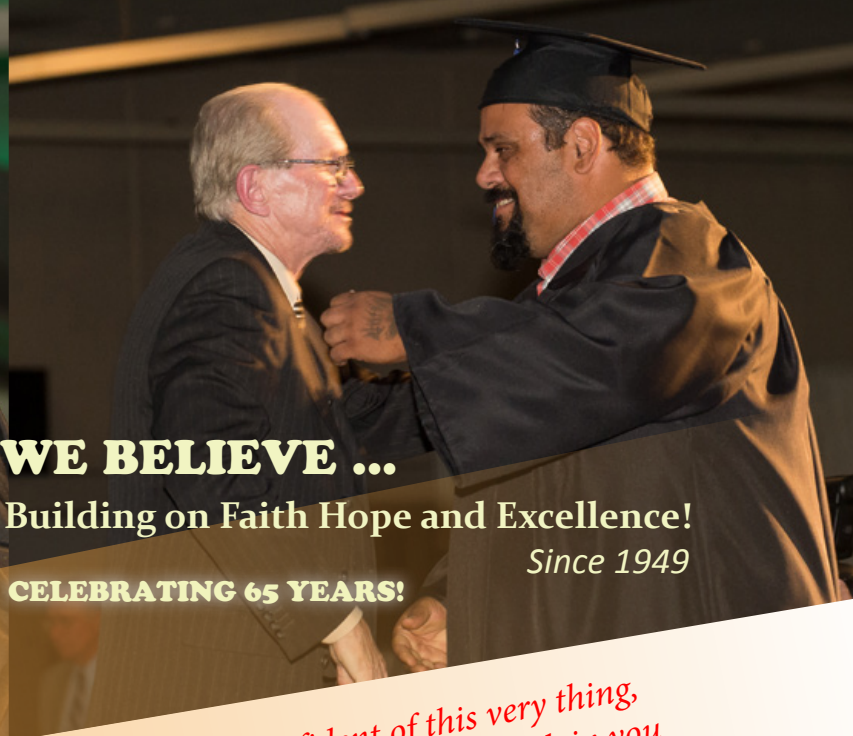


Lighthouse News

November 2014 Issue 11, Volume 65



WE BELIEVE ...

Building on Faith Hope and Excellence!

Since 1949

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS!



*For I am confident of this very thing,
that He who began a good work in you
will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1:6 NASB



From the Director

Before I became the CEO of the Rescue Mission, I had the privilege to travel with Jim Taylor, former Director of the Fresno Rescue Mission. We were looking for a site that would give the children of our Craycroft Youth Center an opportunity to camp away from the city; a place to fish, play and see farm animals up close. After several months of searching up and down the Valley, Jim found a site located on McCall and Dakota Avenue, on the fringe of our community in Sanger. It was a ten acre parcel of property – perfect for our needs.

After the property was purchased, Bob Wolfe (owner of Wolf Lakes and member of our Mission's board at that time) built the lake that graced the interior yard. The Department of Fish and Game stocked it with five varieties of fish. The Rotary Clubs of Fresno and Clovis underwrote the irrigation system. About a hundred volunteers from the Mormon Church came and had a "Barn Raising" in one weekend. Tree Fresno planted over 300 trees on the property. Belmont Nursery donated thousands of dollars in plants, flowers and bushes. Farmers donated steers so that beef could be raised by, and for, the children. We even had a petting zoo, comprised of goats, bunnies, llamas and a few chickens ... we didn't pet the chickens. Sometimes we had to watch very closely so that the llamas would not spit on the children. Not all incidents of risk could

be avoided. A municipal court judge, visiting the ranch, was laid out on the barnyard floor when our Billy Goat butted him from behind. All-in-all, the memories were wonderful.

Over the years, thousands of children were able to use the Sonshine Ranch – yes, Sonshine, to swim, barbecue, picnic, ride paddleboats, play games in the game room (a great alternative during inclement weather), pet the animals, or simply run around and enjoy the fresh air. The County Mental Health Department also borrowed the site, bringing individuals who battled depression and other mental health issues so they could partake in the peaceful atmosphere. We also used the ranch for County adoption processes. It served many useful purposes.



I share all of this information because this past month the Fresno Rescue Mission sold the Sonshine Ranch to Quail Lake Community Church. The ranch had not been used for several years, due to the closure of the Craycroft Youth Center in 2010. After having developed Rescue the Children, we no longer had a need to trek outside our area to find peace for these kids. The new location is perfect for them. Needless to say, our Board of Directors and Mission staff prayed that the Sonshine Ranch would continue to be used for God's glory. Our precious Lord answered our prayer.

Pastor Joe Pettit of Quail Lake Community Church sums it all up in a letter he recently sent me. *"We, as a church, have prayed, hoped and searched for a place we could call home for over 12 years. We are so blessed to walk these grounds and know that God has been at work here for decades and now we will pledge to continue the good work of reaching young and old for Christ and equipping the saints for ministry."*

I sincerely want to thank all of you who gave so generously in the past to the purchase and support of the Sonshine Ranch. The Mission now passes the legacy of your giving to the continuing work of ministering to those in need through Quail Lake Community Church. God bless you!

Rev. Larry J. Arce, CEO
Fresno Rescue Mission, Inc.

*And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you,
because you obey the voice of the Lord your God.*

Deuteronomy 28:2

Memories of the Craycroft Sonshine Ranch



2014 Annual Fall Celebration Banquet





Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2014!



The Graduating Class of 2014

LARRY BOWLES
MARK BRIER
CRISTINA CALDERON
ERNESTO CANTU
AUSTIN CAREY
ANTHONY CHACON
TANIA CHEEK
ROB CRAIN
VICTOR DUARTE
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ANTHONY ESPINOZA
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ERIC GOVE

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BRIAN RILEY
MOISES RAMOS
JENNIFER RUSH
ROBERT SANCHEZ
BOBBY SANDERS
CHRISTIE SYMONDS
WONG THAO
GREG THARPE
OSCAR VASQUEZ
MATIAS VASQUEZ
DONNIE VAUGHN

THANK YOU!

... To all our sponsors, volunteers and guests of the 2014 Fall Celebration Banquet! Thank you for celebrating with us and making the evening so joyful and memorable for our graduates. We couldn't do what we do without all of you!

To God be ALL the glory!

Responsible Stewardship

I saw a bumper sticker on a car that read, "The one with the most toys wins." It should read, "The one with the most toys has the most responsibility before God."

I am involved in a study where it was quoted, "God's abundance is not an invitation to indulgence; it is a call to generosity. God blesses you so you can bless other people." It struck me that the measure of success is not how much I earn or gain in my lifetime, but how I use what I have been given to the glory of God. Am I blessing those around me? Am I glorifying God with what He has given to me?

Whether we have much or little of this world's goods, talents, and resources, we are all rich beyond measure because of who we are in Christ.

As we look forward to the Holiday Season, perhaps we can begin to take inventory:

To celebrate Thanksgiving, give thanks for what God has placed in your care.

To celebrate Christmas, give thanks for the birth of our Savior, showing gratitude for all that God has done.

I would invite you to consider celebrating by sharing your blessings with those who need to be blessed. Consider helping those who have lost their way, need encouragement, and need help in seeing Jesus – support the Fresno Rescue Mission and experience God's blessing in your life.



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Fresno Rescue Mission
in your will or trust

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