



Rod & Tina's Corner

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

Life is all about making the right choices. The Christian life is no different, it's just the choices that are made are based on Biblical principles. Remember: WWJD. What Would Jesus Do? Noah found favor in the eyes of God because he chose to obey Him. Joseph was successful in all that he did because his decisions were based on pleasing God. God's Word is full of examples of men and women who chose to follow Him. We choose to serve here at Rancho Santa Marta. It is a life that can be very stressful, busy, worrisome, tiring, overwhelming, saddening, problematic.....BUT a life that brings blessing, joy, comfort, fulfillment, peace and a closeness to God. Living here among the Rancho Santa Marta family and the staff draws us closer to our Lord just because we do not have the answers. We must rely on His wisdom and guidance when hard decisions need to be made. You will read about Antonio below and hopefully understand how that was a grueling, tough decision for us to make. We pour our lives, our hearts, our love, our time into our families and sometimes it just doesn't work out the way we envisioned. Go to the Lord in prayer. That is our answer and our advice. In Him is where we find our consolation and our peace. Why Lord? My yoke is easy, rest in Me. Why Lord? My ways are not your ways. Why Lord? Walk in the path that I have prepared for you. Our lives are not perfect, and we are guaranteed problems, especially living with 35 emotionally needy children/teens/young adults. It is our daily prayer that our extended Santa Marta family will make the decision to allow Jesus into their lives in order to experience that peace inside. Oh how God loves them and desires their attention. Please continue to pray for us and our staff as we influence these young ones to seek God because He is the answer! He is the Way, the Truth and the Life! As for me and my house, we will choose to serve the Lord. Blessings to every one of you who hold Santa Marta dear to your heart. God bless you, Rod & Tina

The Casandra House



We are pouring the footings for the Casandra House! This house will have a similar floor plan as our Victor house for the guys, only this one will be for our gals. We find ourselves in a housing predicament because of the type of children/teens that we are taking on from the government. Because of our special education school and mainstreaming focus, the Mexican social service officials are sending children and teenagers who have special educational needs. That is fine because we love these kids, but the problem is that in most cases, the families do not want to care for these children and will not take them back to their homes. We find ourselves with maturing special needs teens who have reached their limit in school, have no family to go back to and will not be able to assimilate into society without help. The Casandra house will be designed to meet that need and accommodate ten ladies or girls who will have a house that they can call home where they will live and work at the ranch. Currently from the Victor house we have Victor who is 46 years old and is our elementary school assistant custodian, Miguel who is 37 and is our agriculture assistant working in the fields, Ruben at age 22 who helps out with our animal program and then Casandra who is working as an assistant in the school cafeteria. The upcoming teenage girls who will be moving into the Casandra house are Jade, Lupita, Eva and Yazmin. These four are still in school but in a couple of years will qualify for a room in the house and find their working spot either in the school or in the houses. We will be concentrating on building the house through the summer and into the fall using the funds that were donated by Kern Community Foundation out of Bakersfield to honor Mark Steele, Cameron Steeles father. Thank you to the **Bryan Batey Family** for that awesome gift and to Cameron Steele who is the founder/organizer of the Baja Beach Bash motorcycle riding event held every July in our area of Baja California. We are excited about the building and we welcome you to stop in and see the progress of this house.

Antonio

The hardest part of directing a children’s home is when the time comes to make the decision to let one go for the safety of the rest of the family. We will prolong and procrastinate that hard decision until we see there is no other way, there is no change. These children come to us beat up by the world and their families. They are bruised, battered, belittled and just beaten down because of their experiences in their family, schools and neighborhoods. Some hold those hurts inside which when triggered, the fireworks begin. They allow those emotions to control their behavior and it can be downright dangerous for those who get in their way. We have been praying for Antonio for many years. He has been through many hours of counseling and therapy, healing prayer and daily devotions. He knows Jesus and strives to do what is right, but his childhood scars continue to surface, and he is a threat to his house parents and those in the home. We had to call the authorities to take him, from his brother Saidth, his sister Iliana and from his Santa Marta family. What a terrible thing for us to do but we had no choice this time. He was told over and over again what would happen if his behavior did not change. Oh how we were waiting for him to turn that corner, to control his outbursts but it did not happen on our watch. We can only trust that God will bring others into his life to help him overcome those obstacles in his young life. We will miss Antonio. Please pray for him and for Saidth and Iliana. They are feeling the pain of losing their big brother and that has brought out some bad choices in their lives now. We continue to ask God for wisdom and the fruit of the Holy Spirit as we interact and live with these children. Pray that the right people come into our path, who have a heart for these children who can love them unconditionally as God has loved us. Thank you for your prayer support and for standing with us as we make decisions for these children/teens/young adults lives.



Return Service Requested

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Belhesda Teaching Ministry

RANCHOSANTAMARTA.ORG

Our Children Celebrating Jesus’ Birthday!



Needs:

- Wheelbarrows, shovels, wire rakes, hoses,
- Children’s shoes (sz. 4-7 youth sizes; preferably gray, black and/or navy-blue colors)
- Diapers (sz 6 toddlers) and disposable underpants small mens
- Hygiene supplies (shampoo, body lotion, bar soap, deodorants, feminine pads, toothpaste)

In honor of:

- Carol & Robin Little from Sharyn & Timothy Henshaw of Pleasanton, CA
- Victor from Steven Hoyte of Salinas, CA
- Niece Dana Mackensen from Kathryn Mackensen of McLean, VA
- Tim & Sharyn Henshaw from Robin & Carol Little of Pleasanton, CA

In memory of:

- Vince Rainey from Melanie Rainey of Fair Oaks, CA
- Herb Wilkins from Judith Chuhuran of Trenton, MI
- Don Risen from Stan Risen of Modesto, CA
- Loren Johnson from Ruth Johnson of Hanford, CA