



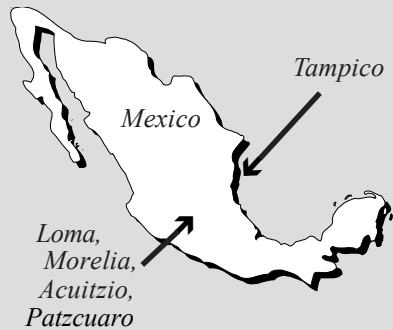
Seek the First Cause

February 2006

## RYCCA Review

### RYCCA Camps:

- ◆ Leadership development
- ◆ Evangelistic outreach



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

### Email

david@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

### RYCCA Review edited by:

caleb@rycca.org.mx

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

# Foundations

## Base Camp

Acuitzio: A small town about 20 miles out of Morelia, the capital of Michoacán. It is seemingly peaceful and friendly. Leathery-faced cowboys walk the streets, milkmen drive their daily route, and teens fill the four Internet cafés.

Acuitzio is ten miles from the Caldwells' property in Loma Caliente and is, in fact, one of the closest towns with both electricity and Internet connection.

Acuitzio, and a two-bedroom apartment there, is serving as a base for the Caldwells as they progress toward building permanent installations on the property in Loma.

Even though the Loma property is only a hundred meters from a beautiful reservoir, it is an involved legal process to obtain water permissions. Once the water rights are obtained, a pump house must be built and trenches dug to pipe the water to the property.

A generator is used for temporary electricity for particular tools that are needed on the construction site. Solar is being

considered as a future power source for the Loma property. Pray concerning this and over the need for water.

Developing the site will greatly facilitate the running of camps, retreats, and training sessions for counselors.

## Footings and Friendships

Nacho, the young backhoe operator, swung his large machine into position and began digging the beginnings of a dome foundation. He looked down from his air-conditioned cab at the line indicated by stakes that David Caldwell had laid out and pushed his hat farther back on his head. The new machine cut its way through the dry grass and into the deep topsoil beneath.

The Caldwells had hired a backhoe and operator from Angel, a machine contractor who lives just outside of Acuitzio.

It took two days to dig the driveways and the eight dome foundations that the Caldwells are putting onto their land in Loma.



Digging foundations in Loma

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One of the dome foundations is for the future office of RYCCA Mexico camp operations.

The raw construction materials for the Caldwells' dome projects are bought from Nico, a good friend and neighbor and the owner of a construction materials business.

The foundation and flooring for a 23-foot diameter dome has been poured and the re-bar structure for the rest of the dome is in place.

It would be advantageous for the greater part of the construction to be finished before the rainy season starts in May.

Angel and his family have recently visited the property. His children, along with most of the Caldwells, spent an afternoon testing out some of the camp activities, including tetherball, the trampoline and a dip in the lake.

Nico and his family have been invited to the campsite, where it is hoped that they will not only have a good time, but feel free to ask questions about God.

See the CI web site [www.campsinternational.org](http://www.campsinternational.org) for photos of life at Loma.

## Reflections

There has been frost on the ground several times at the property in Loma Caliente, but lately it has been warmer. The days are crisp, like biting into a red

apple on a fall day, and the nights chilly. The temperature varies from just above freezing to 90 degrees in the direct sun. In the



*Nico's manner is a great example of Mexican hospitality*

morning when the air is cooler than the water, the lake sends up steam that envelops the land around it in a grayish veil, so that you can't see more than 30 feet in any direction. Then the sun comes up over the mountains, up through the lake

fog, turning it a beautiful gold until it is dispersed by the sun's heat.

The newly mowed grass turns wet with the melted frost, soaking the sneakers slogging through it. Even in winter there are flowers on the slopes of Loma Caliente, wild marigolds a brilliant orange in the midday sun and small purple flowers blooming from tough, ugly stalks. The night sky, cold and clear, shines with a panorama of stars seldom seen in city areas. Loma Caliente is a beautiful piece of God's creation and we at RYCCA feel blessed to be able to live and work in such a place.

## Working with CCI

In November David was elected to the board of Christian Camping International-Mexico (CCI-MX) and will be doing additional travel to assist that camp focused organization.

On January 27, David, along

with Cherith, drove the four hours to Queretaro for David's first CCI-MX board meeting. The board meeting went from morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> to noon of the 29<sup>th</sup> and covered a broad range of topics. The meeting was held at the 450-year-old hacienda, La Quemada, which the owners want to turn into a retreat center. David was able to talk to the owners, Cristian and Jessica, for several hours on camp matters.

After some car trouble, David and Cherith arrived safely back in Acuitzio at 1:30 a.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Internet chat CCI-MX board sessions are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month to further enrich camp activities for the country.

## Threads

◆ Praise God that Nathan Caldwell, 19, the oldest of the Caldwell children, was able to visit the Caldwells in Acuitzio from College of the Ozarks for the Christmas holidays. He returned to Missouri on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January to continue studies in mathematics.

◆ Camps International (CI) has filed their 1023 with the IRS and is awaiting a letter of determination. Pray it will be forthcoming.

## Bill's Back

Bill Ensinger has visited the Caldwells in Mexico on three occasions. To learn more about Bill's visit to Acuitzio go to Bill's Blog at:

[www.campsinternational.org/billsblog.html](http://www.campsinternational.org/billsblog.html).

