

# All The King's Horses Children's Ranch



## THE TRAIL RIDER

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Epochs of faith,  
are epochs  
of fruitfulness;  
But epochs  
of unbelief,  
however glittering,  
are barren  
of all  
permanent good.

--Johann von Goethe  
1749-1832  
German poet & dramatist

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No donation goes for  
personal gain.  
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non-profit corporation.  
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tax-deductible receipt.

## A PROMISED LAND

The first quarter of this year has witnessed miracle after miracle for the Children's Ranch. The most wondrous of these is the land we have purchased. The closing date is April 19<sup>th</sup> on 91 acres of county land located in Benson. The Lord has honored your gifts and our work. I stand amazed in His Presence.

Katherine Mejia and her ancestors have owned the property since Presidents McKinley (1900) and Harrison (1891) signed it over to them in the Spanish Land Grant. President McKinley signed the proclamation on September 7<sup>th</sup>. My birthday. Katherine asked us for \$224,000 for this pristine land; \$30,000 down; \$600.00 a month with the first big payment negotiable in five years.

The acreage runs along the San Pedro River with a small island jutting into the riverbed. We have big plans to see a half-dozen homes built; each with five children and house parents. Also an administration building; on-site school; nurse's station and apartment; barn & corrals for 4-H program; chapel; gym & pool; and central dining hall.

Right now the property has a well, septic, electric and a dilapidated double wide in crucial need of restoration and a roof before we can reside there.

Everyone rejoices with us... well, almost everyone. There is one gentleman who is quite reluctant to rejoice as he sees landmines of problems before us. No doubt – there will be giants in the land. How many Davids are out there to pray with us?

## DOUBLE DONATION DINNER

The beginning of the miracle was .... The \$10,000 anonymous gift was matched on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all very much. This money went toward the down payment for the land along with your past donations which were held for property procurement. With 91 acres there will be room for everyone to visit. Bring a tent! Come see what your prayers have wrought.



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## CHILDREN ARE CUTE

Jesus' Happy-Birthday Celebration was a big hit thanks to Cochise Terrace RV in Benson, Fina Company in Tucson, and Applebee's in Sierra Vista. Gifts were waist deep around the tree with ear-to-ear smiles on every face. We talked about the Birth of Christ and His Divine Present to us; we had a small dinner of chili together; and then we opened presents. One child at a time would come to the tree; select a gift that had someone else's name on it and deliver it to that person. Afterward we wrote thank-you notes to the precious souls who blessed us. Little Stephanie's note was a thank you to Jesus. It reads:

“Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas, Jesus. Happy Birthday and I love you.”  
Isn't that cute?

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## INFANTS IN NEED

December 22<sup>nd</sup> I received the most adorable Christmas Present: a newborn four days old. At his physical the doctor asked me about circumcising the baby. Cost - \$200. The mom had given her consent. I prayed to see if the Lord would have me spend your dollars on the operation. Then a lady walked up to Susan, handed her \$100 and said, “Get the baby anything he needs.” When Sue asked if we could use the contribution toward circumcision, she said, “If that is what he needs.” We matched her gift with your donations and set the date. I held the baby's trembling arms as the doctor did this old covenant procedure. What a sermon I saw as I remembered we are to circumcise our hearts. The process is painful; intimate; humbling; exposing the tenderest parts of our beings. I will never be the same.



Thank you on behalf of the baby who will never know the souls who gave that he might have this necessary (in many opinions) surgery.



## ANOTHER LOVE NOTE

*Rebecca; Lucy; the twins, Stacey & Stephanie and Max and Zack are here. Right now they are down at the fort they're building. Quite the project. O'course, they must show me their homework first. Along with their homework, Stacey handed me this note:*

THANK YOU ANNA <sup>(sic)</sup> FOR LETTING US COME OVER AND EATING WITH YOU AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING MY SISER AND I GET CLOSER TO GOD THANK YOU VERY MUCH SINCERCLY <sup>(sic)</sup> STACEY

*This was done on a computer at school! So in place of tears, a new smile erupts on my face. I hope there's one on yours, too.*

