

# RANCHO SANTA MARTA

EST. 1980

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ July 2021 ♦ Volume 49 #7



## Rod & Tina's Corner

**Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.**

I Chronicles 29:11

Why do we worry? Why do we live in fear or in doubt? Here is a quote from a devotional from John Piper "Life becomes utterly free and daring when the strongest being in the universe is for you." We are utterly free from the world of worry, doubt, fear, shame, etc. The strongest being in the universe is FOR us. That truth should change the way we live. But many times, we doubt, and we question. One of our articles in this issue relates the recent death of a staff member at the ranch. Her passing was very sudden and unexpected. It is easy to ask the "why Lord?" question instead of asking "for what purpose, Lord?" If we truly believe I Chronicles 29:11 that He is head over all, even in the sudden death of friends, where we will feel the sadness and grief, we can ultimately accept that His purpose, His ways are not ours and we accept the circumstances and look for the purpose in all of this. How can He be glorified? We learn daily to trust in his headship over Rancho Santa Marta and His children and staff here. The battle is won when we are so confident in Him that we can relax in the fact that the strongest being in the universe is for us and He is in control of all circumstances of our lives! We keep moving forward in faith and ask for His grace to sustain us.

Blessings to you,  
**Rod & Tina**

## Felicidades Graduados!

This is the second year Covid 19 has interrupted our graduation festivities but that will not dampen our celebration of what our students have accomplished in their education. Congratulations to our students from kindergarten, sixth grade, and high school! Danna and Elsa are awaiting their university placement exam results, so their plans are on hold. Danna would like to study Marine Biology and Elsa is pursuing a degree in Foreign Languages. Pray for them as they figure out God's plan for their lives.



Fernanda



Osiris



Brayán



Danna



Iliana



André



Sofia



Elsa



## Guadalupe is home with the Lord

Guadalupe joined our staff three years ago. She was living in Tijuana with her two daughters, Luz, 13, and Lupita, 11, who has Down Syndrome. Guadalupe, as a single mother, was having trouble balancing her job and taking care of her two daughters while in Tijuana. Lupita was spending much of her time in their house by herself. Guadalupe was looking for a solution to her problem when one of our teachers, a relative of Guadalupe, mentioned our school and home for children. Guadalupe came for a visit and decided to leave Lupita under the care of Juanita in one of our girls' house. Three months passed and Guadalupe could not handle living without her daughter, Lupita.

They came back to the ranch asking if the whole family could stay together; Guadalupe working as a janitor at our school and her two daughters attending our school. We agreed and they settled into one of our small houses and adapted into the Santa Marta family. Guadalupe was a hard worker and while she was with us took on the jobs as a janitor, assistant cook in the cafeteria, and finally as a teacher's assistant in the primary special education classroom where she was able to teach her own daughter!

Guadalupe was diagnosed with the first signs of diabetes during her stay and was taking medication to help control her sugar levels. One day she was preparing for a school outing, she did not eat breakfast, was returning to feed Lupita and she fainted and fell hard on her head. She was rushed to the clinic but during the transport she passed away. Wow, what a shock for everyone at the ranch and our school staff. It happened so quickly we could hardly believe it was true. How could that be? Her biggest fear was leaving her two daughters alone and that's exactly what happened. It brought up those same feelings we had with Angelina and those same "why?" questions were being asked. We had a memorial service for her, and the children were sad but because of the experience we went through with Angelina there was more of a peace among them. We focused on the "for what purpose" questions. Guadalupe passed so we could testify to others about her kind and sensitive spirit, how she found the Lord here at the ranch, and how her three years at the ranch were her happiest ones. Her daughter Luz was challenged to continue in her mothers' footsteps to follow the Lord and show her kindness to others. Her death showed each one of us that our life is on a thread between life and death, and we do not know when we will die but to be always ready when He calls us home. Deny yourself and live for Him, this is what the Christian life is all about. Guadalupe's daughters are in the safe care of her brother who will move them to the interior of Mexico with their own family. Guadalupe and Angelina are our forever Santa Marta family and are truly missed by all but because of their lives and their loss of life we are stronger and have a closer relationship to our heavenly Father. Thank you for your continued prayers for our family. Blessings to all.



## Pool Time!

We are always amazed at the ways the Lord provides for the needs of the ranch, even in small matters. Pathways Church of Santee, Ca. headed by Becky Carlisle, organized a fundraiser for swimsuits and towels for the ranch kids. How thoughtful and generous as the church collected enough towels and suits for all. Thank you Pathways and Becky for this pleasant surprise. The pool is open and they are ready for summer swimming!!



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## Welcome back groups!

The ranch children have missed our groups so much that Julia put together a video of our kids (see link below) directed to our extended family with the intent of pulling heart strings to organize a visit to Santa Marta. It worked....sort of. We have two groups scheduled for this summer and one has already blessed us with their servant hearts. Brad and Marcy Riegg of Living Waters Spanish of Portland, Oregon area have organized groups for many years. They were the last group of 2020 and now the first of 2021. This group was ready to serve. They held several different classes, crafts, and games during the week for our ranch children, were vital in catching up some concrete work for our existing and future school classrooms and improved our pool area shadestructure. Thank you for your diligence and desire to be a blessing to our children. You definitely succeeded! Be sure and check out Julia's video.



Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/546333311>

## Matching Grant



We have some good news since we wrote in our last newsletter on Valentina. We were able to see a nephrologist and they believe the results of the biopsy that was done on her kidney in Tijuana is Minimal Change Disease, which is one of the less severe diseases of the nephrotic syndrome realm. It is possible that her kidneys will go into remission as she physically matures, meaning no more steroids or edema flare ups. We also took her to an eye doctor, and she has no problems with her vision which rules out several different serious kidney syndromes. We continue to pursue cochlear implants (CI) and we have doctor appointments through July and August. It is our prayer that she will be selected for a bilateral cochlear implant surgery in September. We have been accepted to receive

Medi-cal insurance for her which will help with costs, but we are still uncertain if her policy will cover the full CI surgery. A special couple and friends of the ranch for many years have felt a special connection to Valentina's situation. They are offering to double any gift amount towards her surgery up to \$10,000. That would mean \$20,000 for her needs. Thank you and continue to pray that doors will open for Valentina to receive the CI and allow her to hear and to speak!! Please mark your gifts "Valentina". Thank you for your prayers!!