

Victory Ranch
18080 Gilman Springs Rd
Moreno Valley, CA 92555



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VICTORY RANCH

Newsletter

WINTER 2020



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

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On November 11, there was a bad accident 4 miles west of us around 12:30 p.m. Traffic came to a complete stop and began to back up until it was almost to the Ranch. Due to the hill and blind curve, I was concerned about another accident and wanted to warn people while there was still a good place to turn around. I had a spray paint can and a real estate sign I found on the side of the road. I quickly painted the words "Road Closed Ahead" on the sign and held it so the passing cars could see.

The road remained closed for an hour and a half before traffic began to slowly creep forward. During that time, I tried to warn several hundred motorists. Everyone read my sign, a few applied brakes, but only two cars turned around. The rest kept going until they got around the curve and saw for themselves that there was a mile and a half of visibly stopped vehicles. A few parked and waited it out, but the majority turned around and came back. At least half of them honked horns, waved, and yelled "thank you" as they sped back toward Hemet.



It was a good feeling being thanked by so many people, but disheartening that they didn't heed my sign. They had to see the back-up to be convinced. What could I have done to convince them? Perhaps I'd have been more convincing if I had gotten the official Road Closed sign attached to a barricade laying down at the corner from the last road closure a month before, or maybe if I were wearing an orange vest. If I had, perhaps I would have had better success. However, my guess is that even a Highway Patrol officer with lights on wouldn't have convinced some people.

Several years ago, I saw retired missionary Chuck Porter pull out a gospel tract and give it to a man outside a restaurant in Oceanside. He boldly told the man he could know where he would spend eternity. Chuck believed every word he said with all his heart, and it showed. Are you and I as convincing when we try to warn others about a future without Christ? I trust you are looking at ways to make yourself more convincing, but the bottom line is, you must be convinced yourself.

Many young people today (and adults) are not convinced. They are searching for answers. Consequently, we have sought to find godly speakers and counselors that are convinced that God's Word has all the answers. Please keep this ministry in prayer that we may be able to continue to provide these answers from God's Word in the days ahead and that our campers will go forth with boldness to share their faith, a faith they whole heartedly embrace.

More from the Director's Desk

The government imposed shutdown has seriously impaired our ability to provide the type of program we would like to offer. We are thankful that we can at least provide day camping as an option; however, other than two small churches and our fall retreats, we have not had any guests since our summer camp program.

On the positive side, we have been able to tackle a number of projects on our long "to-do" list. We have painted, trimmed trees, repaired stucco on the Hotel, worked on the pool deck, repaired vehicles and equipment, and tackled projects that would have been difficult to accomplish with campers here each weekend. However, we miss our guests.

A mere 30% of our income is generated through donations from churches and individuals. The rest of our income comes from guest groups (churches that don't have a camp of their own and rent our facilities). We have taken a tremendous hit, but God allowed us to have some money in reserves to help weather the storm thus far. However, we need to reopen, not just for financial reasons, but because we want to do what God has called us to do: use our facilities to reach people for Christ. Please keep this ministry in prayer and consider what God might have you do to help us in this time of need.



2020 Winter Day Camps

Middle School Camp (grades 6-8).....December 28
High School Camp (grades 9-12).....December 30

2021 Upcoming Events

Spring Men's Retreat.....February 26-27
Spring Ladies' Retreat.....March 12-13
Family Fun Day.....April 3

2021 Summer Camp Schedule

W.E.S.T. Week.....June 14-19
Horsemanship Camp.....June 21-24
Junior Camp.....July 12-17
Senior High Camp.....July 19-24
Middle School Camp.....July 26-31

Visit www.vranch.org for the latest information!

Global Pandemic Camp Shirt

We still have a few of our pandemic themed t-shirts available. The shirt, based on Micah 6:8, reads, "DO justly (from a distance). LOVE mercy (from 6 feet away). WALK humbly with your God (no distancing required)." While supplies last, you can purchase one from our website (www.vranch.org) for \$20, or 2 for \$35, postage included!

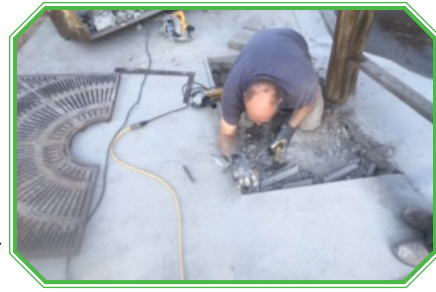
Singspirations

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

- January 10 at 3:00pm - Calvary Bapt. Tabernacle, Gardena
- February 7 at 3:00pm – Calvary Baptist Church, Compton
- March 14 at 8:00pm – Cal. Heights Baptist Church, Long Beach
- April 11 at 7:30pm – Bethel Baptist Church, Torrance

Improvements

In the mid-1990s, while we were getting free concrete donations, we poured a concrete apron around the back of the fire circle. We carefully formed around the large wisteria vines growing up the posts and across the lattice. However, once the concrete was poured, despite having water, the wisteria started to struggle and finally died. Last month, during an auction, for less than \$12 a piece, I was able to buy seven cast iron grates that are typically put together and placed around trees that are planted in/along sidewalks. These grates allow air to get to the soil while keeping the surface level with the sidewalk. Last week Bill and our RVICS volunteer worked to cut the concrete in the apron to accommodate the grates. Using two parallel cuts, one deep and one shallow, then using an angle grinder, Bill created a large opening with a lip that holds each of the grates. Lord willing, we will replant the wisteria this spring.



Bill and Larry worked on the tram we got at the auction earlier in the year and have it set up so both trailers can be used in tandem behind the tractor if so desired. Larry also built guards to prevent people from tripping on the trailer tongues.

One of our RVICS volunteers cleaned, primed, and painted all the wrought iron patio furniture at the pool. Bill welded new feet on the chairs and table where they were missing. We were also able to get replacement inserts to go into the feet to prevent damage to the pool deck and/or the chairs.



The tamarisk (athol) trees have all been trimmed from one end of camp to the other. The palm trees have been trimmed as well. It is getting more challenging the taller the palm trees grow. Our aerial lift extends 50' and the chainsaw extends 16' and 3 of the palms are at the limit of what we can do, but at least they are done for one more year.

As vacuums fail, they are taken to a garage and a working one is put in its place. One of our RVICS volunteers worked on dozens of vacuums and has the majority up and running again! Now we are ready for the campers to come and prepared if they track dirt into the cabins.

Round-up

On November 4, the Association of Regular Baptist Churches of So. Cal. opted to hold their annual meetings and Round-up as a virtual experience. The Ranch has played host to this event since the 1990s. In the weeks leading up to the event, the Ranch staff spends hours in preparation. They trim trees, clean windows, set up tables, rake the grounds, prepare the pasture for parking, prepare advertising, create the ballots, create the booklet with the reports, contact churches, and much, much more. This work was all done in preparation for the event.

After incurring all the expense in preparing for the Round-up, we were naturally disappointed when the decision was made to "go virtual." However, we understand the concerns over COVID-19 and the media sensationalism of this potentially dangerous and contagious virus. If you would like to help offset the expenses incurred by the Ranch in preparation for the Round-up, please designate any gift as "Round-up Expense." If giving online, designate it for "Current Project."

2020 Donations

This year only, the IRS is allowing people to get a 100% write-off for donations to 501(c)3 organizations. Another option to consider is, if you are over the age of 70 ½ and need to take money out of an IRA, use that money for your donation to avoid paying tax on it. The following information was passed on to us, but we encourage you to consult your own tax preparer.

Contributions 100% Deductible

Normally, charitable contribution tax deductions are limited to a percentage of your Adjusted Gross Income. However, for 2020, charitable contributions can be deducted up to the full amount of your 2020 Adjusted Gross Income. This increased deduction applies to your federal income tax return; however, it may not apply to your state income tax return.

Contribution Deduction for Nonitemizers

In 2020, you can get a tax deduction for contributions even if you do not itemize tax deductions on your tax return. This charitable contribution deduction for nonitemizers is limited to \$300. This increased deduction applies to your federal income tax return; however, it may not apply to your state income tax return.

Charitable Contributions Direct from your IRA

Some taxpayers can save taxes by making direct charitable contributions from their IRAs. Taxpayers who are 70 ½ or older are eligible to make annual contributions up to \$100,000 directly from their IRAs. These contributions are counted as part or all of the taxpayer's Required Minimum Distribution. These distributions made directly to a qualified charity are not included in the taxpayer's income and are not allowed as an itemized deduction. In certain tax situations (such as taxpayers who do not ordinarily itemize deductions) the tax savings can be substantial.

WINTER DAY CAMPS

Middle School (grades 6-8) - Monday, December 28
High School (grades 9-12) - Wednesday, December 30

With not much open these days, many parents want to find something for their children to do, and children are looking for something to do outside their house. The Ranch is sitting idle, so prayerfully, we are anticipating offering a winter day camp after Christmas.

After a careful evaluation of our summer program, we noticed that despite the fact young children are the least likely to be at risk from Covid-19, their parents are the most protective. Our Junior Day Camp had the lowest attendance this past summer. Our Middle School and High School programs were the best attended. Consequently, we are building our program for those two age groups.



After checking current state and county guidelines which allow us to function as a day camp, we picked the Monday after Christmas for our Middle School Day Camp and the Wednesday after Christmas for our High School Day Camp. **Registration forms can be found on our website.** Please register as soon as possible so we can have a reasonable estimate of the number of campers.

The format will be similar to this year's summer camp. Parents will drop off their camper(s) between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m. We are planning to hold two chapel services each day with exciting recreation; sports competitions; possibly some tournaments; crafts; and weather permitting, horse rides and archery. Lunch and dinner are included. Once again, weather permitting, we will conclude with a campfire before sending our day campers home that evening. Please see our website for all the details.



New Cabins

We have been excited about the possibility of new cabins, but disappointed with the delays by Riverside County in even looking at our proposed plans. After seven weeks, we finally received word that they will hold off on any decision regarding the request for a substantial conformance until we attempt to get a building permit. As I write this, the fire department is reviewing the project and may even have an answer for us by the time you receive this newsletter. Please continue to make this project a matter of prayer.

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

Retreat Update

As you may have heard, we hosted our Fall Ladies' Retreat as a day camp. We had 34 attendees on Friday, October 2 and 38 on Saturday, October 3. Most guests came for just the day, but we had a few that commuted or stayed in a local hotel. Tammy Boone and Val Gauthier were our speakers and gave different messages each time they spoke, and from the reports I heard, both did an excellent job.



On October 17, we hosted our Fall Men's Retreat as a day camp. We had 82 men come and participate. Pastor Russ Boone spoke on "Stability in Unstable Times." In order to reduce the risk of exposure to germs or viruses, we eliminated the 3 on 3 basketball and the volleyball tournaments, but participants were able to do our other regular competitions. We ended the day with the famous steak dinner, followed by a time of sharing at the fire circle and ice cream sundaes.

Our anticipated date for the Spring Men's Retreat is February 26-27, 2021, and March 12-13, 2021, for the ladies. If regulations remain the same, we may have to make these day camps as well.



Never Too Old

In 2018, we were contacted by a lady who wanted her teenaged nephew from Japan to come to camp. She said he would be with her over the summer and she wanted him to experience camp, but he spoke very little English. Reluctantly, I agreed to let him come. However, knowing our purpose is to share the gospel, I wondered if this young man would understand anything. As I thought about him, God brought to mind a lady in her 80's from our Hemet church. Toshiko is basically a shut-in but was able to find someone to bring her to the Ranch during free time.

Toshiko shared the gospel with this camper, and he ended up making a decision to follow Christ. She kept in touch with him over the next year. In October of 2019, the young man and his mother flew back to the United States and decided to make a trip to east Hemet and visit Toshiko. Toshiko ended up leading the young man's mother to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. As I thought about Toshiko, it brought to mind the fact that no one is ever too old to do something for God. I thank the Lord that this young man's week at Victory Ranch led to both he and his mother finding God's gift of eternal life.