

# RANCHO Santa Marta

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ January 2024 ♦ Volume 52 #1



## Rod & Tina's Corner

*Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way? Proverbs 20:24*

Welcome 2024! Are we sure about that? What is happening in the world today is perplexing and worrisome. What is going to happen in Israel with the war? Who is going to be our next president this coming November? Will the world's economy be stable this year? Is another pandemic on the way? "How can a man then understand his own way?" We as humans have the tendency to want to know the future outcomes. We worry. We lose sleep over these matters. "Man's goings are of the Lord." The Lord knows exactly what is going to happen with world issues and more importantly with our personal issues. He is in CONTROL! Our job as the verse indicates is to be still and see how He will work things out. He is asking us to commit our lives, our families, our jobs, our money, our concerns, our church, our everything to Him and rest in His grace. Relax! Over and over again He has shown His faithfulness to us. Trust in Him. Rancho Santa Marta is His ministry and we do not understand His ways, we just give our ranch "goings" to the Lord. Our "goings" are of the Lord. So for the new year 2024 we want to draw closer to You, read and meditate in your Word and tell others that there is PEACE in His arms. Bless the Lord Oh my soul and all that is within me, Bless His holy name. Psalm 103:1 Amen. Blessings to each one of you as you diligently search to understand God's way this year. Blessings, Rod & Tina for Rancho Santa Marta.



Thank you, West Valley Church members Judge Mike and Karen Clark, for the advent chocolates! It is an official tradition now!!

## Short and Sweet

Short term missionary work is a big part of Rancho Santa Marta's ministry. The churches, schools and groups that come to visit us throughout the year add spice and excitement to the lives of our ranch children. The groups bring comradery and encouragement to them as they share their lives over the dinner table and during play or craft time. It has been encouraging to see how our groups have renewed their vision to spend the energy and time with us at Rancho Santa Marta. You are a huge blessing to these children/teens/young adults, and we appreciate your love to our family as an outpouring of your love for Christ. We hope that this year 2024 we will have the honor to see your faces once again and that God will lead others to share their time with us in Baja California. We want to thank the groups that came last fall, Village Bible Church of Garden Grove, CA; New Life Christian Center of Turlock, CA; WestGate Church of San Jose, Ca; and Crosspoint Church of Modesto, CA. You are welcome to come again this year!!



New Life Christian Center



Crosspoint Bible Church



New Life Christian Center



Westgate

## Welcome Monica!

Monica is our newest member of the family. She comes to us after a two year stay at a different orphanage. The orphanage could not manage the behavior issues that Monica was presenting so they asked social services to find another home for her. We were called and we accepted her into Vero's house with our young girls. Monica is 8 years old and has been through some abusive situations with her own family that has left her with anger and behavioral concerns. We see this scenario over and over again: Satan using others to destroy innocent children's lives that leave them struggling to find answers on how to alleviate the trauma that they have experienced. God brings these children to Santa Marta so we can assist them in their journey to know the healer of all pain and find inner peace. Monica is part of our family now and we will partner with you as you pray for us and our staff as we love her through Christ. Gracias!



# The Little Ones

Children under the age of six years old who demonstrate learning disabilities in the area of speech development, fine motor skills, and any other special education needs tend to benefit tremendously with a pre-school program focusing on those different skills. Colegio Santa Marta is experiencing an increase in children with learning challenges and Tina has seen how this negatively affects their classroom academic and social lives. Tina has had the vision and desire to start an early intervention program to bring in these children with special education needs at a younger age so their special needs can be detected, diagnosed, and hopefully treated before they enter kindergarten. We have the facilities for this program, and we have finally received the green light from the government to begin the program. Currently we are waiting for a different government agency to do an inspection of the classrooms. If we pass, we will be able to open our preschool program. Pray that the inspectors will find everything in place and safe and allow us to proceed with the opening plans this January 2024. Many children will benefit with this type of program.



*Return Service Requested*

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## Blessings of generosity!

Thank you once again to Mike and Sarah Reilly who organize a Christmas block party in their Seal Beach neighborhood and collect gifts for our children at the ranch. What a blessing. We also thank Diane Siegel, Antoinette Tracy and other members of Lomita Calvary Assembly who have been faithful gift givers for all of us here at Santa Marta. God bless these two groups as they continue to bless our children/teens/young adults on Christmas Day. It is an awesome sight to feel the energy and see their faces as they receive their gifts. It is our hope that they learn that

Christmas is not all about receiving gifts but giving sacrificially as you have graciously modeled for them. Thank you!



Mike Reilly with Bill receiving gifts.



Lomita Calvary Assembly with Kaye

## In honor and memory

- In honor of Pastor Mike Garner from Lauren Heart of Suisun City, CA
- In honor of Caleb and Madalyn Scheidamantle from Clara Green of Duvall, WA
- In honor of Ashley Meeker from Laura Hahn of Greensboro, NC
- In honor of Ivy from Grandmother, Lorraine Davidson of Salem, OR
- In honor of Grandpa (Pops) Don Green from Clara Green of Duvall, WA
- In honor and memory of Rocio from Barbara Menet of Fair Oaks, CA
- In honor of 2023 Annual Beach Bash with Cam Steele and Johnny from Robert Murray of RSM, CA
- In memory of Dick & Nancy Anderson from Bill & Linda Mason of Carmichael, CA
- In memory of Janet Gatchell Sheppard (mother of Barb Menet) from Rob and Barb Menet of Fair Oaks, CA
- In memory of Diana Dollar Knowles from Darayn Hickingbotham of San Francisco, CA
- In memory of Grace & ST Gomer from Dharmaseeli Moses of Loma Linda, CA
- In memory of Bill Struiksma from Steve & Mary Flietstra of Buena Park, CA
- In memory of Bill Struiksma from Marvin & Virginia Bouma of Fullerton, CA
- In memory of Chris Billy from Matt Billy of Modesto, CA
- In memory of Kerry Campise and Nancy Bayma from Janice Mittlestat of Flat Rock, MI
- In memory of Willard Marsh from Marilyn Marsh of Applegate, OR
- In memory of Jim Henson of First Presbyterian Church Salinas from Steven Hoyte of Salinas, CA
- In memory of Hank Kirkland from Karen Clark of Saratoga, CA