

All The King's Horses Children's Ranch



THE TRAIL RIDER

June, 05

Volume 6 issue 2

Youth is the period of building up in habits, and hopes, and faiths – once passed, of which the appointed work can ever be done again, or the neglected blow struck on the cold iron.

John Ruskin
1819 - 1900
1820 English author &

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SUMMER EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

Camp is scheduled for July 25 – July 29. The theme is the Renaissance: Kingdom of darkness vrs Kingdom of Light. This week we started raising funds to help cover the \$110.00 cost per child. Three young people are helping with this task: ten-and-a-half-year old twin girls and an eleven-year old young man. They are excited about camp and are inviting friends. Because of full or partial sponsorships (like yours), we do not turn any child away because parent(s) or guardians do not have the resources to see the children go to camp.

So yesterday we began to contact the Benson businesses who have supported this camp in the past. Any help is most appreciated. The kids would hop out of the car; one had a letter of explanation; one held a self-addressed envelope; and the third had a book of stamps. They would introduce themselves from The Children's Ranch, hand the Benson proprietor a letter; then an envelope and then ask if a stamp is needed. Whether or not the business was able to help, the children would say "thank you" and come bounding back out to the car. If the proprietor could not help, the young ones were not the least bit discouraged.

One time one of the children came running out to the car, "*The man wants to buy a book of stamps.*" But while he spoke, another child was in the doorway waving her hands back and forth and shaking her head, "*No, never mind.*" After they were all back in the car, the young ones explained the man had seen the stamps and thought they were selling stamps to raise money. That gives me an idea...(smile).

We stopped by the local horse business just to look at the babies. We counted at least eight very young colts. Being curious, both young humans and young horses gazed at one another over the fence. From there we stopped in at the local animal shelter around the corner and looked at the dogs waiting for adoption. The children had a few questions and promised the Pound Keeper to look for homes for the dogs.

While driving to the next business, we made some plans for summer activities. So far we have decided to spend a day during school vacation to have (1) a formal tea; (2) a visit to the Tucson zoo; (3) horseback riding; (4) golf; (5) lunch at a very formal club to learn proper manners; (6) write a book. That oughta keep us out of trouble, aye? Besides these events, we will work here on the land. The kids love that, too. With all the people, music and food, they say it doesn't seem like work. But camp is the highlight of each summer. And we have about thirty children looking forward to attending. It is where some of them will meet the Lord for the first time. Please pray for the children.

Hi Everyone,

My name is Jena (the) Farmer. While Ana is away gathering more support I will be the one holding down the fort here at home. I started April 15 as Administrative Assistant for the ranch. I look forward to getting to know you by newsletter or phone. I have the necessary skills and training to qualify me for the job, especially as a volunteer. But, what I really want to talk about is how I got here in the 1st place.

As far back as I can remember I have had a vision to be part of a children's ranch. In 1993 I put it down on paper in the form of a self-support farm / children's ranch business plan. Unfortunately, it was not to be. I kept running into snags, such as: to get the grant I needed to already own the property. Somehow, by God's grace I'm sure, in the next two years my search led me to Saint David (the small neighboring town of Benson).



For those of you who have not had the pleasure of knowing about St. David, I will give you a brief description. San Pedro Underground River borders the length of the town. Our water source is only 50 feet below us and is artesian (it comes up by itself and has lots of minerals in it). This means that just about everyone in town has their own pond. So now you can picture farms and ranches, lots of lush big trees and the best tasting water you will find anywhere in Arizona. It is my oasis in the desert. Now back to the story.

My then husband and I bought 40 acres of level ground up in the hills. From the get go we ran into a whole batch of snags, including the fact that my husband left me. So, needless to say I lost the land. I was crying and praying, wondering what to do when God reminded me that if he took this away he had something better in store for me. He also told me that it would not be my own land and that he had other people with the same prayer that he wanted to put together with me. So, it wouldn't be done just by me and it certainly wouldn't be done anytime soon.

Since then I have been the Nursery Director for the Sierra Vista Christian Women's Club, a paid Sunday School Teacher at Village Meadows Baptist Church (with a full background check being done), a volunteer for CareNet Pregnancy Center (a faith based ministry to help young women choose the Lord and not abortion) as a counselor, and the Superintendent of the Floriculture Dept. at the Cochise County Fair just so I can talk to the children. I made a beneficial insect display they can touch and I do so enjoy talking to kids about bugs.



CareNet sent me to their conference the first weekend of this month. It was peaceful, educational, comforting and energizing for my faith. I started saying, "When I grow up I want to be a full time volunteer for God and, please, with his precious children." On the last day we were re-commissioned and blessed with the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil to go out in his power and strength to do his will. I became excited and anxious wondering what God had in store for me, feeling like it would be soon. The very next weekend Ana came to talk to our women's group.



I have had a real strong desire to minister to children for a very long time and an equally strong desire to do it here in my own community. I have been here since the winter of 95 and the first time I ever heard of the ranch was just this month when Ana was our Women's Brunch speaker. God led me to talk to her after her speech and see if she needed any help that I could volunteer for since I live so close. She had been praying since 04 for someone like me. She immediately said she needed an administrative assistant, before she told me what the requirements were or asked me what skills I have. God really did have something better for me and it was in his time. Everything I have done in these past years has prepared me to be exactly what Ana needs in her ministry. I am so glad to be a part of this wonderful family.

SHE'S BACK

Do you remember the story from last December about my 15-year old foster daughter? She had gone back home after Christmas. Through her local library, she kept in contact via e-mail with me. Mother's Day weekend I saw her for ten minutes or so. Last week, the Foster Care System returned her to me. We are facing some challengers. But we face them together with the Lord. She went to the library over the weekend and sent me the following note.

Hi ana yes I am living with you. It seems weird to be writtin you. But when I have something to tell you that I can't say in words then i am going to write you. I just tell you that I am glad to be with you. And to say thank you for always have a place in your hart and a home to go to. thank and I you. you can write me back. the reason is because I like to tal about writting also. hope you understand me.



want to letting alove things in

Yes. My dear young friend, I sure do understand you. And besides this, the written dialog will help her communication skills. Thank you for praying for this dear girl who has hopes of one-day being a nurse.

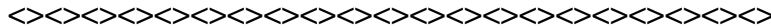
BOY – HAVE WE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU!

World Care of Tucson called and had some building materials for us. "Bring a truck", they urged. So Susie drove a borrowed pick up and I took our 1990 Caravan.

loaded up what we could and left behind much wonderful stuff.

My young 15 year old foster daughter went along. Here we are two older ladies and a teen girl with gloves ready to load. When we saw the pyramid we understood, they wanted us to bring a TRUCK! God keeps blessing. But at times we just do not have any man power to help. Please pray about this. We

We came home to a phone message: "I hear you're looking for a home to put children in. We have just the thing for you." Lo and behold .. it was a man and woman who love Christ. They have an older double wide in excellent shape to donate. We'll need several thousand bucks to move it. But God is able. We could add bedrooms and be operating with more children by year's end. I'll keep you posted.



Work Day – A Success



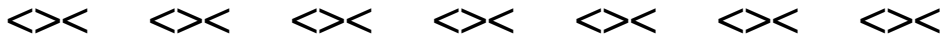
Seventeen folks showed up for Work Day, April 30, 2005. Five of those folks were young people - ages ten to nineteen. Thank you all so very, very much for coming by with tools, muscles, prayers and a heart to build. Check out Acts 20:32.

A MIRACLE

Jesse was my foster son for three years. His mom would have had me murdered if she had had her way. Ahhhh ... but God. When Jesse went home, he took the love of Christ with him. His mom was touched by Christ. Her heart softened. She and I have stayed in contact over the last year. Jesse visits now and then. In fact, he was part of the Work Day Team. The full climax of the Lord's miracle was most evident on Mother's Day. I came home to a phone message waiting on the machine. "*Hi, Ana. This is Jess. Happy Mother's Day.*" When I called his mom to let her know how special it was for me, she said, "*I went into Jesse's room this morning and said, 'Jess. It's Mother's Day. You need to call Ana.'*" Isn't that awesome? The Lord is awesome!

**Thank you, precious foster daughter, for proof reading this newsletter
and saying it was good.**

God bless you, dear soul.



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