

VICTORY RANCH

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Moreno Valley, CA 92555



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FIREWOOD

From very few trees in the 1960s to an abundance of trees today, the landscape of Victory Ranch has changed immensely through the years. The trees require trimming, maintenance, and removal from time to time. We used to cut tree branches into 6' lengths, drag them around the hill, and tell people they could have them for firewood. Very few disappeared, so our plan changed. Now we cut them into 12"-18" lengths, perfect for a fireplace, and they are well received. However, with the shutdown last year, few people claimed any. Now there is a huge mountain of firewood . . . waiting for you. Call our office to arrange a time to pick some up.

AMAZON WISHLIST

After going over a year without overnight camping, we are thankful to have our cabins in use once again. However, some of our curtains and other housewares are showing their age. If you are interested in helping meet this need, we have set up an Amazon wishlist with the exact items. The link is at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/MR2RS6AKFNML?ref=wl_share. The list is "in progress" so new items will be added periodically.

SING SCHEDULE

First Baptist Church of Wilmington is experiencing some issues with their restrooms and is postponing hosting a Sing until October of 2022. **First Baptist of Waleria, Torrance** will host our November Sing on the 14th and **South Vermont Ave. Baptist** will host the December Sing on the 5th. At this point, both these Sings are scheduled at **3:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar and plan to join us for singing, food, and fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Ladies' Retreat.....October 8-9
Fall Men's Retreat.....October 15-16
Round-up.....November 6
Singspiration.....November 14 @ 3:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Waleria, Torrance
Singspiration.....December 5 @ 3:00 p.m.
South Vermont Ave. Baptist Church, Gardena

Because health regulations are continually changing, please watch our website at www.vranch.org for any changes to upcoming events.

VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

FALL 2021



From the Director's Desk:
By Paul Gayot

What a blessing to be able to hold week-long overnight camps again! We praise the Lord for sustaining this ministry through the shutdown and for allowing us to keep our permanent employees so we could open up in June with the rest of the state. In August, with only four days' notice, God brought a large guest group of 166 people. This income, coupled with the other guest groups in June and July, has allowed us to operate "in the black." It was a blessing to finally stop taking money out of our savings account in July, which we had been doing for over a year, to maintain our staff and facilities.

A few weeks ago, I took the senior Sunday school class from Cornerstone Church on a tour of the Ranch. Each time I stopped the tram, I would share of God's miraculous provision at that location. Someone asked if I had written a book. Unfortunately, I haven't had time to do that; however, I will take time in the following paragraphs to share a few of the ways we have seen God at work recently and how He has blessed this ministry.

Locating staff for summer camp is always a challenge. We had one college student from Iowa commit early on and then some junior camp counselors volunteered, but there were still a lot of positions needing to be filled. One former counselor was going to be out-of-state, but a week or so ahead of camp, his plans fell through and he felt God was leading him to be here. Another counselor was working at a golf course, but they closed the week of Senior High Camp for renovations so he was able to be here. One pastor and wife who I have asked to participate several times through the years have always declined because of her work schedule. This year I did not ask them, but her work schedule cleared and they volunteered. I could go on and on. God put together a tremendous staff for our three weeks of camp. To Him be the glory!

What a blessing to have our Altec 55' aerial bucket truck



up and running! Built into the back of the truck are a couple triangular shaped recesses for wheel chocks. (Wheel chocks are pieces of rubber or steel placed behind and/or in front of a wheel to keep the vehicle from accidentally rolling.) The recesses are a little lower profile on this truck bed than any of the wheel chocks we have here at the Ranch. Several weeks ago, we had a service crew on the property. One of the trucks was an Altec, so I asked to look at the wheel chock so I would know for what I was looking if I spotted one at a thrift store. I did some research that night and found I could buy one from Altec, but the cost for shipping was going to be almost as much as the wheel chock itself. I decided not to order them and would wait to see if I could find one elsewhere. In the morning, I went down to the barn to feed the animals. In the wheelbarrow by the sheep pen was an Altec wheel chock. I assume a worker must have put it there, but I was thankful for the gift wherever it came from. I put it in our truck, and it fit perfectly.



After our summer camp program, I noticed the tumbleweeds in the field west of the camp needed some attention. I took the mower over there, but on the way I noticed the sage brush was really high around a couple pine trees. Although not really built to mow sage brush, our mower does an incredible job. However, unbeknownst to me, a piece apparently caught on the parking brake arm and pulled it free. Then the arm went around under the mower, doing damage until it broke off, and left the mower incapable of forward movement. I noticed the arm laying on the ground with one "ear" missing along with a special fitting. Bill wasn't sure how expensive the repair would be or if we could get the parts any time soon. He took off the damaged pieces and straightened them, then got his metal detector and searched the side of the hill until he found the missing piece. (Talk about a needle in a hay stack.) Bill welded the arm back together and reassembled the mower. We had a spare fan for the hydrostatic drive pump, so with the repair complete, the mower was operational a day later.

DIRECTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

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 Kalbfliesh. 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.

SUMMER CAMP SUMMARY

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!



LADIES' RETREAT

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 service 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., intermixed 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 ARBCSC 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 ARBCSC 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.)



BONFIRE BONANZA

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 GARB churches represented.



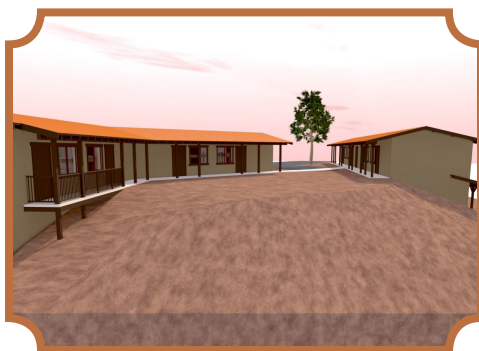
NEW CABIN PROJECT

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.



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."



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.

 PayPal



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PROPOSED LAYOUT OF NEW CABINS

