



## VICTORY RANCH

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# VICTORY RANCH

## Newsletter

### SPRING 2025



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

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In the early 1980s, I was teaching a 4th grade boy's Sunday School class at Bethel Baptist Church in Torrance. I was also teaching a Good News Club in the city of Pico Rivera as part of my student ministry for Biola University. The Child Evangelism Director for that area asked me to serve as a counselor for one week that summer at Camp Good News in the San Bernardino Mountains. Before I had a chance to go to Camp Good News, my pastor called and asked if I would serve as a counselor for one week at Victory Ranch. I agreed. The thing that struck me most about serving as a counselor was the many opportunities I had to share the gospel. Sometimes it can be a challenge to start a conversation with someone about the gospel, but in the camp setting, we were able to lead devotions morning and evening, as well as answer questions the speaker may have raised during the chapel services that day. I remember calling Gordon Nicholson, the camp director, after my second week of counseling to ask if he needed help the rest of the summer . . . and so began my ministry at Victory Ranch.

She said that she was ashamed about that but had been reading it. I told her if she would read it and place her faith in trust in Jesus Christ, none of the Gideons would be upset and that they would gladly replace the Bible. I went through the plan of salvation with her, and before she left, she said she had placed her faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

As I was talking last week to Heidi Gott, our missionary speaker for the Spanish portion of our Spring Ladies' Retreat, we discussed crime in South America. I told her of a young man from the Netherlands who stopped by the Ranch this past June. A recent college graduate, he had flown into LAX with his bicycle and saddle bags two days before and was headed to Mexico and then onward to South America. He shared that his parents had recently divorced, and he claimed to be an atheist. I shared the gospel with him, and before he left, I gave him a small, light-weight Bible and asked him to read it on his trip. He readily agreed. I have not seen him again but pray that he too found Jesus Christ in his travels.

When we are not running our own programs, we allow other churches of "like faith and practice" to use the facilities. This has greatly increased our ability to see this facility impact the world for Christ as those churches share the gospel with the attendees that they bring to Victory Ranch. However, ministry doesn't stop there. Sometimes God brings other people to our door who need to hear the gospel. I remember a woman and her young daughter coming to our office door. By appearance and her own admission, she had lived a "hard life." As we talked, she said that she had been searching for God and sheepishly admitted to taking a Bible from a motel.

Whether through our own camps, rental groups, or other opportunities that God gives us along the way, we praise him for using Victory Ranch to spread the good news of the gospel. As we enter another year, please keep our camps and retreats in your prayers so that many more people may hear and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



## Singspirations

- March 9 @ 3:00pm  
*California Heights Baptist Church, Long Beach*
- April 6 @ 3:00pm  
*Bethel Baptist Church, Torrance*
- May 18 @ 3:00pm  
*Trinity Baptist Church, Pasadena*
- June 8 @ 3:00pm  
*Bible Baptist Church, Santa Monica*

## SUMMER CAMP DATES

W.E.S.T. Week . . . . . June 16-21  
Mini Camp . . . . . June 21  
Horsemanship Camp . . . . . July 7-10  
Junior Camp . . . . . July 14-19  
Senior High Camp . . . . . July 21-26  
Middle School Camp . . . . . July 28-Aug. 2







## NEW CABIN PROJECT

Praise the Lord, Riverside County has issued a grading permit for our new cabins! We will not break ground immediately, as we first need to address a couple issues they brought up with our existing septic system. Two of the current systems will need to be upgraded and brought up to the current codes. However, it feels like we are finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

With a heart for children and a heart for archery, retiree Bobby Boyd, an attendee of Ranchview Baptist Church in Encinitas, began volunteering as our archery instructor for summer camps in the late 1990s. As time went on, his health began to decline, and he battled vertigo. Bobby's daughter Kathy worried about him traveling to the Ranch. Soon, Kathy and her husband, Kevin, began assisting Bobby with archery. When Bobby could no longer travel to the Ranch, Kevin and Kathy Gott took over the archery program. When they are not teaching archery, they can often be found washing dishes and working behind the scenes. For example, there are no suckers on the 67 olive trees around the camp. This is because Kathy faithfully removes any sprouts on the olive trees on her daily walks.

## FILE FOLDERS

Several years ago, we purchased a pallet of file folders at an auction. Of course, there are only so many file folders we can use at the Ranch. We have 20 count boxes of brand-new hanging green file folders, as well as 80 count boxes of new manilla file folders. If you are interested in some of these folders and would like to help the Ranch make a little money, we are suggesting a donation of \$7 for the hanging green file folders and \$8 for the manilla folders, while the supply lasts. They can be picked up at the Ranch, or if you attend the monthly Sings, we can bring them there. Contact Kristi in the Ranch office to reserve your box(es).



## SING SCHEDULE

On **March 9**, we will be meeting at California Heights Baptist Church in Long Beach for a 3:00 p.m. Singspiration. On **April 6**, we will be gathering at Bethel Baptist Church in Torrance for a 3:00 p.m. Sing, and then on **May 18**, we will be at Trinity Baptist Church in Pasadena for a 3:00 p.m. Sing. Bible Baptist Church of Santa Monica will be hosting a 3:00 p.m. Sing on **June 8**. There will be a time of refreshments after each Sing. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

## SPRING RETREATS

Our Spring Retreats are merely weeks away. The ladies' retreat on **March 14-15** will feature Heidi Gott speaking to the women in Spanish and Terri Jenkin speaking in the English service. The two services will run concurrently; however, the rest of the activities will be done together. Heidi Gott was born while her parents served on staff at Victory Ranch, and she grew up attending Baptist Christian School in Hemet. It was while at Baptist Christian School that Heidi felt God calling her to the mission field. Currently, she serves with ABWE in Columbia. Our other speaker, Terri Jenkin, has served alongside her husband, Bill, with Continental Baptist Mission for many years. Heidi and Terri will be speaking on the theme "*The Saint's Call to Arms*." Ladies, come join the fun and biblical teaching!

The Men's Retreat on **March 21-22** will feature Bill Jenkin, the former President of Continental Baptist Mission. Currently, he is pastoring Berea Baptist Church in Helena, Montana. Bill is a highly sought-after speaker, and it usually takes three years to get him on our calendar. He is also a hard worker. I have visited the beautiful log house he and Terri built by themselves in Montana. Bill's theme for the retreat is "*Equipped in Christ*." We will have sports competitions and many other activities. Schedules and registration for both retreats are on our website ([www.vranch.org](http://www.vranch.org)). Don't miss out; sign-up today!

## FAMILY FUN DAY

With Easter later on the calendar this year, our annual Family Fun Day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 12**. This is a low-cost event (\$6 per person) designed with the whole family in mind. The morning will be spent playing larger-than-life games that can be enjoyed by both a grandparent as well as someone as young as two years of age. Following lunch, there will be egg hunts for young people based on their ages. Those wishing to participate are asked to bring a dozen plastic eggs, which volunteers at the Ranch will be filling with candy before hiding them for the egg hunts. The remainder of the afternoon, families can continue to play games, ride horses, shoot targets at archery, ride the fire engine, and enjoy ice cream sundaes.



## SUMMER CAMP

Our theme for summer camp this year is "*Legendary*," focusing on the attributes of God outlined in Jeremiah 10:10-13. With the exception of W.E.S.T. Week and Mini Camp, the majority of our summer camp programs will be held in July. **Horsemanship Camp will start on July 7, Junior Camp on July 14, Senior High Camp on July 21, and Middle School Camp on July 28.** Details for all our summer camp events can be found on our website: [www.vranch.org](http://www.vranch.org). Come join us as we examine the assurance we can have as children of a God Who is indeed "Legendary."



## MINI CAMP

Mini Camp gives a unique opportunity for children too young to attend a full week of camp to experience a day in the life of a camper. Each child may bring one parent/guardian along. Our mini campers will play games, listen to a message from the Bible during chapel time, do a craft, and have lunch in the dining room. Many of the parents/guardians who attended last year were excited after seeing Victory Ranch for the first time and asked about summer camp for their older children. This year's Mini Camp will be held on **Saturday, June 21**. Mini Camp is a one-day event beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m. If you have (or know) a child in kindergarten through 3rd grade and are interested in attending, see our website for details.

## W.E.S.T. WEEK

**June 16-21** is the scheduled date for our annual Work Experience Staff Training (W.E.S.T.) Week. Eighth through twelfth grade young people with a heart for ministry may apply. "West Weekers" will learn how to work in the camp kitchen and be given the necessary information to pass a Riverside County Health Department food handlers test. They will also learn housekeeping skills, how to run the cash drawers in the Snack Shoppe and General Store, how to saddle a horse, how to properly use a bow and arrows, and much more. Mornings are spent cleaning the camp's grounds and facilities, and afternoons are spent in training. We have a chapel time each evening, as well as recreation and games. Based on each West Weeker's performance, attitude, aptitude, spiritual maturity, etc., individuals will be selected to join our volunteer summer staff for our weeks of camp in July. Those selected to serve on staff will be expected to attend the camp Victory Ranch offers for their age group, giving them the opportunity to be on the receiving end and benefit spiritually from being in attendance at one of our camps. Those interested in participating should contact the Ranch office for a multi-page application and reference forms. Once the application and references are submitted/returned and have been reviewed by the camp director, each applicant will have a phone interview to determine suitability for the program.

## HORSEMANSHIP CAMP

This year, our Horsemanship Camp will be held on **July 7-10**. This is a basic horsemanship camp and will teach participants how to groom, saddle, and care for a horse. In addition to daily trail rides, there will be classes on horse colors and breeds, tack and equipment, and more. This camp is limited to the first 18 people in 4th through 12th grades who sign-up and pay. This camp often fills up as soon as registration opens online, before publicity even goes out. If you have a young person who is interested, please visit our website at [www.vranch.org](http://www.vranch.org).