

RANCHO SANTA MARTA

EST. 1980

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ October 2020 ♦ Volume 48 #10



Rod & Tina's Corner

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. || Timothy 1:12

Our ranch children are here, not by their choice, but by their family circumstances. Through God's grace we have the privilege of being their caretakers for as long as they are here. Many of our teens and children are assigned to an adult counselor or psychologist to help them through their emotional swings and other issues resulting from their broken pasts. Having someone there who believes in them and loves them no matter what is very powerful for their healing journey. During a counseling session with one of our young teens he was asked if he was concerned or worried about anything in his life right now. He thought a while and then responded, "The Covid-19 virus". We are not sure how much he knows about the virus and how it has affected our world, but he must sense the concern in our actions and conversations here in our homes. He was assured that he was not in any imminent danger of the virus and with prayer he went on his way confident that things will be all right. We entrust these children in the care of our Father. He has sent them here and it is our responsibility to make sure they know that they can have a personal relationship with their Creator who promises to take care of them. We entrust Rancho Santa Marta to Him to keep us on the right track and fulfill His plan for this ministry. We entrust the plight of the United States and Mexico and other countries in His care as He guides and fulfills His plan for the nations. Pray with us as we care for these children and show them that we can have faith in a God who is in control! Pray for Mexico and the United States. Pray that the hearts of many will be turned to our Lord Jesus!

Thank you and blessings to you,
Rod and Tina



“Cherish the relationships that you have, nourish them”

Most of the ranch children are placed here by the government because of abuses, neglect or other unstable conditions in their homes with their parent(s) or caretakers. In order for members of their families to come and visit them, they have to ask permission through the social services department of their corresponding cities. Our visitation day is the last Sunday of the



Month and at most ¼ of our ranch children have visitors. It is a special time for these children, and they look forward to seeing their mom or dad, grandmother or step grandfather, aunt or uncle, brother or sister; whomever has permission to come and see them. During this pandemic the government shut down all visitations to the homes for children. During that period two grandmothers, who were faithful every month to see their grandchildren, passed away from non covid-19 related illnesses. These grandmothers were the only ones from their families who were interested in the well-being of their grandkids. How do you relate that devastating news

to these children? Tina has a sensitive heart for these children, and she broke the news by reading a story to the two older boys to prepare them for the news. The story helped them understand that death to our family members is a sad part of growing up and that it is not anyone's fault, that's just how life is. These two young boys were very connected to Tina and the story she was reading to them. When it came time to tell them of the news of their grandmother, it was very sad to see their reactions. Tears flowed and hugs were given as we helped them understand and grieve. It makes you understand the powerful connections we have with family and how important it is for children to have those relationships. We do our best here to fill in as their aunts and uncles, but it simply is not enough. Cherish the relationships that you have, nourish them. We know that is why groups come back to us every year because you understand the love, the listening ear, the hugs they soak up from you every year you reconnect with them is a huge positive building block in their lives. Thank you for your continued prayers for these children. We are blessed to be able to be a part of their lives and it's because of your prayers and gifts that we can continue to minister to their needs.



North Coast Church of Carlsbad's backpack surprise!

Living under a pandemic one never knows how God will move people to support the ranch. With the new school year beginning and with news of online teaching recurring, we did not figure on the surprise that North Coast Church of Carlsbad had in store for our children and students. They announced to us that they were going to have another backpack and school supplies drive for the ranch kids and all of our students. In the former years they would have a collection site at their church that would run for three weeks; this year because of social distancing measures, they opened up the church for a drive-through backpack drive that lasted only three hours. Should we be surprised that God moved, and they received more backpacks during those three hours than they had from previous years of three weeks! Our children already have their new backpacks filled with school supplies ready to take on this new online school year and as soon as Baja California allows students to return to school, those backpacks are ready to be given out to help our families who have been affected financially by the virus pandemic. Thank you so much North Coast Church for being a blessing during these unpredictable times!!



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Ranch Alumni



The Nuñez Arciga family, Ligia, Octavio, Obed, Sobeida, Esperanza, Elsa, Cassandra, have made Santa Marta alumni news. (Cassandra and Elsa are the only two remaining at the ranch). Ligia is married and doing well in Ensenada. She just had her first baby, Jafet Alejandro. Last week the five sisters were able to get together and celebrate their first nephew! Congratulations Ligia and Tias (Aunts)



Esperanza, Elsa, Sobeida, Ligia, Casandra

In honor of:

- Carol and Robin Little from Sharyn and Tim Henshaw of Pleasanton, CA
- Pastor Shannon Pappas in gratitude from Lois Darbonne of Burlingame, CA
- Victor from 'Esteban Viejo' - Steven Hoyte of Salinas, CA
- All who have been loyal and helpful to the Ranch from Martha Sementilli of San Pedro, CA

In memory of:

- Mark Steele from Desert Assassins Racing
- Milt VanderMolen from James and Marjorie Powers of Huntington Beach, CA
- Milt VanderMolen from Barbara Love of Fountain Valley, CA
- Art Greathead - one of the best plant pathologists in the world and a great human being - from David and Vicky Duke of Salinas, CA
- Jim Hanson from Steven Hoyte of Salinas, CA
- Florence Retherford from Lois Darbonne of Burlingame, CA

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