recognize Satan hijacks people to inflict harm on them and uses them to hurt others. God on the other hand, has, as my track mates did, our best interest in mind. God pursues us. His wisdom cheers and shouts to us to continue the good race and not to grow tired of doing good works.

God created you and me for a purpose, to glorify Himself. He tells us to trust Him (relax) yet fires us off on adventures. May our apathy be droned by the awareness of the needs of others. May our actions be inspired by the Spirit. For those of you who run this particular race with us... thank you! We will be giving it another go around... shout loud, we are all part of the winning team!

## Land

Pray with us as we continue looking for a permanent land location for a Morelia RYCCA

camp/office/Caldwell home combination. On our last search we encountered a small rattlesnake and got drenched in a rainstorm.

## Aaron

Only two weeks before the shot went off to start camp, Aaron, 24 years old, was asked to consider leaving upstate New York and fly to Mexico to help with the camp. Having never met or heard of us or traveled to Mexico his "yes" was a step into the unknown. However, his "yes" made a great difference. A serious dirt track race car driver and mechanic, Aaron brought needed tools and expertise to administer one of the favorite activities—go-kart. Thanks for the strong arm Aaron.

## Home Front Happenings

Karen and I and our kids have made new friends here.

Home school has started.

Nathan, our oldest son, attended two camps in NY this summer.

Karen has had many opportunities to pray with neighbors.

We were given permission to keep the same office space for a while longer—one less transition.

Our Mexican visas are in process—we are allowed to step up to a new level this year.



Retiros Y Campamentos Con Aventura A.C.

**It is now a proven fact, camp can happen here.**