

# RANCHO SANTA MARTA

EST. 1980

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ August 2022 ♦ Volume 50 #8



## Rod & Tina's Corner

We ended our school year this last month with a great celebrating graduation ceremony. We had over 300 family members come alongside their loved ones as they received their diplomas from kindergarten, sixth, ninth and twelfth grades. We had eleven of our own ranch children and teenagers participate this year in the ceremony (read below). Colegio Santa Marta is not only making an impact in the academic field in our area, but it is also affecting our students and families in spiritual ways. For example, we have a fifth grader attending our school who is a third-generation member from a family who has always considered themselves atheist. Many members of his family are dentists and doctors and so they live comfortably and believe they have no need for religion. This fifth-grade student has something to say about this. Because of the daily devotional times and prayer before their classes begin in his classroom at our school, he is requesting that his family do the same when they have meals together and when they put him to bed. His grandmother asked him recently what he would like to do with his life and he gave it some thought. The grandmother was thinking that he would follow the pattern of dentists and doctors in the family, but he responded: "I would like to be a missionary or pastor so I can tell others what I have learned at Colegio Santa Marta. I want to share with others the gospel and God's love for them." This is the kind of impact that we are hearing from our students. Many of them come from families that are religious but do not have that close relationship with God and their children notice that difference. Continue to pray that: our teachers have that desire to know God and to make Him known and that our students understand that spiritual matters are just as important as academics. Thank you! *Rod & Tina*

## Graduation!

Our last Colegio Santa Marta graduation ceremony was June 2019 so our school was ready for another year end celebration for our Kindergarten, sixth graders, ninth graders and seniors graduates!



Jahazara, Valentin, Ernesto, David, Adriana, Daniela, Jazmin  
Valentina, Josefina

The event was a huge success with 68 graduates, over 300 family members and special guests to give out their diplomas. There were 11 graduates from the ranch who also celebrated their special day. Valentina, Josefina and Eligio from kindergarten, Daniela, Abril, Jahazara, Jazmin, Ernesto, Valentin, and David from junior high and Adriana from high school. Adriana has been accepted at a university in Ensenada where she will be studying to become a physical therapist. Congratulations to our wonderful graduates!



Eligio



Abril

## More of the Moorhead Group

Welcome back the Bob Moorhead group. Bob Moorhead has been a long-time board member of the ranch and we usually coordinate his group with our Mexican/American board meeting. They had a smaller group this year, but much was accomplished. They were able to sheath the walls to the music/bathroom building, mount the metal trusses as well as install the metal roofing panels. A job well done. Thank you for your presence here with us this year and we look forward to the visit next year. Blessings!



## Dominique

Dominique was with us for a little over a year. He was taken away from his father because of an abusive situation in the home. He has severe autism, does not speak and his social skills are minimal contact. This whole year he has been living with Gabriel, Rosa and Diego, our young boy with Down syndrome. Gabriel and Rosa have done a wonderful job with Dominique. He also was attending our special education class and progressing in the social skills areas. His father was a faithful monthly visitor and had taken all of the steps to get his son back to his home in Ensenada. The day finally came, and Dominique was united with his father. He doesn't show much emotion, but he seemed glad to see his father. We are hopeful that what he learned here will be carried over to his new living situation.



## Update on Rocio and Tali

Dealing with cancer is an overwhelming and emotionally debilitating disease not just for the person but for the family and those close to them. Cancer is difficult to face alone so we believe the Lord wants the ministry of Rancho Santa Marta to assist Rocio and Tali through this crisis in any way available to us. After much prayer the Lord led us to an alternative treatment in Tijuana. She began this treatment one month ago. Although the inflammation has somewhat subsided, she still has a lot of pain, and is unable to put pressure on her leg so walking isn't an option. She uses crutches or a wheelchair to mobilize but tires quickly. She has radically changed her diet and way of cooking to eliminate anything that feeds the cancer. Living in Mexico in a small town with little water availability is an issue so gardening is a problem. We have helped provide organic food from the US and from the ranch. Your continued prayer and financial support to meet their needs is greatly appreciated. We expect the Lord to intervene to touch Rocio's body and encourage them during this difficult path. Please pray for wisdom from the Lord to know His will and his life-giving powers to flow into every cell of her body and into the depths of her soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring her to wholeness and strength.



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## Valentina Update

Valentina has had her cochlear implants operating since the first week of February. She has been hearing the world as we do for five months, and she is understanding what sound is all about. She has relied on her other senses for so long that it is difficult for her to use her "ears". Before her cochlear implants, our communication was through our limited Mexican signing abilities and her lip-reading skills: a combination that allowed us to get our messages across. Now that she can hear, we must limit our signing and not allow her to read our lips so that she is forced to listen to sound and begin to develop language. The brain needs to develop those nerve synapses with the input of sound through her cochlear implants. It is amazing because it is working. She currently can pronounce up to twenty words: agua, uno, papá, mamá, baño, and can recognize many words and names. She is getting it! It is a very slow process but if we reflect on it, it's only been five months and she is beginning to speak. Praise the Lord for these advancements because we were told she might not speak at all due to the age she received the implants. Thank you for your prayers and we ask you continue to pray for her progress.



### In Honor

In memory of Gretchen Nutt from Brian & Yvonne Clark of Iron Mountain, MI

In memory of Pete Sohren from Angie Gillette of Chandler, AZ

In memory of Sevilla Loewen from brother, Don Loewen of San Jose, CA

In memory of Dave Auslam from Gil & Ardis Torr of Severance, CO

In honor of Fred Randle of Modesto, CA

In honor of Mr/Mrs Allen Carlisle for a successful mission year from Tanya Castaneda of Chula Vista, CA