

Victory Ranch
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VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

SUMMER 2021

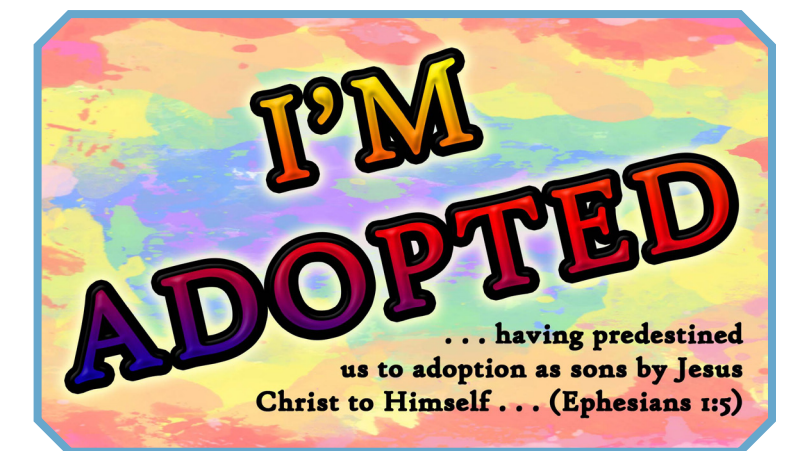


From the Director's Desk:
By Paul Gayot

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It is said that hindsight is 20/20. If I had been asked to plan for what the camp has been through the past year and a half, I would have said it was impossible. However, looking back, I am able to see how God worked to provide for this ministry and allowed us to minister to our campers despite the shutdown.

After waiting over a year for guidelines from the state, a couple weeks prior to the announced reopening date for camps, we finally received three pages of weak suggestions, most of which we were already doing. Not wanting to print an obsolete camp brochure two years in a row, we had held off sending it to the printer until we were sure the state would let us reopen. Once we received the green light for overnight camps, we raced to get the publicity out.



Summer Camp 2021

The reason we have not published a newsletter or summer camp brochure is that we were not sure what we were going to be allowed to do this summer. Last summer, we printed a brochure and then had to abandon it and revamp into a day camp. This year, we were told we would have guidelines from the state for overnight operation by April 1. That never happened. After waiting a month and a half past that promised date, the California Collaboration for Youth called for a press conference to shame the governor and California Department of Public Health into releasing the guidelines they had repeatedly promised. With that news conference looming, the state finally released guidelines on May 13. It looks like we will be able to hold our Summer Camps as scheduled.

Summer Camp Schedule

W.E.S.T. Week.....	June 14-19
Horseman's Camp.....	June 21-24
Junior Camp.....	July 12-17 (Grades 3 - 5)
Senior High Camp.....	July 19-24 (Grades 9 - 2021 Graduates)
Middle School Camp.....	July 26-31 (Grades 6 - 8)

Other Upcoming Events

Bonfire Bonanza.....	September 11
Fall Ladies' Retreat.....	October 1-2
Fall Men's Retreat.....	October 15-16
Round-up.....	November 6

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



Firewood

Having so many trees at the Ranch means that we never lack wood for our campfires. The constant trimming ensures that we always have plenty of fuel. In fact, we have far more than we need. If you could use some free firewood, contact the Ranch office.



Singspirations



Our next Sunday Singspirations will be held at:

- June 13 @ 7:30pm - Faith Calvary Baptist Church, L.A.
- July 25 @ 3:00pm - Bible Baptist Church, Santa Monica
- August 22 @ 7:30pm - First Baptist Church, El Monte
- September 19 @ 8:00pm - Calvary Baptist Church, Burbank



I am excited about our lineup of speakers this summer. Missionary Jeremy Smith with Continental Baptist Mission has used his life to build churches across our country. Since W.E.S.T. Week is about serving, I feel Jeremy may be able to interest the staff in using their life and talents for the Lord. Pastor Jonathan Salas, a former counselor at the Ranch and former staff member at Bethel Baptist Church in Torrance, will be speaking to our Horseman's campers. For our Junior Camp, we are pleased to have Dr. Linn and Carol Carothers. Dr. Carothers, and his puppet Danny Deadwood, have held the interest of multiple generations here at the Ranch through the years. For our Senior High week, Apologist Carl Kerby with Reasons for Hope will be answering the campers' questions and give them solid arguments to use when sharing their faith. Pastor Ben Ice, author of the *Truth Trackers* curriculum and popular camp speaker, will be speaking to our Middle School students.

Please keep this ministry in prayer. Pray that God would (1) supply the staff we need; (2) prepare the hearts of the campers He will be sending our way; (3) and continue to provide financially as we have to restock our kitchen, pay salaries, buy supplies, etc. using our savings account.

SUMMER CAMP DATES

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Visit www.vranch.org for more information!



New Cabin Project

What a challenge this project has been. Riverside County has a seemingly never ending list of requirements to get any building project going. It feels like it is ten times harder to get the process going than it was in the past. Another issue is that the county has required its employees to work from home. This too has slowed everything to a crawl. We finally had everything they required: plans, aerial surveys, engineering details, etc. When we tried to submit it all, they then decided we needed three more items. While the county has finally accepted everything, the problem is that material costs have escalated beyond the amount our donor pledged. Please make this project a matter of prayer that God will supply the ability to proceed if it is His will for us to have these cabins. It would be a shame to abandon the project after all the work that has gone into it at this point. These new air-conditioned cabins with private toilet and shower facilities would be a tremendous asset to continued ministry. If you would like to have a part in this project, please designate donations to the "New Cabin Fund."



Winter Camp: The Camp That Wasn't

With everything shut down and nothing to do for nine months, we decided to offer a winter camp last December. Our Program Director had the first part of her week free, so we picked two days to offer the winter camp. It was amazing to see God supply the counselors and staff for the events. However, we didn't have many junior high aged campers register so, a week out, we combined both age groups into one day of winter camp. The day before the event, a staff member was exposed to Covid-19 while working off-site. In the interest of promoting safety, we had to cancel winter day camp.



Trail Camps

With the Ranch restricted to "day camps only" by our governor, we decided to offer a Trail Camp and sent invitations to those who had previously attended Basic Horsemanship Camp. The day filled up almost immediately. We took the young people on a trail ride east of the camp for the morning and then unsaddled at the hitching post behind Tent Village. We had an outdoor BBQ lunch, some games, and a Chapel service. Afterwards, the campers re-saddled their horses for a ride into Laborde Canyon to our west and northwest. The campers enjoyed about eight miles of riding that day. Due to the positive response, we ended up offering a second Trail Camp two weeks later. Our next Basic Horsemanship Camp will be held on June 21-24, 2021. That camp is already full.



Men's Retreat

We are praising the Lord for a good turnout for our Spring Men's Retreat. The retreat was held the last weekend of February due to our speaker, Ken Rudolph, having previous plans to go overseas in March. There were a total of 99 participants who enjoyed the challenging messages from God's Word and all the outdoor activities and beautiful weather. We were led in worship by the youth band members from Cornerstone (formerly First Baptist of Hemet). We used the day camp format; but by our next Men's Retreat, scheduled for October 15-16, Covid-19 regulations should be lifted or abandoned and we'll be able to use the cabins again.



Ladies' Retreat

Our Spring Ladies' Retreat in March also followed the day camp format. The 98 ladies in attendance were blessed by the teaching from God's Word from Margaret Castaneda. Greta Tabor led the worship with a couple guest solo appearances from Valerie Elliot. The ladies raised approximately \$1,200 in their silent auction and donated the proceeds to the Ranch's General Fund, which then financed the purchase of a new printer for our office. The next ladies' retreat is scheduled for October 1-2, 2021.



Family Fun Day

Once again, God blessed us with beautiful weather for the day as 124 people gathered at the Ranch for our Family Fun Day. As a staff, it was fun to watch families gathering at the Ranch once again and doing activities together. Francine Morales and Austin De Husson worked long and hard setting up a variety of outdoor activity stations around the Ranch for our guests to utilize. Each family was given a small bottle of hand sanitizer to carry with them throughout the day. Laraine, as usual, prepared a wonderful lunch. A record 35 people took horse rides in the afternoon; although, the children's favorite activity seemed to be the egg hunts.

