



## Rod & Tina's Corner

*But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9*

We are living in some very tumultuous times: tumultuous defined as mental and emotional agitation. What a perfect description for what we are seeing happening not only in the United States but worldwide. Watching or reading the news can be very depressing and sickening as the spiritual darkness pours out hatred over our land of freedom. It's hard to escape the current situation but we as Christians need to keep our minds and hearts above the onslaught of degrading words and actions that bombards our environment. Living with children can change attitudes in this scenario. Receiving their hugs and seeing their smiling faces during greeting time at church service or before they head out to school every day brings joy to the heart. Walking by their houses and hearing their greeting calls brings joy to the heart. Seeing them pull through a temper tantrum and accept their consequence with a calm spirit brings joy to the heart. Our ranch children have their tough side but they also have their sweet side, and this side is where Jesus' light shines through them. Keep our hearts focused on Christ and serve Him. Rancho Santa Marta is all about children/teens/young adults and providing them opportunities to develop that relationship with Christ. It is a privilege for us to be here with them and provide them a safe environment to mature. Thank you for also being a part of their lives through your prayers and financial gifts. Blessings, Rod y Tina. PS. Julia put together a very joyful video of our girls called "gozo". We would like to share it with you and when you feel the world around you falling apart, play this video and allow these children to lift up your spirits. Check it out on our website or click here: [Video Link](#). Blessings, Rod & Tina

## Thanks Jeff!

Thank you to Jeff Smoak from Trinity Church of Livermore, CA, who kept his word about finding the ranch another flatbed truck when he visited the ranch last summer, 2019. We were casually talking at the welders shop with Tali and Jeff asked if the ranch could use another flatbed truck.



We can always use flatbed trucks especially since the ones we have have been used and abused for many years, so the answer was a YES. One year and a couple months later Jeff made good on his promise and delivered the truck from the San Francisco bay area to our El Cajon office. What a nice surprise. The truck (we haven't named it yet) is at the ranch and already being put to work. Thank you Jeff, Ed Woodworth, Tri-Valley ROP and Mike at Tech Machine Shop, Livermore for your help with this great donation. Blessings!

## Cafeteria upgrade...

The first building that you see when you drive into the ranch is our famous cafeteria building, one of the original buildings when the ministry began. In fact, 35 years ago, all the children ate breakfast, lunch and dinner in this dining commons for years. Eight large round tables full of hungry kids, two mildly tempered lady cooks, the aroma of food in the air and the noise level at a blistering level eight. Reminiscing about those days is fun but everyone is thrilled that kitchens are in the houses and food is served there now. Ten children together for dinner makes a huge difference from fifty bodies in a dining commons. We have the same problem with our students, the cafeteria is too small. We are taking advantage of no students and no rain to extend the cafeteria out eighteen feet. Normally we wait for groups to come down and help out with our projects but we had enough materials on site and our able maintenance /construction workers have the skills to pour the slabs, lay block, build the walls and cover the roof. It is our goal to finish before the students are allowed to come back to school (possibly in December).

