



# Christian Encounter Ranch NEWSLETTER

## DIRECTOR'S VIEW

### “I don’t know what to do”

Almost every day, I feel like I am unable to do what’s put in front of me. There’s too much to do. There are too many needs, and they are too deep. I don’t know what to do.

Jonathan, son of King Saul, was in the same position, and the story unfolds in 1 Samuel 14. Israel was facing extinction, as a Philistine army “as great in number as the sand on the seashore” swept through and occupied the Promised Land. All that was left was a band of 600 Israelites in hiding.

Jonathan knew the Philistine army was uncountably large. He also knew God had promised the land to Israel, not to the

Philistines. He determined the fulfillment of this promise was worth risking his life for, so he recruited his armor bearer to attack a garrison of 20 Philistines. He went up against them with a courage made possible because of his faith in God’s promise, and he defeated them.

changed.

Except God saw what His child had done, and in response to Jonathan’s faith, He did what no one else was able to do and miraculously drove the Philistines from the land.

When I feel insufficient, it’s because I am. But that’s irrelevant. Anchored to faith in God’s promises, all I need to do is take the one small step I can,

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### What does the seashore look like when you subtract 20 grains of sand?

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But this victory was hardly worth speaking of. What does the seashore look like when you subtract 20 grains of sand? Jonathan had done all he could, but it wasn’t enough. Nothing had really

and then trust Him with the rest. In the words of Jonathan, “Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.”

*Nate Boyd, Executive Director*



## NOW HIRING Counseling Director

We’re seeking an LMFT to counsel students and interns, primarily the young men.

This is a key leadership role at the Ranch, with tremendous potential to lead young lives toward healing in Christ. This is a full time position and includes benefits.

### Requirements include:

- Love for the Lord and for young people
- Readiness to step into complicated and challenging situations to carefully discern the best path forward
- Ability to oversee student admissions
- Desire to work in concert with the discipleship team and serve in an immersive ministry community.

*Interested? Have a lead? Email [nate@christianencounter.org](mailto:nate@christianencounter.org) or call 530-268-0877.*

## Calendar of events

Events will be adjusted as needed to meet CDC guidelines, but only cancelled if necessary. Contact us at [office@christianencounter.org](mailto:office@christianencounter.org) or give us a call at 530-268-0877 with any questions.

**Spring Serve Day**  
May 15

**Family Camp**  
June 25-28

**Agony Ride**  
July 23-24

**50th Anniversary  
Celebration**  
Sept. 24-26



## MEMORIALS

*In memory of Sandra Cain, given by:*  
Rod & Kim Linn

*In memory of Jason Ciobanasiu, given by:*  
Jonathan Ciobanasiu

*In memory of Steve and Diane Christianson, given by:*  
Koreen and Karen Askeland

*In memory of Patricia Ginn, given by:*  
Thomas & Jeanice Ruthford

*In memory of Darla Graham, given by:*  
Jerilyn Demuth

*In memory of Jane Guiremand, given by:*  
Nate and Alyssa Boyd  
Harley and Mavis Jundt

*In memory of Jack and Ginny Havicon, given by:*  
Michael Reilly

*In memory of Bill Heyenbruch, given by:*  
Marilyn Heyenbruch

*In memory of Jerry Krause, given by:*  
Rod & Lilly Tolen

*In memory of Roger and Hazel Lace, given by:*  
Kim Meyer

*In memory of Joshua Daniel Lovejoy, given by:*  
Suzanne Knapp

*In memory of Eva Ripp, given by:*  
Mike and Bernice Kochis

*In memory of Betty Russo, given by:*  
Dave and Kelly Russo

*In memory of Jim Parker, given by:*  
Christine Holland  
Marilyn Vaughn

*In memory of Ilean Powert, given by:*  
Cathy Danks

*In memory of Shirley Wallace, given by:*  
Laurieann Mohler

## On internship

*I grew up similar to [the students], with no support, no real and raw love from my parents, but I had Jesus to fall back on. I wanted their stories to be different than mine, but I've learned that you cannot change people, only God's true, intentional, sacrificial love can change people.*

*I have seen some of the toughest students with hard upbringings begin to have a heart change.*

*God simply asks interns to be present and accept people as they come, and He will do the rest. - Jacqui Nunez, 23*

*I didn't grow up in a big family, so it was super fun to feel like my family grew when I came to the Ranch...*

*Living in this community you don't have the opportunity to hide your imperfections and weaknesses. They see it all...giving us the opportunity to fully know and fully love each other, in the good and the hard.*

- Lindsay Strawser, 22

*Lindsay and Jacqui on the annual 15-day backpacking trip.*



### INTERN INTRODUCTION

Joining our recent influx of Cal Baptist University students is **Rachel Burdick** from Tustin, CA. Rachel graduated last Spring with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Christian studies. Wrestling with the idea of having to separate her faith from her profession, she jumped at the opportunity to intern at a faith-based organization.

## HONORARIUMS

*In honor of Paxton Fitzpatrick, given by:*  
John and Joan Jones

*In honor of Susan Hicks, given by:*  
Alicia Porter

*In honor of Autumn (Webster) Layman, given by:*  
Jim and Becky Webster

*In honor of Gracie Schauls, given by:*  
Stephen and Jean Papst

## Snow camping needs list

*Our guys and girls are gearing up to head out to the snow for a few days. Here's what they need to make it happen!*

Apple cider packets  
Hot chocolate packets  
Granola bars  
Stuff sacks  
Four-person tents (4 needed)

*These items can also be purchased through our AmazonSmile Charity List.*



# Go small, dig deep, give more

*In the wake of 2020, CER Board member Jenn Palmer reflects on how we, the church, can respond.*

A few weeks ago, I spoke with a friend about what it looks like to live faithfully in the midst of pandemics and lockdowns and civil unrest. We talked about caring for the people in our lives and about being receptive to the Spirit's prompting as we interact with friends, family, and strangers, but it felt like there must be something more we could be doing. How do we love others well when we're surrounded by uncertainty and fear? With many of our institutions shuttered and people isolated in their homes, with so much suffering caused or exacerbated by the events of 2020, what can we do to share the hope that we have?

He thought for a moment, then replied, "We all have our missions. Ours is Living Well [the local crisis pregnancy center]. You guys have the Ranch. We invest more in our local missions. We partner with them in the good work they're already doing in people's lives."

We'd been talking about broad societal issues, about suffering that spans the nation and the globe. Sickness and death. Economic ruin. Isolation. Political unrest. Drug abuse and suicide. Such large-scale problems would seem to



*For the past few years, Sam Walker has served as a volunteer in our high school teaching math.*

require large-scale solutions, but instead, he recommended we keep doing the work we'd already been doing. He said we should go small, dig deep, and give more of our time, energy, and money

we start not with targeting broad campaigns toward large swaths of people, but with loving the individuals in front of us, and loving them well.

It feels small, this individual approach.

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**When surrounded by a world desperate for hope, choosing to focus on and invest in the image-bearing individuals around us can sometimes feel like lighting a candle when what's wanted is a bonfire.**

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Love, long-suffering and kind, is also messy. It's exhausting. Loving one person well can sometimes take everything we have and

to local organizations that see the great worth and dignity of each person who walks through their doors. He suggested

then some. Many members of the Ranch community can attest to this. *(cont. on back page)*

## Winter quarter fun

*Staff, students, and interns gathered to play volleyball at a local church gym marking the end of the quarter.*



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*Christian Encounter Ranch is a non-profit, non-denominational, residential community helping 15- to 24-year-olds by providing love, spiritual guidance, high school education, counseling, and 24-hour supervision. Internships are offered to young adults 21 years and older. We are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and all gifts are tax deductible.*



## Go small (cont. from pg. 3)

When surrounded by a world desperate for hope, choosing to focus on and invest in the image-bearing individuals around us can sometimes feel like lighting a candle when what's wanted is a bonfire.

And yet, this is the upside-down way of the Kingdom, the way of discipleship, the way of love. This is the heart of our God, who began his church by investing deeply in a small group of disciples, who leaves the ninety-nine out of a desire that not a single little one would be lost, who stoops low to meet the broken-hearted in their place of need. This is the path He shows us as we seek to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him. A world changed, one heart at a time. A world changed by love.

In the vast and beautiful mosaic of the family of God, we each have a part to play in the charge to make disciples of all nations. We all have our missions - in our families, in our workplaces, in our communities. When confronted with the deep needs of the world, give financially as the Lord leads, certainly. But then, dig more deeply into your local mission, whatever it might be. Perhaps it's the Ranch. Perhaps it's the local foster care agency,

or the suicide hotline, or the homeless shelter in your neighborhood. Perhaps it's your immediate family, or the people in your workplace.

Wherever God has placed you, see the individual image-bearers around you and invest in them. Do the hard, messy, exhausting work of loving them well, and participate in the world-changing, hope-giving way of the Kingdom of God.

*Jenn Palmer, CER Board member*

## Ways to make CER your mission:

**Give**

**Pray**

*Email [salena@christianencounter.org](mailto:salena@christianencounter.org) to join our prayer team.*

**Volunteer**

**Ride**

*Participate in our annual 24 hour bike-a-thon. Visit [agonyride.org](http://agonyride.org) to learn more.*