

# ART Therapy

As Spring rolled around and the weather began to warm, we added a new creative art therapy class to our line-up of student curriculum. The class was held outdoors at the picnic tables under the shade trees. The students painted pictures and Bible verses on rocks, and planters. Once the planters were finished and dried, they proceeded to plant colorful succulents and make arrangements to give to their loved ones for Easter or Mother's Day.



Each class was followed up with a Bible lesson that spoke to that day's activity. Such as: Jesus is the Rock of our salvation, Psalm 89:26, and "we plant seeds, but it is God who makes things grow," 1 Corinthians 3:6. God is our Creator, and we are made in His image and we are made to be creative. As the men drew, painted & planted, they relaxed, destressed and enjoyed exploring their creative side. This gave them an opportunity to let down their guard and open up to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We wrapped up the week with an interactive Bible study and the students all lifted each other up in prayer. They all participated and really enjoyed the 4-day class. It was a very therapeutic experience overall. It was also a great lesson in the joy of giving; as they blessed their wives, mothers and children with their new creations.



# MAY/JUN. NEWSLETTER 2024 EST. 1989

FAITH HOME ADULT TEEN CHALLENGE

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RICK SOUZA

## An Update For You



I hope you enjoyed our last newsletter emphasizing the number of completions over the past several months. It is a tremendous barometer of how many men and families are impacted by this ministry. We have more men and families reaching out to us each week. Please pray with us for a new location for our Induction Center. We are limited in our capacity at this site. Induction consists of the time period of the first 30 days a man is with us during the blackout period. Then they join the regular program.

We have a graduation coming up on May 26. We have a time of celebration every May at the Ranch. When a man completes, they have several requirements that need to be done before they qualify for graduation. That includes a job, involvement in a home church, continuing their Christian lifestyle, and consistent devotion and prayer life. We attempt to stay in communication and relationship with everyone completing this program.

We just completed a tremendous weekend highlighting and celebrating Ready Now Recovery. National Directors Yvonne and Jimmy Oakes spent the weekend with us. They are headquartered in Springfield, MO. We had an outreach in Sutter Creek at Generation Life Church, with numerous ministries, worship groups, and RNR facilitators from our ministry outreaches. They also ministered in Sonora at Margie Wiley's church on Sunday morning. We concluded Sunday evening at the Ranch with about 80 in attendance as Yvonne and Jimmy shared, with Pastor Jesse and Crissi leading in worship.

There was a beautiful altar and prayer time at the end. Mel King and Linda Abid Cummings did a wonderful job organizing everything. But boy, was it cold and rainy on Saturday.

We hope and pray each and every one of you is healthy and continues to be safe as we see so much turmoil in our world. But regardless, Jesus lives and reigns!

Rick Souza  
CEO/Executive Director Faith Home Adult & Teen Challenge



## HELP US SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Programs like our Auto Donations program substantially help in offsetting costs to host our students through our long-term care facilities. Donate through our website: [fhtc.life/auto-donations](http://fhtc.life/auto-donations)

We partner with an Auto Donations company called "CARS." They help us facilitate vehicle acquisition, promotions, donor management, and they supply us with metrics on donations data every month.

CALL 855.550.4483 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ [FHTC.LIFE/AUTO-DONATIONS](http://FHTC.LIFE/AUTO-DONATIONS)

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WANT TO GIVE?

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO "FAITH HOME TEEN CHALLENGE"

MY GIFT AMOUNT IS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  MONTHLY?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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PRAYER REQUESTS?

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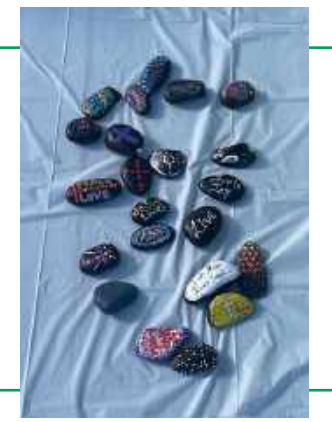
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SEE OUR BACKPAGE SPOTLIGHT ON ART THERAPY!



# STEWART BLANTON *My Testimony*



My name is Stewart Blanton. I have just completed the 12-16-month program for Adult Teen Challenge here at the Turlock Ranch. I have been living with PTSD since being medically discharged from the Marine Corps, a situation which I tried to control myself by drinking alcohol as a remedy for all the problems that it comes with. As anyone who has a drinking problem will tell you, it didn't help; it just magnified the problems I already had as well as add a whole list of more problems to my plate.

One morning while hugging the toilet, which was an every morning event, I remember yelling at God to "Please Help me!" Later that day I was pulled over in Amador County by a CHP and was booked into jail and charged with my 4th D.U.I. I didn't realize it then, but God was using law enforcement to answer my prayer. One should be specific on how they pray. At this point I had forgotten the prayer that I prayed and was certain I was headed to prison.

Looking back, I am sure that God had a plan for me. Judge Hermanson from Amador County Superior Court saw something in my future that I didn't and allowed me to come to a long-term treatment center or do 3 years in prison. Anyone who has been to jail knows it is impossible to find your own information on programs. Teen Challenge visited my mom's church and she got ahold of David Graves who happens to sit on the FHTC board. He interviewed me over the phone. I remember saying "But I'm not a teenager." He assured me that it was Adult Teen Challenge and that it was more of a ministry or a Christian discipleship program than a rehab program.

The V.A. had sent me to multiple rehab facilities without success. The AA meetings I would attend had their list of 12 steps as a guide to find God, but they water it down and call God a "Higher Power" rather than pointing directly to Jesus Christ. They say that one has to have a spiritual experience in order to remain sober, which is a watered down way of saying receiving the Holy Spirit. The V.A would prescribe Gabapentin and Hydroxyzine to help with nightmares and sleep, but all I needed was to be forgiven by God and to forgive others. Having accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and savior I have been baptized in water in the full-size swimming pool that is here at the ranch, and I have been baptized in the Holy Spirit with proof of speaking in tongues. Through study and practice, I have drawn closer to God, drawn closer to others and am becoming the person God created me to be.

The way this program is set up is God-breathed. Most all the staff have been students at one time and really care about every individual. We all work like a colony of bees for the same purpose and that is to develop a new Christian attitude and way of living. All the students here use each other as training partners just like a group of Marines, but to become better Christians. For example, it is inevitable that someone is going to tick off someone else but instead of resorting to fisticuffs we practice patience, which is a fruit of the Spirit, and pray for the offending person and we realize that God loves us all and we are all brothers in Christ. We learn forgiveness and don't put unrealistic expectations on our brothers.

This last year has had a profound impact on my life as I develop in Christ. I have a growing personal relationship with Jesus, I have accepted myself, learned to be more obedient to authority, I have a clear conscience, a biblical pattern of expressing my anger, display more self-control and I am ready to be a spiritual leader for my family. Thank God for answering my prayer.

# AN UPDATE ON OUR *Bee Hives*



As we settle in the middle of Spring of 2024, we are now entering our second year of our apiary. This time of year is where we can see the busiest activity of the ladies as they spring clean the house and begin gathering all of the goods that they can to bring back home to the nursery. With mustard seed, purple sunflower and wildflowers bringing color across the soils of the six acres to the south and almond blooms that recently fell in February, the bees had food to their heart's content. Just as Jesus provided baskets full of bread and fish, so pollen and nectar and water were in abundance. With leftovers! And so we are helping them get cleaned up and preparing for them to grow and expand in their homes.

With great excitement, we made our first hive splits. We make one hive into two, making it two separate colonies to keep the bees from swarming. This is a natural phenomenon that takes place within a healthy colony each year, but we loved our ladies so much, we decided to house them again this year, rent free!

We continue to experiment in different areas with what wisdom and materials we have. We have expanded up to 7 hives after several splits. We are creating more hives as we bring home swarms. We've invited a small group to come and learn what the "buzz" is all about inside the beehive. We are pollinating six acres and all of our flowerbeds. We are hoping to teach and motivate others to be part of the natural environment.

Paul tells us in Philippians 3:13-14 to forget what is behind, strain towards what is ahead, and press on towards the goal. We don't always know where that trail will lead us, but we press forward with excitement because we know that the prize will be good. Maybe there's some honey at the finish line.



# AN UPDATE ON OUR *Greenhouse*

I'd like to share that our greenhouse is doing great and is in full production mode. We constructed a hydroponics system that allows us to grow big and healthy vegetable plants all year round. The Lord is providing a bountiful harvest of various flowers and vegetables. The plants were started from seeds, and as they matured to sprouts, they were moved into pots and placed out at our fruit stand. The potted flower and vegetable plants are available now. We are praying for fruits and vegetables to be available soon.

If you're ever in the area, we hope you'll stop by and browse the fresh-grown produce in our produce stand. God really came through for us. Last month we had a big storm, and it tore all the plastic off of the greenhouse. We were blessed to be able to repair the damage that was done and get new plastic to re-cover it. It looks great and is going again. We have faith in the Lord that he will provide so that we will have lots of fruit, flowers and vegetables for all to enjoy. God bless.

