

RANCHO SANTA MARTA

EST. 1980

Bethesda Teaching Ministry ♦ P.O. Box 20028 ♦ El Cajon, California ♦ 92021-0900 ♦ 619.258.1358 ♦ July 2018 ♦ Volume 46 #7



Rod & Tina's Corner

If it is at all possible you need to visit the Ranch for a Sunday morning service with our children. We hold our own services at the ranch in our chapel for a couple of reasons: transporting 60+ people to town is always a task and we would fill up the whole church building in San Vicente with our small village! We enjoy the liberty of holding our own services, rotating the responsibility of sharing the message and singing the songs that we all enjoy. One of the highlights of our morning service is the opportunity to give a testimony about what God has been doing in our lives. Children, teens and adults are encouraged to stand up and share how God has been evident in their lives. We are surprised at times who is doing the sharing. You would never believe that our more defiant children in the school and houses are sensitive to spiritual things. Our house parents have devotions with our ranch children and they always emphasize the importance of being courteous and thankful for what has been given to them. They have a hard time understanding how God can be in control of their lives when they are not with their families but that message does sink in. Their church testimonies are full of gratitude towards God for giving them food, clothes, an education, house parents that love them and for the groups that come down to bless them and spoil them!! They do understand that they have a heavenly Father that deeply cares and loves them. Call the office so we can give you directions to the ranch to join our Sunday morning service to listen to the children. Sometimes it's difficult to translate but even in a different language the boldness to testify and thank God for His goodness enlightens the soul.

Blessings,

Rod & Tina

Building a High School



Our high school building is making progress thanks to our spring work crews. Thank you "Menlo Park" group (a group actually made up from various churches represented from the San Francisco Bay area and Seattle) for your vigor in not only building the trusses but also nailing down the plywood and our follow up group from Bend, OR, Grace First Lutheran Church who helped lift up the remaining middle trusses with great teamwork. (They also were busy with many other ongoing projects around the ranch.) The goal is to have the two classrooms finished by the middle of August for our coming school year. This past year the first-year high schoolers were able to squeeze into the junior high schedule sharing classrooms. The coming school year there will be two



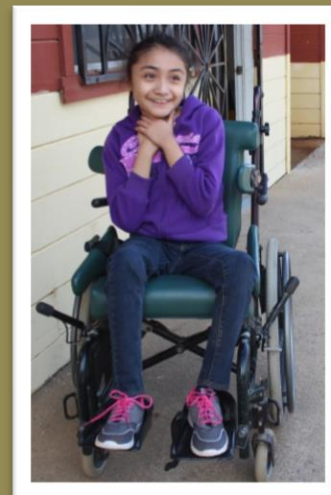
high school groups which complicates rotations with the one building. One or two high school classrooms will be needed; thus, our mighty warrior summer groups will accomplish that task – we have no doubt about that!

Cynthia goes to school



Three months ago, our school's specialist team was meeting with a family who has a special education student in our Trade school program. As we were talking to them about our objectives, learning and social goals for their son, somehow, we began to talk about other family members

in their home. They shared that they had an 11-year-old daughter, Cynthia, who had never been to school. She was born with cerebral palsy and is developmentally delayed. She is not completely toilet trained and depends 100% on mom to take care of her needs. We talked to the parents on how our staff might be able to help improve her education, fine and gross motor skills, and how our school and staff might be able to support both Cynthia and her family. A week after our meeting, Cynthia started attending our school once a week. Her mother stays with her so that she can learn what our occupational therapists, Denise and Sam, our speech therapist, Cariño, and our special education teachers can teach them. The first few weeks were really tough. Cynthia's communication skills were limited to pulling people's hair, screaming for attention and throwing whatever was at her reach. Gradually, she is learning how to communicate through Spanish sign language and some verbal monosyllables; she has reduced pulling our staff's hair or throwing fits to communicate. With the help of our therapists she is starting to leave her wheelchair and wanting to venture out by walking around our classrooms. With these improvements we hope to add more days to her school schedule. To see Cynthia smiling and learning new things has really been an encouragement for her parents and her older brother.



Sam I Am!

If I had to say I learned one thing from my time at Rancho Santa Marta, it's patience. For sure without a doubt I never could have completed my time here without God-given patience. One of my weekly tasks was to help the substitute house parent watch the kids. There are almost always ten kids and almost always a dispute. We start at 6:30 am to get them ready for school and end at 8:00 pm when they go to bed. When I first started I was quick to discipline and didn't give it much thought but as time went on God showed me His wisdom in how to choose my battles.

During my time in occupational therapy in Denise's classroom I worked with a child with learning & speech challenges. We did the same thing every day for 9-10 months; throw the ball, write your name, tie your shoe. All the while he was mumbling words I couldn't understand. I was discouraged. Why should I spend my time with him if he won't change? But God said, "Just wait." Ok Lord, show me those plans that You have for me. (Jer. 29:11) I'll wait. Then a month ago, it was like he woke up, he started saying words we could understand; numbers, help, and you're welcome. He excelled at throwing the ball and started hitting his target. He could do most of the steps to tie his shoe. Thank you God, Your plans are way better, than mine.

I am sad to see this year ending. I have learned so many lessons from so many teachers. Thank you to the staff of Rancho Santa Marta and Colegio Santa Marta for having patience with me as I stumbled through learning the Spanish language and social customs. Thank you to Denise for showing me what it looks like to be a good therapist. Thank you to my roommate Grant for having my back in any and all situations. Thank you to Rod and Tina and their family for their wisdom and hospitality. Thank you to my parents Cary and Krista for an endless stream of love and Skype calls. Thank you to my home church Trinity Oregon City for supporting spiritually and financially. Thank you to all the people who donated to me, to the Ranch or who volunteered their time, without you none of this is possible. *Sam*



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Blessings Grant!



As I look back over the past ten months a few things come to mind. The first being that God is our rock in the storms of life. Many times I found myself with nothing to hold onto but the Rock. I would ask God for help and He would give me the strength to work through the hard things. Being a thousand miles away from my family, friends and everything that I knew as home made me search to be that much closer to God. I am so thankful that we have a God that we can go to in time of need. Most of my time at the Ranch was spent either teaching my junior high English classes or helping with the kids and teens that live at the Ranch. I am so thankful that I got this opportunity. God has taught me so many lessons during my stay. One of the things God has shown me is that when He calls you to do something He will make a way for you. Another is that in every situation there is always something to be thankful for. It may not always be a big thing but you can still find them. My life will never be the same after coming here. *Grant*

Needs

- English teachers for elementary, junior high and High School level
- Physical Education teacher (bilingual in Spanish)

Please prayerfully consider supporting the Ranch financially. We do need help in meeting the needs of the kids we serve.



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