

RANCHO SANTA MARTA

EST. 1980

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ January 2021 ♦ Volume 49 #1



Rod & Tina's Corner

February of this year will mark the 40th year since the ranch's inauguration on February 15, 1981. Bill and Kaye were living in San Vicente with their children and several kids in 1980 and were travelling back and forth making the necessary maintenance jobs to make the ranch their home. There were few structures on the property; a house, a garage and of course, the famous line of hog pens that had been converted into dormitories and a kitchen for visiting groups and eventually the first classrooms of the special education school. The picture below gives an idea of how barren the ranch looked in those early years. The group picture you will notice Bill and Kaye (can you find them??) at the inauguration ceremony.



We know that there are many who have contributed to the success of these kids over the last four decades and there are many who are new to the Ranch. For some these pictures will be reminiscent and for others they will be a conversation topic when you come down to visit! We are truly grateful to everyone who supports us with their time, gifts, energy and prayers. Beginning February, we will post pictures and stories of the history of RSM on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Be sure to follow us so that you can hear and see how God has blessed us over the last 40 years. Blessings, Rod & Tina

Ensenada House

We were thrilled to receive a notice from Byron Nelson Secretary-Trustee Chairman in an email stating the following: The Members and Board of Trustees of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walnut Creek, California are pleased to inform you the Voters Assembly reviewed your recent grant questionnaire response and have awarded Rancho Santa Marta a Legacy of Trinity Grant in the amount of \$75,000. It is the intention of the Board that the grant be used toward the building of student residences at Rancho Santa Marta's Ensenada property.

Wow! We believe the Lord is moving us to start building the Ensenada house especially since we will have two graduating from high school this coming year and four more behind them. We appreciate the Legacy Trinity Grant of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church kicking off our funding for this project. We already have a wonderful floor plan designed for this house and would be very willing to share these plans if you are interested (please contact the office).



The amount for this house will probably surpass the grant amount so if you would like to participate in this project please note your donation for "Ensenada House". Praise the Lord because He IS Faithful.

Monica Chavez



December, 2020

I consider myself a blessed woman because I had the pleasure of working at Rancho Santa Marta. He has taken me from being homeless to becoming rich in His presence, from learning His love for me, to others and giving me an opportunity to learn what it means to Serve. Over the years I have been in prayer to be more sensitive to the ways of the Lord, learning what His love, trust, faith means to me. I have Hope today, I have security and I am in Love with the Lord.

This place (RSM) has given me a great opportunity to learn, feel, and identify who I want to become. Even though I had made lots of errors during my years, the Directors have always shown their kindness. The Holy Spirit has been tugging at my heart for a new change; a new challenge; to take a new step of Faith. I would like to: not depend on others; travel & explore other parts of Mexico; look for a new job; leave my comfort zone and find a small place to call my own home.

It does mean leaving this awesome ranch and to do something my heart is wanting to experience. It's a mixture of emotions, excitement and a part sadness within my heart, for I bonded with children for over 17 years here at the ranch. I shared tearful, along with joyful moments. I will always be so grateful for this opportunity because in taking care of children my own heart healing began. I know now it's time to make another move.

I want to thank you for your support as well as for your prayers for me during my stay here. I would like to continue asking for your prayers especially that my faith in the Lord will grow. Thank you for everything! You have supported me thru it all.

*May the Lord keep guiding us,
Monica Chavez*

