

Victory Ranch
18080 Gilman Springs Rd
Moreno Valley, CA 92555



Electronic Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HEMET, CA
PERMIT NO.15

Men's & Ladies' Retreat Info Inside



Round-up

The Regular Baptist Round-up is scheduled for **Saturday, November 7, 2020**. This is a free event with activities for the whole family, and lunch is included. All our churches are invited to participate. Watch our website for additional details.



As long as government regulations allow, our next Sunday evening Singspirations will be held at:

- **October 11 - Cancelled**
- **November 15 at 8:00 p.m. – First Baptist of Welteria, Torrance**
- **December 6 at 8:00 p.m. – S. Vermont Avenue Baptist, Gardena**

Invite a friend to come join you for a good time of singing and praising the Lord.



New Cabin Project

We have had a builder working on plans for our new cabins. We have had aerial surveying done, soils testing, and architectural designs. Please join us in prayer that God would grant us grace in the eyes of the county if He wants this project to move forward.

VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

FALL 2020



**From the Director's Desk:
By Paul Cayot**

Phone: (951) 654-7766
email: vranchcamp@gmail.com
www.vranch.org

Maybe you've noticed that you haven't seen much news from the Ranch recently. There are several reasons. One is because we had to cancel the majority of our programs and activities. Secondly, it was impossible to give any definitive information since the governor's orders changed almost daily. Lastly, since our revenue from rental of the facilities to guest groups (approximately 70% of our income) has dried up, we are trying to save money any way we can. One way is by cutting back on our mailings. However, at this point, we need to reconnect with all of you and let you know about our summer and what to expect this fall.

The big question this spring was do we try to offer summer camps amidst the chaos and fear gripping the world, or do we shut down the ministry and hope to open after the proverbial dust has settled? Our Board carefully weighed the gravity of the situation against the potential for ministry among young people looking for answers in their upside down world. The answer was unanimous: if we can open, we need to fulfill our purpose and minister to our campers.

Now the dilemma. Despite a May 27 promise from the governor's office to have guidelines for camps, they were never provided. Riverside County would not let us open unless the State of California issued guidelines for summer camps. The state does not want to deal with summer camps and told us they were not planning on issuing any guidelines, but if Riverside County would let us open, we could. Riverside County said no again, but we were told that we could potentially operate as a day camp if we submitted additional paperwork. We turned it in, and praise the Lord, we were approved!



We opened on July 13 with a single day Middle School Camp of 24 campers. Halfway through the day, we heard that the governor was planning to ban all indoor venues by midnight. We finished the day and sent the happy campers home. Two years ago, the Ranch had purchased a crate with a 60' x 30' structure. It did not work for its intended purpose, and I was actually thinking of trying to sell it to get some of our money back. We talked it over and met at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday morning along with some high school staff members and a counselor. We left the ends out of the structure and had it completed by 1:30 p.m. The Riverside County Health Department confirmed that, as long as we did our activities outside, we could continue to operate. Wednesday morning we hosted our 15 junior campers. They all seemed to have a great time despite having to eat and meet outside.

We also had to deal with some last minute staffing changes. Many counselors took positions outside of Christian camping for the summer. However, some were able to take a few days off work, and God supplied the rest of the staff we needed for our program. I thank the Lord for Francine Morales, our Program Director. She has worked tirelessly to insure we got permission to operate and that we could comply with all the regulations. She was able to successfully cram a week of camp into a day for our campers. We want to thank our speakers as well, Pastor Ben Ice and Apologist Carl Kerby, for their heart for young people and their desire to let God use them to make a difference in these young people's lives.

Director’s Desk (continued)

As we were gearing up for summer, we sent out a newsletter. About 8% of the people on our mailing list live out-of-state, and admittedly, sometimes we wonder if they still enjoy receiving our mailings. One such person, living in the Midwest, saw our newsletter and started to throw it away. However, he felt God prompting him to read it. He read of the dilemma we were in and contacted me to find out if we were going to offer camp or shut down, like so many other camps. I told him our speakers were still planning to come and we were going to proclaim God’s Word to any young person that could attend. Since we had been shut down since mid-March, he asked what it would cost us to open back up and operate our summer program. I told him I didn’t know, but we would track the expenses and income. Once I had time to review the numbers following camp, I let him know where we stood. A few days later, a check arrived in the amount of \$15,000 from a trust with which he is affiliated! We praise the Lord for this organization, churches, and many individuals who have given “over and above” to help us to continue to proclaim God’s Word.

SUMMER DAY CAMP REPORT

Before opening the camp, we looked at the guidelines for re-opening from the county, the American Camping Association, and the Center for Disease Control. We had ordered additional hand sanitizer dispensers a month and a half ahead of camp, which got them to us right as camp was ready to begin. We had a team of 2-3 people who walked around the camp constantly sanitizing doorknobs, handrails, and restrooms. Each activity — horses, archery, crafts, etc. — sanitized their specific equipment throughout free time. The kitchen crew wore masks and followed county guidelines.



As campers arrived, all occupants of each vehicle had their temperature taken before being allowed on the property. We opened the pasture fence and had parents drive across the playfield to the First Aid Director’s table. After being screened there, they drove into the Chapel parking lot where they checked in. Parents would then drive on past the Chapel and back out the driveway. The system worked well, and we may implement portions of it when and if we are able to open again. We had a total of 154 campers over the course of the 6 days. Forty five of those young people returned for a second day of camp. With a different speaker for the second week, Francine designed a whole new regimen of games and activities. I am so thankful for all the work she and Austin put into the program to give our campers a “top-notch” program.

Green Flatbed Golf Cart

On a whim, Bill bought a green colored Taylor Dunn golf cart with a 6’ flatbed. A quick look seemed to indicate the computer control module might be bad. These are fairly expensive. A few months later, he bought a similar one for parts only to discover someone had removed the module. With no rental groups in camp, Bill and Larry decided to work on the carts toward the end of May. They discovered the module was good in the green one, but the motor was bad. The second cart had a better motor and custom bumper. They cannibalized the second cart and got the green one running. Not wanting to spend money on batteries, we parked it. Now, needing to transport food from the kitchen to our outdoor venue, we needed a cart with carrying capacity. Bill pulled batteries out of another cart and got it operating in time for our first lunch in the new pavilion!



Between Francine, Joanne, and Kristi, our staff designed a clever shirt that went along with our Micah 6:8 theme but also addressed the pandemic. The shirt reads, “DO justly (from a distance). LOVE mercy (from 6 feet away). WALK humbly with your God (no distancing required).” While supplies last, you can purchase one from our website (www.vranch.org) for \$20, or 2 for \$35, postage included!



“DAY CAMPS” FOR ADULTS!

Ladies’ Day Camp

The Fall Ladies’ Retreat is scheduled for **October 2 and 3, 2020**. The good news is that Riverside County, at the time of writing this article, has said we can once again meet and eat inside. Since the State of California has still not issued guidelines for overnight camps, Riverside County will not let us offer dormitory housing. Consequently, instead of our usual two day retreat, we will be offering two, single day “day camps” for the ladies. Ladies are still welcome to attend both days. Our speakers will be giving different messages each day, and the program will vary slightly.

Our theme is “**Wonder Women of the Bible.**” Our speakers are Mrs. Russ Boone from Bible Baptist of Santa Monica and Mrs. Jay Gauthier from First Baptist of El Monte. Each lady will speak once each day. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. both days with a continental breakfast available until 9:15 a.m. The rifle range and archery will be open in the morning, and our first chapel session Friday morning with Val Gauthier will start at 11:00 a.m. Following lunch at 12:30 p.m., we will have a variety of activities, including horse rides, open until 4:00 p.m. At 4:30 p.m., we will have our final chapel session with Tammy Boone. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by a campfire at 7:00 p.m. and ice cream after that. Saturday’s camp will follow a similar schedule with Tammy Boone speaking at 11:00 a.m. and Val Gauthier speaking at 4:30 p.m.



So that no one who becomes ill feels compelled to come because they might lose their non-refundable deposit, we will not be asking for a deposit up front. We just ask you to keep us informed if you should feel sick and need to back-out. Please take your temperature before you head out here and we will take it again when you arrive at the Ranch. Attendees will be encouraged to dine with those they rode out here with and to practice good hygiene while on the premises. Don’t miss out! Register today.



Men’s Day Camp

Today we are seeing things we never thought we would see in our lifetime. Churches are being fined for opening their doors. Rioters and looters are encouraged to plunder and steal by elected officials. Prisons doors are opened and criminals granted early releases. Police officers are shot and killed while angry crowds rejoice. People are calling good evil and evil good. We are indeed in “Unstable Times.” Pastor Russ Boone



will be addressing this topic with the theme “**Stability in Unstable Times.**”

As with the Ladies’ Retreat, we will be offering this event as a single day “day camp.” The retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17**. Registration will be at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast served until 9:15 a.m. The shooting range will be open in the morning, along with the archery competition. Due to the high fire danger, the range will then be closed for the rest of the day. Following lunch at noon, we will have our first session with Pastor Boone. Then in the afternoon, we will have competitions in the usual events followed by our final session with Pastor Boone at 4:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., we will have our steak dinner followed by a time at the campfire and ice cream sundaes before heading home. More details are available at www.vranch.org.



Reasons for Hope

We were privileged to have apologist Carl Kerby with us for our second week of camp. Carl was a founding board member of Answers in Genesis; however, Carl set out on his own and founded a new ministry called Reasons for Hope. This summer, he did a fantastic job presenting the flawed arguments used by evolutionists to promote their theories. His ministry produces a series of videos called *deBunked* to give Christians ammunition to share with non-believers caught up in the lies. All their resources are FREE. On October 3, they will have a special fundraising event to raise money to make more of the *deBunked* videos. If you want a chance to hear what they are doing to educate and prepare Christians to defend their faith, go to their website at www.getdebunked.org. Lord willing, we will have Carl back for our summer program in 2021.