

VICTORY RANCH
 18080 Gilman Springs Road
 Moreno Valley, CA 92555



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VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

FALL 2024



From the Director's Desk:
 By Paul Cayot

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If you watched any news the week of September 9, you probably saw or heard of the horrific accident just a mile west of us on Gilman Springs Road that claimed six lives and sent four to the hospital. I have heard people say they purposely avoid, or have a spouse avoid, Gilman Springs Road because it is "dangerous." I have lived here 38 years and have driven Gilman Springs Road between four and six times a day when taking my children to school. I have never had an accident, thank God; but the road itself isn't dangerous. However, over the years I have seen an increase in drivers who don't have any regard for the safety of anyone else. As a State Certified School Bus Driving Instructor for 25 years, I have taught my students defensive driving: obey the posted speed limits, leave a safe following distance between you and the car in front of you, always expect the other driver to do something unexpected, have an escape route, never insist on having the right-of-way, etc. When I see someone trying to pass, I move over and let them go. Instead of getting angry, I remember Pastor Ted Koroluk saying, "Tell yourself their mother is dying in the hospital, and they are trying to make it there to say their last good-bye." He suggested that that would keep your blood pressure down and keep you from having any thoughts of getting even.

before this latest accident, and they will be shutting Gilman Springs Road down every night at 8:00 p.m. between Bridge Street and Alesandro Boulevard for night construction through the end of the year. They will be adding a 6' paved shoulder, a 4' wide center median with rumble strips, a mile-long passing lane on the northbound side, and a tunnel for wildlife to cross under the highway. Limited access with a pilot car will be available through 5:00 a.m. Beginning October 9, the road will be shut down completely for about a month. Campers and guests will have to use Ramona Expressway or Highway 79 to access the Ranch from the west. Remember to allow for additional commute time when coming to and from the Ranch.

SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

Our summer started with a completely new event: Mini Camp for K-3rd grade students. There were 18 campers along with their adult chaperons. Our staff training week was attended by 16 young people the following week. For Horsemanship Camp, we had 21 young ladies in attendance. Junior Camp was attended by 71 campers, Senior High Camp by 50 campers, and Middle School Camp by 61 campers. There were a total of 13 salvation decisions that we know about this summer, along with a number of decisions for studying God's Word, reading the Bible every day, memorizing verses, etc. We praise the Lord for supplying the staff and counselors we needed to run our program.



Since the county installed delineators on Gilman Springs Road, illegal passing on the double yellow lines has decreased. However, now we are seeing a few instances, like the one that led to the four-vehicle accident that claimed six lives, where someone decides to pass using the shoulder. The county was aware of people's poor driving habits long

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Ladies' Retreat October 4-5
- Fall Men's Retreat October 18-19
- Round-up November 2
- Winter Camp December 29-31

For registration and more information, visit www.vbranch.org.

TREASURES OF TRUSTING



Fall ladies RETREAT
 October 4-5, 2024

VICTORY RANCH
 Cost: \$85 (\$75 if registered & paid in full by Sept. 27)
 More info at www.vbranch.org

Watch for our new VR hoodies in the General Store this fall/winter!

GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE
 Fall Men's Retreat 2024
 October 18-19

VICTORY RANCH
 Cost: \$90
 More information at www.vbranch.org (\$80 if registered & paid in full by Oct. 11)

Singspirations

- October 13 @ 8:00pm **CANCELED**
 First Baptist Church, Wilmington
- November 10 @ 3:00pm
 First Baptist Church of Waleria, Torrance
- December 8 @ 3:00pm
 South Vermont Ave. Baptist Church, Gardena

SAGA OF THE BEES

During Middle School Camp, our head lifeguard, Tim Farr, notified me that the bees were horrible at the pool and a lot of campers were getting stung. The next day, while lifeguarding myself, a bee landed on my arm and promptly stung me. The bees got so bad we ended up not being able to open the pool on the following day. The dog and chickens in the back of the camp couldn't drink their water due to the dishes being covered with bees. I took my truck up Lambs Canyon to the old 30 mph curve, an abandoned lookout created with the realignment and widening of Highway 79. Sure enough, tucked out of sight from traffic, were 100 bee hives and no water for the bees. There were no registration numbers or phone numbers as required, only the name "C. RIVER" stamped on the hives.



I called the local agricultural commissioner's office and filed a complaint. Two representatives came to inspect the site and witness the bees at the pool, faucets, and the back water tank. They told me they would post the site and ask the owner to contact them. They said we would need to put up with the bees for 2 more weeks and then a 72-hour abatement notice would go into effect and the bees would be removed if the owner didn't come forward.

We put towels on plywood and turned the faucets on to a trickle. In the afternoons, these looked like moving carpets of bees. The following week, I went to the bee site. The owner had removed the county's posting and put some water in a dirty old container adjacent to the hives. When I talked to the agricultural commissioner's field worker, I was told that they could not tell us who the owner was, but the person whom they suspected had blocked their number and refused to call them back. The following week, the water container was dry, and the bee hives were still there. After three weeks, nothing had been done. The agricultural commissioner's field worker said they would need to contact the ag sheriff, contact the Board of Supervisors, hold a hearing (all of which would take another two weeks), and then they would issue an abatement notice. Talk about frustrating. Proactively, I called Yxstian Gutierrez, our district 5 supervisor, that Friday afternoon. His office was sympathetic and said they would "get right on it" the following week. On Tuesday, I got a call from Rudy Valencia in the agricultural commissioner's office in Riverside. He went through all they were doing and said they would issue the 72-hour abatement notice against the owner and Caltrans. The following morning, Rudy called to say the owner had come forward and removed the bees. Praise the Lord! God created bees, and we love bees, just not the irresponsible placement of too many of them on state property without permission by someone not even caring enough to give their bees water.

NEW KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Val Gauthier reached out in June to let me know that Grace Church's Blind Deaf Ministry was closing and there was a stainless steel Wolf stove/oven available. It turns out the ovens were convection ovens! We were blessed to replace the old 1960s model, that has served us well, with a 1980s model along with pans, utensils, and other items.



Our ancient ice machine couldn't keep up with demand for ice this summer. Kara Sarnicula started a fundraiser on Facebook, and I reached out to our commercial appliance repairman for his suggestion. He recommended an 800-1000 lbs. unit with a condenser on the roof to keep the heat out of the kitchen. A few days later, a dear supporter of the Ranch stopped by. As we chatted, she asked why we didn't list any Ranch needs in the newsletter. I explained that our website lists those, and we only put them in the newsletter when there is extra space. She asked what our current need was. I shared the need to replace the ice machine. She promptly got her checkbook and wrote us a check for the total. I ordered the ice machine, and two volunteers installed it. That check, combined with the online donations, covered everything. Praise the Lord!

NEW CABIN PROJECT

Things seem to move at a snail's pace. The Environmental Health Department is now asking that a 45' hole be drilled next to Maverick and samples be taken at a cost in excess of \$5,000. This drilling took place during the first week of September. Supposedly, the next step would be for Ryan Olney, the person in charge, to come out and physically inspect our property. If we weren't doing this project, everything would continue to operate as it has since the systems were installed and permitted years ago. However, because we want to put new cabins in, the county sees this as an opportunity to force us to make any upgrades they deem necessary. Please pray that God will help Ryan, and anyone else making decisions, to be fair with us.



LADIES' FALL RETREAT

The ladies of Cornerstone Church in Hemet have been planning and organizing a wonderful fall retreat. The theme is "Treasures of Trusting" with Jan Kent as our speaker. Jan and her husband have served as missionaries in France since 1989. Those who attended the last retreat the Cornerstone ladies hosted will likely remember all the extra effort these ladies invested to make a top-notch retreat. They are even planning a trip to a salon for pedicures (added cost & sign-up required). Ladies, don't be left out! Mark your calendar for **October 4 & 5**. Those wishing to stay on site may arrive Thursday evening for no additional charge.



How much do you love camp? These two ladies left their wristbands on for five months waiting until the next retreat.



ROUND-UP

Victory Ranch will host the annual meetings of the Association of Regular Baptist Churches of Southern California and the Regular Baptist Conference of Southern California on **Saturday, November 2, 2024**. Pastor Norm Walker, the incoming state representative for the CARBC in 2025, will be our speaker. Among other responsibilities, Norm has worked for Tom McClintock, served as school administrator at Cochran Street Baptist Church, and served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Menifee and at Forest Ranch Baptist Church in Forest Ranch. There will be a nursery and activities for K-6th grades during the main session.



MEN'S FALL RETREAT

The theme for our Fall Men's Retreat on **October 18 & 19** will be "God Is Still on the Throne" with speakers **Pastor Russ Boone** from Bible Baptist Church of Santa Monica, **Pastor Robert Davis** from Christ's Household of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Carson, and **Pastor R. J. Cabugwas** from First Baptist Church of Spring Valley. Music will be provided by Cornerstone Plus and the CARBC orchestra. We will have the usual retreat competitions and schedule. Please visit our website for more details.



WINTER CAMP

In the fall/winter of 2020, with things starting to reopen after the Covid lockdowns, the Hackley boys begged us to offer a winter camp. It was that suggestion that prompted us to offer a winter camp for junior and senior high students. Many camps offer a winter camp in January or February. We settled on December so we could utilize our college students who were home on break for Christmas as counselors. This year's date is **December 29-31, 2024**. See the Ranch website for more details coming in the following weeks.



BABY CAYOT

Many of our readers observed John Paul Cayot, born in 2000, growing up here at the Ranch. He was married to Julia in May of 2023, and they moved to Kentucky in March of 2024. On August 28, 2024, they were blessed with a baby girl, Sadie June Cayot. Sadie weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. Both mother and baby are doing well.

