



Seek the First Cause

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By Karen Caldwell

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RYCCA Review

**RYCCA: Building camps for others.
Using the camp experience for
ministry.**



The Caldwell family serves in Mexico as founders of Retiros Y Campamentos Con Aventura (RYCCA)

Email

karen@rycca.org.mx

Strategy

Pray
Love people
Do camp

Contributions for Caldwell/RYCCA

Camps International
PO Box 453102
Garland, TX 75045

Make check to: "Camps International"
Include note: "Caldwell Ministry"
Camps Int'l 501(c)(3) status pending

Questions: call 972-530-0966 and ask for Sonja Milam

Web

www.rycca.org.mx
www.campsinternational.org

Karen's Internet Phone

Skype username: startcamps

RYCCA is pronounced "ree-ka" and is a Spanish acronym for Retreats and Camps with Adventure

Building

Important Decision

As I was praying one morning I began weeping, telling God how much I loved Him. My mind took me back 27 years ago when I was serving God as a short-term missionary nurse in Kenya, Africa. I had been struggling with trusting God about loving a man. I was afraid to yield to and love this man because

I thought God might say; "now I am going to take him away from you, Karen." I remember sharing this fear with one of the missionaries with whom I was living with that summer. She told me God doesn't hurt you like that Karen. God revealed that my fear was related to my childhood where I was apart from my parents so they could serve the Lord as Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea.

I wanted to be a missionary and serve the Lord but this man didn't want to be a missionary. How could I obey God and marry this man? Would I have to give up my calling to be a missionary?

Well, I learned again of God's restoration. And 25 years ago, I married that man, David. And yes, God wooed David into

missions. His timing isn't always as we want it but He is faithful to

those who are called according to His purpose.

I believe God will be faithful to bring about camps in Mexico in His timing. Will you join us in this struggle to bring Christ to many kids and teens here in Mexico?



Karen and David
Celebrating 25 years

Visitors Build

A friend wrote saying she wanted to pray for a group to come and help us. In asking for specifics we let her know we needed rugged people who could live in tents and do lots of building. God answered and sent a group of four made up of three teens and a mom. My friend couldn't come but she became part of the team by praying for others to help build.

The group came for two weeks in July, the middle of rainy season. Despite the time being in the rainy season we were able to accomplish many projects. Areas of work included the two existing dome shells, several sewers, digging trenches and holes, planting, mowing grass, weeding, and pouring cement.

The team came with many
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items that their churches bought and donated. (See <http://www.campsinternational.org/needs.html> for a current list.) We used the walkie-talkies the team brought so we could communicate as we worked around the five-acre property. We were encouraged and blessed by the team's help and gifts given to RYCCA for the camps.

Kim had joined the team by responding to an announcement made at her Spanish class about a work team going to help missionaries in Mexico. She was a great companion to our two girls, Kari and Cherith, working along side of them. Our children have spent months and months giving their time and energy to building our first permanent campsite in Mexico. It meant a lot to our girls to have someone volunteer and raise funds to come down to work with them. Maybe Kim will be able to come next summer too. She desires to be a counselor at a camp with an English-speaking theme. She is learning Spanish so she can help others learn of Christ.

Lori, the mother of the boys on the team wrote a blog about their trip and it is posted at <http://www.campsinternational.org/lorisblog20060731.html>. In the blog she states: "Service to the Lord is not an option, but he does equip us all differently. My teenage children are already planning a return trip. However, most likely, the majority of you would rather be a 'support'. The Lord has called the Caldwells to build camps for the Mexican

churches so that they can provide Christian training for the hurting and lost of Mexico. Supplies and funds are always needed to make these camps a reality. RYCCA is a frugal organization, but, the cost of building materials has increased. If you aren't 'called' to pour concrete, move rocks and eat tamales with the Caldwells, then pray for a way that you can support them with your wallet. God created us as a body and we need each other to build each other up so that we may be equipped to spread Gods' love to a lost and dying world."

Our Dreams, God's Plan

We have many dreams of how to use this site for God's work. We need to be able to live there permanently so we can run the programs throughout the year. God continues to remind us that this is His story and we are cooperating with Him. It is a refining process, as we desire to be doing other things rather than digging, placing rebar and pouring cement. This is a slow and arduous process which lengthens as we have been unable to employ workers full time to help in construction due to lack of funds.

Oswald Chambers, in his book "My Utmost for his Highest" states in the reading for August 1st, "An average view of the Christian life is that it means deliverance from trouble. It is deliverance in trouble, which is very different. God does not give us over coming life: He has given us life as we

overcome. The strain is the strength. The saint is hilarious when he is crushed with difficulties because the thing is so ludicrously impossible to any one but God."

We continue to persevere in this impossible task because it is God who continues to give us the strength and the resources with which to do it. We couldn't have overcome all the obstacles in the past that have come up against us, nor this one without His special care. Therefore, we know that God is doing the impossible and it will be God who gets the glory when RYCCA camps are happening all over Mexico.

We have much to do and need finances to do it with. Some projects are: ropes course, climbing wall, tennis court, speed soccer field, continuation of the go-kart track, swimming pool, basketball court, and zip-line. We need to put in a permanent water system with purification as right now we have a temporary one.

Yet with all there is to do we are much closer to a permanent campsite than ever. We are encouraged to continue to trust in our Father who is keeping us keeping on. We give thanks to Him for helping us get so much done in these past months since moving back to the Morelia area.



Retiros Y Campamentos Con Aventura A.C.

Working with Camps International to create camps where there are none.