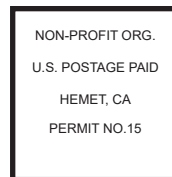


VICTORY RANCH
18080 Gilman Springs Road
Moreno Valley, CA 92555



Electronic Service Requested



VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

FALL 2022



From the Director's Desk:
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CHEVY LUMINA

Last February, our Camp Director was hit by an inattentive driver while delivering retreat information to one of our churches. Although the driver of the vehicle that caused the accident was not a U.S. Citizen, nor did he have a driver's license, he was in the country legally and had insurance and took full responsibility for the accident. Praise the Lord, Bill Goehring, our Foreman, was able to get the car parts necessary to get the Lumina back together and up and running. What a blessing to be able to use it again. It is used weekly to run errands for the Ranch as well as go back and forth to the Los Angeles area for the Sings!



- **October 9 @ 8:00pm**
First Baptist Church, Wilmington
- **November 13 @ 3:00pm**
First Baptist Church of Waleria, Torrance
- **December 4 @ 3:00pm**
South Vermont Ave. Baptist Church, Gardena

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Ladies' Retreat.....October 7-8
Fall Men's Retreat.....October 21-22
Round-up.....November 5
Winter Camp.....December 27-29
Spring Ladies' Retreat.....March 10-11
Spring Men's Retreat.....March 17-18
Family Fun Day.....April 1

SILVERWARE

Because few people enjoy eating with plastic silverware, we have used real stainless steel utensils at the camp for years. Unfortunately, despite being told to collect them at the end of the meal, many people throw their utensils away. Replacing them is expensive. If you have utensils you no longer want, or spot them at a garage sale or thrift store for a bargain price, you could help out the Ranch by donating them to our kitchen next time you are out this way or pass them along to Paul at one of the Sings.



One of the most stressful parts of this ministry happens during the months ahead of summer camp. We need to have adequate, qualified staff to provide our summer camp program. I'll have to admit that I'm a bit jealous of camp directors who have all their staff and counselors lined up in May. That has never happened in the all the years I've been at the Ranch. In fact, my own testimony as a college student attending Bethel Baptist Church in Torrance was to have my pastor call me on Sunday night to tell me that he had three boys that couldn't go to camp the following day unless he could find another counselor. Today that wouldn't happen due to the time needed for background checks, etc. That was 1982, and I was in the church van the following day, headed for Victory Ranch. There has not been a summer since then that I have not been here at Victory Ranch.

When I was asked to step into the role of director, I wanted to eliminate the stress of hunting for people at the last minute. I have tried to find our staff early. I contact prospective speakers in August, sometimes earlier, for the following summer. I contact pastors to serve as Camp Dads and Marshals. I ask who they would recommend as counselors from their church. I interact with prospective counselors at Sings and other events we sponsor, as well as visiting Bible colleges. However, I've found that it is getting more and more difficult for people to make a commitment. Some people have legitimate reasons for not being able to commit, and others just want to make sure nothing better is going to come up before they lock themselves into a commitment.

For summer 2022, I started contacting speakers in August of 2021. One by one they would tell me, "Let me think and pray about the opportunity." Weeks and months would often go by before I was told that "it just

won't work out for this summer." Back to square one, and the process would repeat. By April of 2022, I had a handful of counselors commit and some pastors, but I was still lacking speakers. Through one of the rejections, I got four names to try. Through those names, I ended up with yet another name. That name, Pastor Chris Hurton from Sunrise Bible Church in Red Bluff, shared his testimony and his passion for youth. I believed God had brought us the right man to speak to our middle schooler campers. As we concluded our conversation he told me, "If you had asked me in August, I would have told you no."



God had amazing things planned for this summer, and He wanted to make me rely on Him. When we ended up with only girls for Horsemanship Camp, I thought of Carol Carothers. Carol and her husband, Dr. Linn Carothers, committed to come. Carol came up with

an amazing set of lessons only to hear weeks later that she had cancer and would need surgery. She scheduled surgery immediately, so Lord willing, she would still be able to take part in the program. Following the surgery, Carol was told she would need to meet with doctors to discuss treatments. By God's grace, she was able to participate in Horsemanship Camp before meeting with the doctors. Please keep Dr. Carothers and Carol in your prayers.

Kristi Carter, our office manager, grew up attending Camp Tishomingo, a sister camp in Arizona. She mentioned a pastor who was always involved in camp there. Due to health concerns, he was not able to commit, but recommended another pastor, Tom Petro from Open Door Baptist Church in Prescott Valley, who also had been highly involved at Camp Tishomingo and was gifted in speaking to juniors. Pastor Tom was able to drive over and speak to our junior campers.

(Continued inside)

DIRECTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

(continued from front) When I went by Cornerstone Church in Hemet to confirm with Pastor Serhii that he would be able to lead the Senior High Camp worship, he told me that the youth band had taken that responsibility and he was not planning to come. I asked him if he would consider speaking. After praying about it, he agreed. God brought all our speakers to us within three months of camp. Each week, as I would listen to the messages in our chapel times, I was so grateful to God for each of these men that He had brought. Our campers were blessed indeed to sit under such gifted communicators of His Word.

God brought the counselors and staff we needed as well. Each one had a unique story as to why they were able to schedule a week, or several weeks off, to serve at Victory Ranch. We would need to add additional pages to this newsletter if I told you each of their stories; however, needless to say, God assembled the team we needed for the summer. I think of 2 Corinthians 12:9, where God told the Apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." I feel so overwhelmed each year when I look ahead to summer camp. However, God continues to prove that though I am weak, and often struggle to find volunteers, He provides the team that He wants here each summer. To God be the glory!



WITH THE LORD

Jim Farr, whose family has played an instrumental part in the ministry of the Ranch through the years, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, August 19, 2022, after a brief hospitalization. Jim's grandfather, Clifton Farr, planted the now giant pines in the Tent Village area in 1956. Jim's father, Dave Farr, along with some friends, would often drive out to the Ranch (Camp Victory) after school on Friday and work all day on Saturday making improvements. Jim worked on projects here as well and for many years headed up Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church's family camp here at the Ranch. He will be missed.

SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

We were blessed to have 22 young people try out for staff positions by attending our W(work) E(experience) S(staff) T(training) Week in June. The first week of July, we held our Horsemanship Camp, which we limited to just 18 participants.



During the second week of July, we held our Junior Camp. Fifty-four of the eighty young people were first time campers at Victory Ranch. Pastor Tom Petro from Open Door Baptist Church of Prescott Valley, Arizona brought the messages. Pastor Russ Boone from Bible Baptist of Santa Monica brought the daily counselor devotions; and Pastor Steve Carter, retired ABWE church planter, brought the staff devotions. Shem Gott, raised at Tri City Church in Vista and Ranchview Baptist in Encinitas, led the worship.

Pastor Serhii Rybak, youth pastor and worship leader at Cornerstone Church in Hemet, spoke to our Senior High campers on July 18-23. The youth worship team from Cornerstone Church in Hemet led the worship. Pastor Adam and Grace Espinoza from Grace Baptist of El Centro served as Camp Dad and Mom with Pastor Espinoza taking the early afternoon session with the young people. Dave and Seth Gott served as Marshals for our Senior High campers.

The following week, Pastor Chris Hurton, Sunrise Bible Fellowship, Red Bluff, California was our speaker. Jordan Sibayan from Faith Calvary Baptist in L.A. led the worship. Pastor Carey and Becky Barnett from First Baptist of Beaumont served as Camp Dad and Mom, and Pastor Roger McCarty from First Baptist of Monte Serano (Los Gatos) served as Marshall.

Each week, our speakers addressed fear and the fact that our God is greater than any fears we may have as believers. During the course of the summer, we saw decisions made for God: from salvation, rededication, baptism, choosing the right friends, and choosing not to lie, to decisions to read the Bible more, to pray more, and to be a testimony for God at school. Please keep these young people in prayer as many are in public schools and many do not come from Christian homes. In fact, 36 of our campers this summer said they do not have a church. One hundred and two of our campers this summer were first-time campers at Victory Ranch. The majority of the campers this year were from Southern California; however, we had two campers from Red Bluff, CA, and eight from Los Gatos, CA. Other states represented were Arizona, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. Please pray that our campers who made decisions and those without church homes would find a good church to get "plugged into."

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL LADIES' RETREAT



The Fall Ladies' Retreat will be held on **October 7-8**. Cornerstone Church of Hemet will be co-hosting the retreat. The ladies

have been meeting for several months, creating decorations and fun activities. The speakers are **Greta Tabor** and **Shelly Crandall**. Their theme is "**A Battle for the Heart**" with the key passage being Matthew 22:36-40. Greta Tabor taught music at Baptist Christian School, served as choir director and worship leader, has led the music at past retreats, and currently heads up the women's ministry at Cornerstone Church. Shelly Crandall, also involved in Cornerstone's women's ministry, has spoken at one of our ladies' retreats in the past and works in special education at Moreno Valley Unified School District. Participants are welcome to arrive on Thursday evening for no extra cost; although, the first meal is not until lunch on Friday. The retreat will include optional activities such as horse rides, archery, hatchet throwing, target range, Recreation Room, workshops, crafts, and a smaller version of the silent auction. The final session will be Saturday at 2:00 p.m. To sign up, go to www.vranch.org.

WINTER CAMP

We have had a number of people ask if we would do winter camp again this year. We have picked **December 27-29** for the dates. This camp will once again be opened up to both middle and high school students. More information will be coming soon, so watch our website for details.



NEW CABIN PROJECT

This project is still at the county pending review on a couple items. While it would be easy to become frustrated over the speed at which Riverside County moves, we must realize that this is all part of God's plan. He obviously did not want us to break ground on this project during summer camp. While we do try to be flexible with our program, it would be difficult to use the grass playfield with heavy equipment working on the edge of it or with a leach field going through the middle of it. We also were able to set up a waterslide on the edge of the field, a spot that will be occupied by a building in the future. Lord willing, we will start construction this fall. We have had over \$502,000.00 come in toward our matching grant program! Mark any gifts "New Cabin Project."

FALL MEN'S RETREAT



Our Fall Men's Retreat is scheduled for **October 21-22**, with missionary **Glen Galbraith**. Glen and Tammy served at a sister camp, Whispering Cedars in Nebraska, before they felt God calling them to the United Kingdom. The Galbraiths stayed at Victory Ranch for a short time while on deputation. They left this country in 2004 to start a church in Scotland. In 2013, they were asked by Baptist Mid-Missions to rescue a church in Havant, England. From a dying church, to just completing a building program, to building a new auditorium, God has blessed the work there. Glen will be speaking on "**Coping with Change**" with the texts coming from the book of Ecclesiastes. The musical men's trio Solid Ground from Northern California will be bringing the music. We will have the usual sports competitions, archery, horse rides, etc. Details can be found at www.vranch.org.



ROUND-UP

The Regular Baptist Round-up is scheduled for **Saturday, November 5**. Although the purpose of the day is to fulfill state requirements of an annual meeting for the Regular

Baptist Conference of Southern California and the Association of Regular Baptist Churches of Southern California, we have designed this to be a family friendly day for all. There will be activities for juniors during the main service. Following lunch, attendees are encouraged to enjoy the Ranch with activities such as horseback rides, archery, games, the Recreation Room, fire truck rides, etc. until we gather for our ice cream social at 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendar. Additional details may be found on our website.

LOOKING AHEAD - SPRING RETREATS

Lord willing, our **Spring Ladies' Retreat** will be held on **March 10-11, 2023**, with Terri Jenkin and Irene Gonzalez. Their theme will be "Focus, Relax, and Lookout." Both these ladies are excellent communicators of God's Word. Services will be held simultaneously in Spanish and English.

The following weekend, **March 17-18, 2023**, we will have the always popular Bill Jenkin, former president of Continental Baptist Mission, for the **Spring Men's Retreat**.

Mark your 2023 calendar now, so you don't miss out.