

RECAP OF *Spiritual Emphasis* UPCOMING

Here at the Ranch we have spent months seeking and teaching about the Holy Spirit. It is with great anticipation we expect to see the Holy Spirit worshipped and seek to move how He desires during Spiritual Emphasis Week.

We ask that you would fast and pray for a tremendous move of God during that week.

We invite you to come to Spiritual Emphasis Week here at the Ranch. The theme comes from Joel 2:28-32. The schedule is listed below:

Mon., October 2: 8:00-9:30 am Pastor Jesse McGaffee / 6:00-7:30 pm Pastor Brian Johnson

Tues., October 3: 8:00-9:30 am Pastors Brian & Cindy Johnson / 6:00-7:30 pm Pastor Cindy Johnson

Wed., October 4: 8:00-9:30 am Mel King / 6:00-7:30 pm Pastor Kyle Bethke

Thur., October 5: 8:00-9:30 am Julie Coffey / 6:00-7:30 pm Pastor/Chaplain Michael Bunow

Fri., October 6: 8:00-9:30 am Emmanuel Jenkins / 6:00-7:30 pm Pastor David Bliss



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SEP/OCT. NEWSLETTER

2023
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RICK SOUZA *Mission Vision Values*



It has certainly been a very warm summer, even though we expect it in this valley during the summer months. However, we are always grateful when our air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers continue to work. This is the newsletter for September and October. Hard to believe this year is moving so quickly. However, it always seems that way anymore.

I asked Zach Jackson to write his testimony for this edition. It truly is amazing and so representative of what the Lord does in this amazing ministry. The Holy Spirit is always present in our classes, outreaches, and chapels as we seek Him with all of our hearts.

Zach came into this ministry about 5 years ago. I almost didn't accept him because his health was so poor. I was afraid he might die anytime. Praise God he didn't and I am so glad I listened to the check in my spirit. But I want him to tell his story to you. Enjoy and rejoice in the goodness of God.

Rick Souza, *CEO, Executive Director*

ZACH JACKSON *My Testimony*



When I was a kid, my grandma planted and watered seeds from the Word of God. Although I did not take it seriously then, I thank her for that now. I truly believe it was her prayers that saved my life countless times.

My parents divorced when I was young, so I grew up in two different households. Each house had extremely different living environments so I became mentally, emotionally, and spiritually unstable. I was very confused and angry. This led to getting arrested and drinking alcohol at school.

After high school, I went straight into the streets and got involved with the wrong crowd. On top of alcohol, I got addicted to weed, pills, meth, heroin and cigarettes. I wanted to escape this lifestyle of drugs, crime, and violence, so I moved out of town and tried distracting myself with college. However, I attracted the same crowd I was running from so I dropped out. So I thought moving out of state would give me a new start, but the same thing happened. Nothing changed, so after getting out of jail I moved back here.

Soon after coming back, I got a girl pregnant. We got engaged and tried starting a life together. I got off the streets, got a job and a house while remaining a functioning drug addict. **Continued on P.2**

Continued from P.1

Eventually, I lost everything: my job, house, car, and family. My fiancé broke up with me. I was homeless, leaving my son with her in an unhealthy dangerous place.

Shortly after that, I attempted suicide, and my friends started turning on me. I was all alone. I was self-destructing. I was picked up by ambulance in an alley and the hospital pronounced me dead. My mom was told to plan a funeral. My lung collapsed and infection spread to my heart. I transferred hospitals and recovered after a long month. I learned to walk again and started talking in complete sentences again.

After being discharged, I went right back to the drugs. My family helped me get into Faith Home Teen Challenge where I learned about forgiveness, love, and the grace of God. During the program, I went to a Holy Spirt conference where I was healed by the laying on of hands. Since then all my test results have come back normal. Because of Adult and Teen Challenge teaching me about God and helping me get a relationship with Jesus, my life with my son was restored, and my mind was renewed.

Being baptized here in the swimming pool was another huge turning point in my life. While I was in 3rd phase, I found a home church to attend after completion. I am involved with Crossroads Church, and have been serving on the safety team. I became good friends with the Connections Pastor who I am constantly doing Bible studies with. Through the church, I was connected with a mentor who has been a great inspiration in my spiritual walk.

Since completing the program at Adult & Teen Challenge, I went back to school at Christian Institute to become a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. I had classes where I learned about the history of addiction from Genesis to modern day, and the psychology of addiction regarding substances, eating disorders, electronic addictions, and many other things I never thought about before, even from other countries. I learned about the laws and ethics of being a counselor. I have learned how to do both group counseling and individual counseling. In addition, I did some hands-on training to become a Certified Recovery Coach.



Some things I learned with this are the differences between accountability vs responsibility, and friend vs coach. I was taught how to stay in my lane by using boundary management, how to apply values and ethics. I learned how to use my best judgement for decision making when clients, sexual harassment, and other things are pushing my buttons. I became aware and have an understanding of different cultures and cultural competence. I learned to do motivational interviewing. In addition, I earned my own self-care.

Currently I am still active and involved with my church, and am an intern at Prodigal Sons and Daughters. God has placed other life changing goals on my heart, and I am excited to continue following the Lord's leading and see these goals to completion. Some personal goals are getting back on my feet to be there permanently for my son, and progressing higher in my career helping both adults and youth. My God-sized goals that the Lord has for me are starting a juvenile hall ministry, creating either an event or program for drug-induced suicide awareness and prevention, and to write a couple books.

My favorite verse that I always lean on is Galatians 5:1, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery."

OUR 4TH ANNUAL Helicopter Ball Drop

In 2020, Lewie Roche III, Community Relations Director of A&TC in Ceres California, and Brad Hansen, a local volunteer, had an idea to help Adult & Teen Challenge replace the revenue lost because of the cancellation of every fundraiser due to covid restrictions.

The idea was exciting! They called it THE BALL DROP. Revenue would be raised by selling individual golf balls for a chance to win \$1,000. When our county Sheriff agreed to send the Stanislaus County Air Support Helicopter to drop the balls the idea became a reality. Golf Balls were sold for \$25 each and additional revenue was raised by Sponsors who purchased a flag for \$1,250 to encircle the target.

On the day of the event, free tacos, hot chocolate, and coffee were served and the community was invited to come watch the helicopter drop the balls. Children were invited to sit in the helicopter as the Air Support Pilots passed out stickers and families had the opportunity to get amazing photos.

When it was time to drop the balls, the Faith Home Adult & Teen Challenge students wore Ball Drop t-shirts and assisted in loading the balls into the chopper. After a few fly-bys to get the crowd excited, the chopper hovered at 200' over the target and dropped over 3,000 balls. Once the chopper landed, local dignitaries gathered the winning balls and brought them to the stage. The winners were announced!

We have now successfully hosted three Ball Drops and are so thankful for the relationships that have been built and the incredible support we have received through ball sales and sponsorship.

This year we have invited other local not-for-profit organizations to join us to make the Ball Drop a huge local event. To accommodate more guests for the next 3 years, we have moved the Ball Drop to the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds and have rebranded the event THE BALL DROP FOR TURLOCK. This event will be held Saturday, October 21st and will benefit the Turlock Gospel Mission, Turlock Salvation Army, Police Activities League, and Faith Home Adult & Teen Challenge.

We are also adding a second Ball Drop for the adjacent community of Modesto. THE BALL DROP FOR MODESTO will be held at the Stanislaus Sheriff Headquarters in Modesto on Sunday, October 22nd and will benefit the Modesto Gospel Mission, Modesto Salvation Army, Police Activities League, and Faith Home Adult & Teen Challenge.

The BALL DROP FOR HOPE is run by devoted local volunteers, along with the above organizations, to support helping children, men, and women on our streets find help and hope. The goal this year is to raise \$200,000. You can view our event website for the 2023 Ball Drops at www.balldropforhope.org.

You may also view our website, www.fhtc.life, or call the office at 209.537.0606 for more information on how to support Teen Challenge by purchasing balls or becoming a sponsor. See you there!



OUR ANNUAL

“The Lewie” Golf Tourney

On April 10th we held our annual Golf Tournament at Spring Creek Country Club in Ripon. The Golf Tournament helps raise funds for our ministry and is one of our major events. This year was special in more ways than one as it was the inaugural re-naming of the tournament now called “The Lewie” in loving memory and celebration of Lewie Roche III, our beloved brother in Christ and co-founder of our annual golf tournament.

Each year Steve’s Chevrolet generously sponsors and provides us with a vehicle as a prize for anyone who happens to make a hole in one on the par 3 fifth hole. Not only did someone get a hole in one this year but remarkably it was the second hole-in-one winner in the last three of our tournaments. This year’s winner and first time participant from Fair Oaks was Tyler Carlson. The day started out with heartfelt words from Rick Souza, our executive director here at Adult & Teen Challenge, Brad Hansen tournament coordinator/volunteer and the Roche family. So to finish off an amazing day we couldn’t have scripted a better ending to the inaugural “The Lewie” by announcing for the second time in three years we had another hole-in-one winner.



We look forward to years ahead making “The Lewie” not only a great fundraiser but a reminder to us all of the amazing transformation of lives taking place with your help and prayers!

Congratulations!

COMFORT

From Genesis



FHATC had a golden guest on a Sunday family day in August. Genesis the comfort dog and a few of her handlers visited the ranch to meet with our students and visiting family where she was welcomed with opened arms and many happy hands as she enjoyed lots of petting and belly rubs.

The 4 year old golden retriever wasted no time getting to “work” once she was brought onto the ranch bringing smiles and laughter out of the residing men here. Genesis is a trained LCC (Lutheran Church Charities) K9 comfort dog at good Shepherd Lutheran church in Turlock.

She interacts with people at churches, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, events, and disaster response situations. She has had over 2000 hours of training before becoming a comfort dog. She is a friend who brings a calming influence and allows people to open up their hearts and receive help for what is affecting them.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been a great supporter of Adult Teen Challenge Faith Home for a few years now and we are very thankful to them for bringing Genesis to the ranch to share her love and joy among the men and their families.

