

NOTES ON THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Reconciliation of the Accounts with the Checkbook

You will find that if you subtract the outgo in each MMAB account from the reported income, the "Balance Forward" numbers will result, as they should. Therefore the \$8370.10 number at the end of all the reporting indicates the resources that the MMAB has received and continues to hold in trust, as of October 31st. Some are being held until the Mission is prepared to move forward on the designated projects, some are simply in transit and may already be gone as of the MMAB meeting on November 12, 2005.

In addition to MMAB accounts, the MMAB checkbook carries money that belongs to the Cortes Family, as part of their stipend that has neither been transferred to Mexico yet nor been used to pay bills for the family in the USA. As of October 31st, the records show \$1573.49 in the Cortes Family account. That should make the checkbook balance a grand total of \$9,943.59.

If you look in the checkbook, the actual balance shows \$8902.59 as of October 31st, which is \$1041.00 less than the anticipated grand total. That difference appears on the income page, in Fund #01, as the total of donations received from the NACCC. The checkbook shows that as a November deposit, but the reports show it as an October income element. It is entered that way because the NACCC sends donations at the end of each month; doing it this way shows NACCC October donations as MMAB October income. The NACCC check was actually deposited on November 8th

Notes on Changes in the Treasurer's Procedures

There has been a change in the routing procedures used by the NACCC for funds received in their office for Mission Mazahua. In order to assure more precise application of designated donations, the NACCC has agreed to forward all funds to the MMAB for distribution. When one of their donors makes a designation, the funds will be accounted for through our corresponding accounts. A current example appears in MMAB Account #40, where a \$200 donation given through the NACCC, designated for Lisa and Norberto, is identified as a support gift rather than a general fund gift. Fund balances are reported to Lisa and Norberto as changes occur, and they authorize disbursements from the various MMAB funds as Mission needs and activities warrant.

One new fund has appeared on the report since the last one was produced, namely MMAB Account #65, Disaster Relief/Aid. This came about specifically because the NACCC Missionary Society sent \$3000 of One Great Hour of Sharing money to be applied to hurricane flood relief in Chiapas State, down in southern Mexico, with Mission Mazahua as the distribution agent. Well over half of that has been sent on already, while the rest is being held for longer-term recovery needs that will be coming in the weeks and months ahead. We have a colleague on site who is supervising use of those funds.

Transmission of funds has always been something of a problem, both in terms of time required to move resources and in terms of service charges incurred. At the moment, we continue to use Huntington Bank as one means of financial communication. For the Mission's General Fund, we have a checking account there. Money is available to Mission staff the next business day after deposit, but only at the rate of \$400 a day through their ATM machines. We have discovered that

if we send larger sums of money in chunks to Mexican banks, we can get same-day availability and reduce the total costs of transfers. We have begun sending a significant portion of donated resources by wire transfer, into segregated accounts that help keep application to designated projects clearer on the Mission end of things. All of this is part of an ongoing process of optimizing the efficiency of the financial aspects of the Mission's operations.

The fact that some MMAB funds show little activity does not necessarily mean that the Mission is dormant in that dimension of ministry. The income funds show only the way donors designated their contributions, not how they were applied. So, for example, there is steady activity in ministries that fall under the category of Village Improvements, but since little donated money has been designated for those purposes, most of the funding for these ministries are currently coming out of the General Fund. There are several students who are receiving Scholarships, but the Mission has chosen to fund those mainly from camping income, saving MMAB Scholarship Fund resources for special projects that they are moving toward on an uncertain timetable. That accumulation may disappear quickly when the Plaza Comunitaria opens, for example, or when a couple of Mazahua students make it into college and need additional support to stay there.

The Mission has a significant income stream generated by on site activities, in addition to the funding received from the USA. Both streams are critical, and the combined impact of the two streams continues to require extremely frugal stewardship, but thankfully we see the combination growing slowly. We are currently working to integrate the Mission's accounting system and the one I use. In 2006 I may be able to begin presenting both MMAB account reports *and* Mission Mazahua reports showing the full scope of their financial activity. Your prayers will be appreciated as we pursue those goals.

Someone may catch the fact that the Cortes Support plus Cortes Stipend amount for September falls short of the regular \$1400 per month. Please note that the difference was made up in October. This is another anomaly caused by a wrinkle in the timing of receipts and deposits, not a failure to care for our missionaries!

For those who may be considering year-end support for the Mission, may I observe as usual that any donation dated on or before December 31st and **POSTMARKED** on or before December 31st will be recorded as December income, even if the actual deposit is not accomplished until January! Those who may desire to report giving to the MMAB need to know that the government is absolutely inflexible about the cutoff date, but they are perfectly glad to allow latitude in the processing time as indicated. Plan accordingly.

Many, many thanks to those who support the Mission with both finances and prayer. This year has seen an extraordinary series of Spirit-orchestrated "coincidences" in which significant support arrived "just in time" to address significant needs! Often enough the donor knew nothing of the need, simply having given when the time felt right. No one could have arranged such an integration of opportunities and resources other than the Lord Himself. Individuals, churches, teams and organizations have all been part of that action. We who love the Mission are grateful, and we wanted you to be able to share the joy of seeing God at work in one more element of the Mission's life and service.

There remain many, many more projects and ministries that could and should be done than the current resources allow. We invite your partnership in seeking wisdom and guidance, creativity and provision from on high as we pursue the work of the Kingdom in Mazahua country!