



LIFE NEWS

HORSES & KIDS!

What Could be Better?

by Ron Story, Community Life Pastor

parksidevisalia.org

Parkside Chapel had a heart for missions from its beginning in 1935 when a small group of people planted a Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Visalia—their Mission was praying for and financially supporting Alliance missionaries. Today, Parkside is one of the leading churches in the Alliance in per-person giving to Alliance Missions!

In 1982, God brought missions to Parkside as Southeast Asians who had helped America in the Vietnam war in relocated to the Central Valley and Visalia. Many of those Asian immigrants had come to follow Jesus through Alliance missionaries and were now looking for an Alliance church in Visalia. Parkside welcomed our refugee brothers and sisters and their families with open arms and loved, mentored, encouraged, taught, and supported them through the years. Today they have their own Alliance churches - Hmong, Mien, and Next Gen – all meeting on our campus.

Additionally, over the years Parkside has partnered with several community Christian-based missions groups in Visalia including Visalia Rescue Mission, Care Pregnancy, Good News Jail Ministry, Hands in the Community, and Child Evangelism Fellowship.

Several years ago, a young couple in our church with small children answered God’s call to minister in a “creative access” country. Today, Parkside has the joy of being a major part in supporting their ongoing ministry.

Today I would like to feature one final missions partner in this article, **Crown Valley Youth Ranch** (CVYR).

Many years ago, Scott Johnson, a long-time member and then Elder, shared his vision with Parkside leaders for a horse ranch that would minister the love of Jesus to underserved children, youth, and their families. For several years we prayed for this potential ministry with the initial need for funding and property.

In December 2015, God answered our prayers and miraculously provided the former property of Christians In Action in Woodlake. The property was purchased, and the transformation into CVYR began. Early in that process, CVYR “stole” our Youth Pastor, Aaron Ernst (I’m not bitter or anything), to be the Director of the ranch. As great as Aaron was as our youth pastor, he has truly found his calling/fit as the

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Director at CVYR! His mentoring, teaching, encouragement, and mercy gifts combine extremely well with his construction experience that has been so needed at the ranch.

After a year of clean-up, renovation, remodeling, and whatever else was needed, led by Aaron and many Parkside volunteers, CVYR opened the corral gates for ministry in January 2017, and began sharing the transforming love of Jesus with underserved children, youth, and their families. The ranch provides one-on-one mentoring in a loving country environment that includes horses, a variety of other animals, fishing, gardening, crafts, woodworking, and whatever else might help kids connect with God. Prior to the Covid pandemic, CVYR was serving over 80 children and youth. Rebuilding after Covid, they are presently reaching 50-55 kids, with many more on a waiting list.

While we are grateful for all that God is doing, CVYR is in critical need of funding. At present, the ministry is falling short of budget by \$8,000 to \$10,000 each month. The bank account is running low, and we are asking for ministry partners to:

Pray

For God's continued favor in bringing underserved kids in need of the heart-changing love of Jesus.

Provide funding

Large gifts are always helpful, but many more regular monthly donations of \$50, \$100, or \$200 are greatly needed for the sustaining of the ministry.

Participate

Volunteer to mentor kids (there is a waiting list of kids) and/or help with the care and maintenance of the property.

For those already involved, would you prayerfully consider how God might have you lean in even more to partner with CVYR?

For those not yet involved, please pray and see if God might have you stretch and become a partner with this amazing ministry.

For more information, visit their website:

www.crownvalleyyouthranch.org

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”

(2 Corinthians 9:10-12)

Come on cowboys... Pony Up!



Pastor Ron



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