

VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

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SPRING 2020



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From the Director's Desk: By Paul Cayot

Walking outside in the morning, one would think he were entering an aviary. Birds are singing and chirping everywhere. The lawns and hills are a rich green, and the dormant trees are sending out new buds/leaves. The ravens are arguing, and a strange hush is in the air. An occasional car drives past the Ranch reminiscent of the traffic pattern in this valley in 1986. Here at the Ranch, everything is on-hold due to the regulations surrounding the COVID-19 virus. Riverside County's ban on gatherings of more than ten people led to the cancellation of the **Spring Men's Retreat**. Our **Family Fun Day** in April was also cancelled, as was the **Sing** scheduled for Bethel Baptist Church in Torrance. Our guest groups scheduled to be at the Ranch in March and April, and some in May, all cancelled. Fear and uncertainty about the future are all around us. Our summer camp brochures have been in the office waiting to be sent out; however, with things changing hourly, we were holding off on sending anything out. All this to say, as I listened to the birds, I was slightly jealous as I saw them doing what they do every day. They have no concern over COVID-19, the lack of guest groups, the potential possibility of cancelling summer camp, or how we are going to continue to make payroll. I was reminded of the passage from Matthew 6:26 where Jesus comments on the sparrows. He says, "... they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?" Please keep our churches and pastors in prayer. Pray for our Ranch staff and their families. Please pray for the many people who have lost their jobs and those who have been exposed to this deadly virus. God is still in control, and nothing has taken Him by surprise. Please pray that God would use this deadly situation to draw people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

New Kids

Our three Boer goats gave birth to kids on consecutive days with the first one having triplets, the second twins, and the last one a single birth. It is always fun watching the little ones bounce around as they gain mobility.



Spring Ladies' Retreat Report



"We're all M.A.D. here . . . usually the best people are" (The acronym for M.A.D. is "Making A Difference.") – this was the theme for our Spring Retreat. We had a good sized group of ladies attend our Spring Retreat with

Sharon Rahilly (ABWE Togo, Africa). The Spanish services with Heidi Gott (ABWE Medellin, Colombia) were also well attended. Francine Morales planned a wonderful program with workshops; crafts; horseback riding; archery; and a new event, hatchet throwing. The Ladies' Retreat Silent Auction brought in over \$1,000 to use toward replacing counselor mattresses in our Bunkhouse (boy's dorm).

Ranch Families

Please pray for health and safety for our staff at this time. Three of our volunteers are over the age of 60 and, according to the CDC, are more susceptible to the COVID-19 virus. Jasmine and John Paul Cayot have been told not to come to their respective schools. They are supposed to work from home. Josh Grohs, the husband of our cook Laraine, was the only employee not laid off by his company. Other than what comes in from donations, the Ranch has no income from rental groups. Praise the Lord we can subsist on savings for a while! Please pray that God would continue to supply our needs so we can be ready to minister to our churches through Christian camping when this is all over.

Camp Shirt Fundraiser

Who wouldn't love to receive a new limited edition Victory Ranch t-shirt? Better yet, you don't even need to leave your house to get one! Thanks to a fundraiser offered by Sunday Cool Tees, all you need to do is go to https://supportlocaltees.com/victory_ranch/shop/home and order one for \$20. These special shirts will only be available from **May 1 through May 10**, so make sure you don't miss them. Once the fundraiser ends, you'll be mailed a shirt, and the Ranch will receive part of the proceeds. It's a win-win!



SUMMER CAMP 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic, our primary concern is the health and well-being of our campers. That means camp might look a little different this year as we abide by federal, state, and local regulations. The situation changes almost daily; however, below are a few different scenarios that could take place.

Plan A: Camp proceeds as scheduled. All camps will be starting on Monday this year, and our theme is “Do. Love. Walk.” from Micah 6:8.

Plans B - Y: Camp happens but on an alternate schedule. This could play out several different ways, depending on what the regulations are at the time. This may mean that W.E.S.T. Week and Horsemanship Camp are cancelled, but the other three weeks take place as planned. We may need to limit how many campers attend each week, or we may combine weeks. Obviously, there are a lot of different factors that will determine exactly what this will look like.

Plan Z: Camp is cancelled. This will be the case if certain restrictions are still in place or if other factors determine that it is not wise to have camp this summer.

Right now, we are still on Plan A.

We encourage campers to register online via our website (or by mailing the printable registration forms). Because of the current situation, we are not requiring the normal \$50 deposit to register. **Please watch the camp website for any updates or changes.**

Singspirations

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

Faith Calvary Baptist Church, L.A. (June 14 – 7:30 p.m.)

Bible Baptist Church, Santa Monica (July 5 – 8:00 p.m.)

Sings typically conclude with a time of food and fellowship starting at 9:00 p.m. Invite a friend and join us for a good time of singing and praising the Lord.

Online Donations

Our website has a new feature! If you would like to donate to the Ranch via credit or debit card, that is now an option. Just click the “Donate” button on the sidebar. You can even set it up to give automatically each month.

Please be aware that a processing fee is taken out of any donations submitted this way, so the camp won’t receive 100% of what you give. However, you will still receive a tax receipt, with our thanks, as long as you include your mailing address.

Still prefer to give via check? No problem, just keep mailing it to the office as normal. (If we’re honest, that’s still the easiest way for us to process it too.)

Watch our website at www.vranch.org for any updates or changes to the current schedule.

W.E.S.T. Week.....June 15-20

Horsemanship Camp.....June 22-25

Junior Camp.....July 13-18

Senior High Camp.....July 20-25

Middle School Camp.....July 27-Aug. 1



Goodbye Tree

Sunday, October 21, 2007, our valley was hit with a two-day Santa Ana wind event, boasting gusts up to 110 mph. In the San Jacinto valley, the wind destroyed large greenhouses and hay barns and blew out windows of houses. At the Ranch, three mobile home awnings were damaged, trees snapped, and others were uprooted. However, in all the ensuing mayhem, no buildings were damaged. God caused trees behind Hacienda to fall at right angles, completely missing the house. Next to the Hotel building, a 75’ tree with the Hotel on one side, the dish room on the second side, and the First Aide cabin on the third side fell toward another tree, broke its main trunk about 15’ off the ground, and then both trees fell across the road toward the front of the property. I have shown what is left of the two trees to guests for years, pointing out God’s protection. With all the weight on one side, the tree whose center trunk was snapped at the height of at 15’ (and now cut back to 10’), was now 75’ tall and started to uproot itself due to all the rain. Now, thirteen years later, we were forced to take it out so no one would be injured if it fell. It was a sad day, but the safety concern is gone and everyone can now get a full view of the Hotel building.