

RANCHO SANTA MARTA

EST. 1980

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ February 2021 ♦ Volume 49 #2



Rod & Tina's Corner

We have a story to tell. We are a family of seven; Rod, Tina, our oldest daughter, Rocio, our three sons, Jonathan, Isaac, Hosea and Reka, our adopted daughter from India. Reka is the only one with us at the ranch full time. Rocio is married and started her life in San Diego and our three sons are either in school and/or working their jobs in San Diego. On weekends we regroup and spend time together at the ranch. The social service department (DIF) last November asked us if we were willing to take on a four-year-old deaf girl at the ranch. She, Valentina, had been taken from her grandparents because of neglect, her mother was in a state



psychiatric ward hospital and the narcotic father was killed in Tijuana. Valentina had been in a halfway home for two years waiting for a placement. It is always hard for us to say no to children, especially knowing this would be a special case. After some prayer and talking with our immediate family we decided to take Valentina into our own home and be a foster family for her while a placement could be found for her. That decision to bring her into our home was a definite family life-changing decision. After one week with us we fell in love with her and decided to adopt her ourselves. The state was in agreement, so we have officially begun the adoption process. Valentina

has shown that she will not be an easy jump-into-the-Struiksma-family-routine type child. She is totally deaf and has had some lessons in Mexican sign language. She was spoiled at her other "home" and is not used to the word or sign "No"! What a task, but what a blessing she is. Bringing a five-year-old (her birthday is Dec 25!) into our house was not an easy decision because it will take us back to our toddler days but how can we say no to the opportunity to bring another child into the knowledge of knowing Jesus our Savior. Learning the Mexican sign language will be a challenge and we have some words down ("no" and "gentle" were on the top of the list) but with God's help we are hoping to see if she will be a candidate for cochlear implants. We are waiting for a US visa in order to get her to a San Diego children's hospital for her first appointment with an audiologist. This is our story, and we accept what God has planned for our growing family. We hope someday you can meet our new addition, Valentina. Blessings,

Rod & Tina

It's about time!

Our existing playground structure will turn at least 30 years old this year. It has been a miracle structure because every single day of those 30 years at least one child has set foot or set seat on those wooden beams and swings! It is time to do



an upgrade and we are pursuing a lead through a company in the states who refurbish "old" playground structures and deliver these "new" sets to places like Santa Marta who are in need of a total facelift. Everything is explained on our website so be sure and visit us at ranchosantamarta.org and join in to raise our thermometer mark to its goal so we can reconstruct a new playground playset for the enjoyment of both our ranch children and our students for another 30 years!

The Ensenada House

We have plans for our Ensenada house and the total cost will be \$150,000 dollars. We will upload the plans and a graphic presentation on our website for your access. Most of the major projects at the ranch have come to a halt because of the Covid-19 pandemic and its' interruption of our groups coming down, so we are hoping to hire a contractor to construct this house and have it ready by the end of the summer so our university students can have a place to stay while they study in Ensenada. Pray for the Ensenada house funding.



We again thank Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walnut Creek, CA for their kickoff amount of \$75,000 dollars for this project, which is half of the project! Our cup is half FULL! May God bless them and all the rest who decide to give! Thank you.

CONNECT WITH US:



40th Anniversary

Just a reminder to log onto our website at www.ranchosantamarta.org for our 40th anniversary articles and pictures. The aerial shots show the growth at the ranch over those forty years. The top picture shows the pool, basketball court and playground structure, dining commons and garage, Bill & Kaye's house under construction, two houses for the children and one under construction and the pig pen classrooms. Quite a change in 30 + years: an orchard, a kindergarten – high school complex, a gymnasium, more homes for children, carpenter shop, etc. It is awesome to see how God has blessed the ranch through you! Gracias!



In Honor of

Carol & Robin Little from Sharyn & Timothy Henshaw of Pleasanton, CA

Michael Brown of Anchorage, Alaska from Olivia Rocamora of Tucker, GA

Dana Mackensen from Michael Mackensen of McLean, VA

Chris Billy of Modesto Crosspoint Community Church from Raymond Delworth of Lake Havasu City, AZ

Liz & Chris Foreman of San Mateo, CA from Sybil Becker of Kittery, ME

Ida Marie Fernandez from Sandra Fernandez Achenbach of Simi Valley, CA

Ann Egri from Lloria Cassel of La Quinta, CA

Baja Beach Bash 12 from Jeff Proctor - Team Honda Racing / Proctor Racing of Pomona, CA

Baja Beach Bash - Cameron & Johnny from Robert Murray

Tim & Sharyn Henshaw from Robin & Carol Little of Pleasanton, CA

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A wonderful Christmas for all

Every February newsletter we leave room to thank everyone who participated somehow in blessing our children with Christmas gifts. You are the very best example to our kids of selfless, sacrificial giving. You are giving to them because of your love for them, not that they necessarily deserve these gifts but because you care for them. They understand and are being taught that this selfless love is the same love that Christmas is celebrated for: Jesus came to Earth as a baby boy to grow up, experience our life and then conquer the sin that binds us through His dying on the cross. Those gifts and that giving reflect His love. A huge thank you for everyone who participated:



Calvary Assembly of God members making their deliveries to the office

- West Valley Presbyterian Church of Cupertino, CA
- Mr/Mrs Loewen
- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church of Vacaville, CA
- Mr/Mrs Joel Tyack
- Mr/Mrs Jimmie Knodel
- Christmas shoes Group
- Mikey and Sarah Reilly and friends of Seal Beach, CA
- Diane Siegel / Siegel Foods
- Calvary Assembly of God of Lomita, CA

And of course we thank everyone for your continued prayers for our children. Blessings to everyone!

In Memory of

Our dear friend Lynne Taggart of Westminster Presbyterian Church, San Jose, CA, a faithful supporter of RSM for many years, from Mr/Mrs Dudley Dinshaw of Encinitas, CA, P. Montgomery of San Jose, CA and Laura Kaspick of San Francisco, CA

Don Risen from Stan Risen of Modesto, CA

Evelyn Atkinson of Paseo Del Ray Church, Chula Vista, CA from Mark Atkinson of Salem, OR

Miit VanderMolen from:

- James and Marjorie Powers of Huntington Beach, CA
- Donald and Betty Little of Hotchkiss, CO
- from sister-in-law, Judy Vander Molen of Rockford, MI
- Mary Ann Gordon of Huntington Beach, CA
- Donna Becker of Huntington Beach, CA

Art Greathead from children Nancy Borino and Denis Greathead

David Tomasovitch from Gary & Diane Siemers, Trenton, MI

Pat Oslund from Marilyn Desanto of Scottsdale, AZ and Suzanne Borland of Cypress, CA

Ralph Morgan and Bob Kerr with the Modesto and Jackson Rotarians from John Bree of Riverbank, CA

Ed von Delden from wife, Jill of Ridgeway, CO

Kati Goetz Varon from Steve Baron of Cupertino CA

Loren Johnson from Ruth Johnson of Hanford, CA