



# VICTORY RANCH

SPRING 2011

# NEWSLETTER

## God's Blessings

### From the Director's Desk

It is such a blessing to see God work at Victory Ranch, and many times to see Him provide for our needs even before we realize we have the need. I'd like to share several recent instances where we have seen this happen.

On January 22, 2011 we were preparing for a guest group. At least 27 people were coming from out-of-town and out-of state, and we were asked to put linens on their beds. Paul Gauerke, one of our volunteers, asked if he could go do some work with the Gideon organization that day. After he left, I instructed Laraine Camping and Shannon Birdsall to make sure the beds were made for our guests.

Mid afternoon, I met Shannon walking across the camp. She said the beds were made, but we didn't have enough pillows. I told her to try to put at least one pillow on each bed. Ten minutes later, Paul and Art drove in from their volunteer work. I asked how their day had gone. They shared how one motel manager had requested they pray with her for the spiritual warfare she felt had been going on at her motel. After the prayer, she had asked if they knew of any organization that could benefit from her "extra" pillows. They didn't even know if we could use them, but they loaded up their truck with about 60 pillows. Needless to say, we unloaded the pillows and every bed got pillows, with the king sized beds getting three!

In February the main hydraulic cylinder on our backhoe developed a horrible leak. It was draining out almost as fast as we could fill the reservoir. Most of the cylinder is inside a square tube, which would make it very difficult to re-align after dropping the 100 lb. cylinder out of the boom.

I got a quote from a local company that does this type of work for approximately \$1200+. After much prayer, I felt that there must be a cheaper way to get it done. Mid March, Marlin Miller, our volunteer from Wauseon, Ohio, brought by a friend named Joe Nefziger who has an excavation company in Ohio and was here on a short vacation. Joe said it was easy to pull the cylinder apart on the tractor, and proceeded to take it apart. The two men found a shop in town that replaced the seals for under \$200. Marlin and Joe returned the following week to re-assemble the cylinder before Joe headed back to Ohio.

Another instance was on March 30, 2011 when we had problems with our lawnmower. Two volunteers, Dave Camp and Marlin Miller, began work on it, but they weren't sure exactly what to do, so I called the manufacturer in Kansas.

Their technical support team was very helpful. A few hours later I got a call that a factory rep. was in Hemet and would like to come by and help us. We got the machine running just before he arrived. However, we discovered that the "half shaft" which consists of a "quick disconnect" and a universal joint which fits on the PTO shaft had broken. He just "happened" to have the exact part with him. He stayed for 2 ½ hours as we replaced the shaft and fixed the deck.

God's hand was evidenced in the fact he was from Placerville on the other end of the state, he doesn't carry parts, and he had time to help us. A dealer in Bakersfield had "accidentally" left the part on a delivery he had made the previous day. Realizing the mistake, he had put it in his truck to return to the dealer, but forgot to drop it off. I'm convinced God had that part "set aside" for us.

- by Paul Cayot

## J. Houston Morrison - At Home with His Lord

James Houston Morrison was Vice President of the *Baptist Young People's Assoc.* in 1934 and President from 1935-1938. He was involved with the 1956 purchase of the property known today as Victory Ranch and served on the Ranch's Board of Directors. He spent countless hours working on the facilities and buildings as well as serving as the camp cook.

In 1962, Houston and Mildred moved to Riverside where he continued to volunteer many hours here each year through the 1970's. In the 1990's, Houston and Mildred returned to the Ranch. In his 80's, Houston was up each morning and "at work" as a volunteer by 8:30 a.m. each day. No project was too big. He always loved operating "heavy equipment."

When Mildred's health began to fail, they moved to San Diego, then to the Sacramento area, where Mildred passed away in 2007. Houston enjoyed good health and a good memory and was always only a phone call away. He could tell you exactly where a pipeline was buried or how to fix a problem.

On March 16, 2011, Houston went to be with the Lord. Houston's heart was always with this ministry and it would bring tears of joy to his eyes each summer as he heard of the number of children reached for the Lord through this ministry.



The Ranch Board has set up a scholarship fund in his name to assist young people with financial needs to attend Victory Ranch's summer program. If you would like to contribute, mark your donation, "Houston Morrison scholarship fund."

There will be a **Memorial Service** for Houston on **Saturday April 30, 2011** at Calvary Baptist Tabernacle 18701 S. Denker Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248. The service will begin at 1:00

p.m. with food and fellowship to follow. For further information please call William Morrison at (714) 654-4488.

Please join us as we honor the life of an individual who gave so much of his life to our association of churches and its camping ministry.

## 2011 SING SCHEDULE

June 12 - Bible Baptist, Huntington Park  
July 10 - Bible Baptist Church, Santa Monica  
Aug 21 - First Baptist Church, El Monte  
Oct 9 - First Baptist Church, Wilmington  
Nov 13 - First Baptist Church of Waleria, Torrance  
Dec 4 - South Vermont Ave Baptist Church, Gardena

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

BONFIRE BONANZA - Sept 10 @ Huntington State Beach  
ROUND UP - Nov 5th at Victory Ranch.

## FALL RETREATS

Ladies Retreat – October 7-8, 2011  
co-hosted by Santa Clarita Baptist Church  
Men's Retreat – October 21-22, 2011

## Equipment Operator Needed

We are looking for a volunteer with grading experience to help prepare the basketball court for summer camp. When we installed the recreation room on our dirt basketball court several years ago, we decided to relocate the basketball court north of the volleyball court. The area is somewhat flat, but could use someone with experience to laser level it so that it is even enough to play ball on. If you have that kind of experience and would like to donate your time, please contact our office.

## Plumber Needed

The original galvanized pipe under Wagon Wheel is so full of rust, etc., that the water pressure has dropped tremendously. In drought years we are able to say we are honestly doing our part to conserve water. However, it is now at a point where it is an inconvenience to our guests. We are looking for a plumber who is willing to donate their services to replace the rusty pipe. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Ranch.

## Victory Ranch Gift Certificates

As a parent, grandparent or just a generous friend, you can send or help send a child to camp at Victory Ranch this summer. Send the Ranch a check for the amount you want the certificate(s) for, and the name of the recipient(s). We will issue a gift certificate to the individual(s) you request, with your name on the certificate.

The recipient of your gift can mail the certificate in with their summer camp registration form, and any additional payment. For more information, contact Victory Ranch at (951) 654-7766 or e-mail our office at [camp@vranch.org](mailto:camp@vranch.org).

## 1/2 Marathon Fundraiser

Hello everyone! This is Shannon here in the Victory Ranch office. I have been here at this camp 2 and a half years now and thought it would be exciting to do a new kind of fundraiser for the Ranch.

Recently I befriended a young woman at church named Kelly Hoeting. She returned to the USA about 6 months ago from working with Youth for Christ in Germany and is now working with YFC locally. A few months ago Kelly asked me if I would join her in walking/running a ½ marathon (13.1 miles) in San Diego on June 5, 2011. She also challenged me to use it as a fund raiser.

Since Christian camping is a passion of mine, I am excited to share with you that for the next two to three months I will be raising support for two different camps – **Skyview Ranch**, a sister camp in the National Assoc of Regular Baptist Camps (NARBC), located in Millersburg, Ohio and **Victory Ranch** in Moreno Valley, California. These two camps have played a huge part in my life and I would like to ask you to join me in helping support them so they can continue to impact the lives of the numerous kids, teens, families, and churches who utilize the campgrounds.

My goal is to raise at least **\$100 per mile** with a final goal of **\$1,300**. The money raised will be divided evenly between both camps for a specific project at each camp.

Over the next few months the money will be collected here at Victory Ranch. Please make checks out to **Victory Ranch**. **Send to: Victory Ranch, 18080 Gilman Springs Rd, Moreno Valley, CA 92555**. Once the ½ marathon is completed, we will send half of the money raised to Skyview Ranch. I look forward to keeping you updated in this new endeavor!