From very few trees in the 1960s to an abundance of trees today, the landscape of Victory Ranch has changed. The reasons for this change are many, including the increased firewood demand, the shutdown of a nearby facility that had previously maintained the property, and the increase in visitors to the ranch. The ranch has responded by harvesting additional trees and offering them to visitors for use as firewood. This has allowed the ranch to generate income while maintaining the property and providing a valuable resource for visitors.

The ranch has also set up an Amazon wishlist to help visitors contribute to the ranch's needs. The link to this wishlist is provided on the ranch's website, which can be found at www.vranch.org. By purchasing items from the wishlist, visitors can help the ranch meet its needs and continue to provide a high-quality camping experience.

In addition to the increased firewood demand, the ranch has also had to address other issues, such as maintenance and removal of trees. The ranch uses a variety of tools and equipment to maintain the property, including a large fan to move dust and debris, a trailer to move equipment, and a truck to haul away debris. The ranch also has a staff of skilled workers who are dedicated to maintaining the property and providing a safe and enjoyable camping experience for visitors.

In conclusion, the ranch has experienced significant changes in recent years, including an increase in firewood demand, a shutdown of a nearby facility, and an increase in visitors. The ranch has responded to these changes by harvesting additional trees, offering them to visitors for use as firewood, and setting up an Amazon wishlist to help visitors contribute to the ranch's needs. The ranch continues to be a popular destination for camping, with a dedicated staff of workers who are dedicated to maintaining the property and providing a safe and enjoyable camping experience for visitors.
A few days ago, on my fourth or fifth trip to the maintenance shop, I spotted a minimally responsive man in his twenties on the side of the road. It was quite a shock to see someone on our remote property. I asked him where he came from, what his name was, how old he was, etc. but he didn’t have any answers. I finally asked if he wanted medical help, and he replied “yes.” The 911 dispatcher wanted to keep me on the line, so I couldn’t let anyone else on staff know what was happening. Bill told me later that he just felt like he needed to go take a look around and happened to come past me while I was still talking with the 911 operator. Praise the Lord! Bill was able to go open the gates and escort the firetruck, ambulance, and ultimately the CHP to the young man.

**Volunteer(s) Needed**

Once the camp was blessed to get carpet in the cabins, we started collecting vacuums. We try to keep a vacuum in every room. However, over time, switches, motors, and belts fail; and other component stop working properly. Often the vacuum is swapped out for a recent donation. Some of these vacuums only need minor repairs, others more in depth attention. We are looking for a volunteer to come out occasionally and try to keep up with repairs. If you feel you have the ability to take this project on, please contact the Ranch.

**WHAT YEAR IS THIS?**

If you were a former camper at Camp Victory / Victory Ranch, maybe these names will sound familiar: Kathy Boyd, Steve Button, Tim Farr, Jean Gehring, Bryan Gott, David Gott, Kevin Gott, and Joni Kalbfleish. What year were they at Victory Ranch? Actually, each of these former campers were here this past summer, volunteering their time to the Lord. What a blessing to have the additional help from former campers who wanted to give back to a ministry that played an important part in their lives.

**Volunteer(s) Needed**

Having addressed safety concerns and added sanitary measures last year, we were looking forward to offering overnight camping in 2021. However, with the fear and hype generated by the media over Covid-19 and broken promises from governmental entities over reopening, we were beginning to have our doubts as to whether we would be able to open for our summer camping season. In 2020, we were only allowed to offer day camps, and we saw the number of campers plunge. Curiously, the greatest drop was in the number of junior campers, which are supposedly the age group least likely to be affected by Covid-19. As we began taking registrations for our 2021 camps, it was encouraging to see junior registrations two and a half times higher than in 2020. The amazing thing we noticed was that 38 of our 49 junior campers were at Victory Ranch for the very first time!

Another challenge was finding enough counselors and staff to efficiently operate. However, God filled each vacancy, and those He supplied made a better team than I could have imagined. Dr. Linn and Carol Carothers and his infamous puppet, Deadwood Danny, spoke to our junior campers. The following week, Carl Kerby, an apologist with a ministry called Reasons for Hope, armed the high schoolers with the information they need to defend their faith. It was a blessing to have the youth worship team from Cornerstone Church in Hemet lead the music. Our final week of camp, we hosted our middle school campers. Pastor Ben Ice, author of the Truth Trackers series, spoke to the middle schoolers.

Interestingly, as we looked back on our summer camp registrations, we discovered that almost half of our campers were first-time campers at Victory Ranch. What a privilege to share the gospel with so many first-time campers as well as challenge believers to spiritual growth. Thank you for your prayers and support!

**Round-Up**

Approximately seventy people gathered at Huntington Beach on September 11 for our annual Bonfire Bonanza. The Cross family graciously arrived at 6:30 a.m. to stake out five fire pits together. Early arrivals were blessed by having their parking fees waived due to the marathon earlier that morning. A big thank you to those that helped to make the event a success. Cassandra Cross, Gabriel Pressey, and Jacob Parish helped the Ranch staff set up the pop-ups, carry firewood, etc., and set up the volleyball courts. Jordan Sibayan led the worship, and Pastor Russ Boone brought the message from God’s Word. Among the many people in attendance, there were 12 GARBC churches represented.

**Summit Camp Summary**

Our Fall Ladies’ Retreat has been moved to October 8-9, 2021, to accommodate our husband and wife speaker team coming from Calexico. Irene Gonzalez will be our speaker. Irene and her husband Rene were at First Fundamental Bible Church in Calexico, not to be mistaken with her brother Alex Montoya’s church, First Fundamental Bible Church of Whittier. Irene’s theme will be “Thriving in Troubled Times.” The retreat will start on Friday morning and will have a morning session at 10:45 a.m. and an evening session at 7:30 p.m. that day. There will be one service Saturday at 10:45 a.m. We are eagerly anticipating a ladies quartet from First Baptist Church of Spring Valley bringing two numbers during the Saturday service. We are planning to have the popular Silent Auction as well. Please check our website (www.vranch.org) for the latest details.

**Men’s Retreat**

We are looking forward to our Fall Men’s Retreat on October 15-16, 2021. We will be patterning our retreat schedule after the spring retreat, except offering overnight lodging. Pastor Rene Gonzalez, who pastored First Fundamental Bible Church of Calexico for 40 years, will be our speaker. His theme will be “The Example of Joshua.” Although participants are welcome to come out early for no extra charge, the retreat will officially start Friday evening with dinner followed by our first session with Pastor Gonzalez. We are planning to have a campfire, dessert, etc. On Saturday, we will have our second session at 11:30 a.m. and the final session at 4:00 p.m., interspersed with sports competitions. The steak dinner will be Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. The full schedule with meal times, etc., is on our website at www.vranch.org.

**Round-Up**

In 2020, the ARBSCC board thought it best to hold the annual meetings for our association via Zoom. Unfortunately, we saw the number of attendees signed up plummet from 75 to about 20. Bruce McLain brought an excellent message for those of us who logged on. At this point, the ARBSCC Board is planning to have a “live” Round-up at Victory Ranch on November 6, 2021. They have invited Bruce McLain back to speak. Our desire is to have this be a day for the whole family to come out and enjoy the Ranch. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Where else can you get a “free lunch” these days? (There will be an offering taken to help offset expenses.)
If you would like to donate online, that may be done through our website at www.vranch.org by clicking the “Donate” button or by scanning the QR code. Select “New Cabin Fund” as the designation.

Please remember that a fee (about 2%) is charged for any donations made via credit card, which means not all of the amount donated will go toward the project. Consider adding a small amount to offset this fee.

On September 13, I received a call from a generous individual who offered to match any funds given toward the project up to $300,000.00 through the end of the year. We have not asked for funds for a project like this in many years. Would you consider having a part in this project? Please designate any gifts to the “New Cabin Fund.”

What a challenge this project has been! These new air-conditioned cabins with private toilet and shower facilities will be a tremendous asset to the continued ministry of the Ranch, once the plans are approved. Each time we have given Riverside County what they want, they come back asking for more. We have addressed all the corrections and have re-submitted the plans. If you have not done so already, please make this project a matter of prayer. Construction materials continue to skyrocket in price. I received word a few weeks ago that some of the initial funding for the project is no longer available, and we do not want to incur any debt. We realize that if the Lord wants this project completed, He will supply the funds.

NEW CABIN PROJECT

NEW CABIN PROJECT
PROPOSED LAYOUT OF NEW CABINS

Each side is planned to have three bunk beds, one with a lower double-size bed to facilitate family housing.

Six cabins planned (twelve rooms when using optional room divider).

Cabin

Optional Room Divider

Cabin

Restroom

Shower

ADA Shower

ADA Restroom

Porch