



# Christian Encounter Ranch NEWSLETTER

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Timmy

"I felt like my family wanted me to be a version of myself I couldn't achieve. They wanted me to be happy and see me smile a lot. But I couldn't see myself being that person. They wanted me to love the Lord. But I was angry at Him.

"I didn't see myself getting married and having kids. I didn't see myself getting to 18 years old. I didn't even see myself leaving the house."

The gnawing anxiety that had started in childhood had been building over time. Timmy's grades were plummeting. He was starting to shut down. At age 14, Timmy had joined the local fire cadets. At age 15, he was seeing firsthand human lives in moments of crisis, in trauma, in irreparable pain. Yet his own pain was just below the surface.

When he finished his service with the fire department at 16, he felt lost. "I felt like I had no control over anything I wanted in life. I gave up hope in those things and that caused a lot of pain. My family wasn't in the most stable condition, and it was hard to look around and see others who had more stable families." Timmy closed himself off to those around him,

and his mother felt like she had lost her son.

When Timmy arrived at Christian Encounter, he kept to himself. One of the interns reminded him of one of his cousins, which helped Timmy want to stay. The next several months were tumultuous as he struggled internally. Timmy was at war with himself.

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." (Romans 7:15) The verses in Romans 7 encapsulated his thought processes perfectly. But he couldn't see the way out.

Seven months into his stay, he was faced with a decision. The previous night his thoughts came closing in on him again, and this time, he gave in to his natural instinct - he ran. Once he was located, he was brought back to the Ranch. The next



day he was given a choice: to stay or to leave prematurely.

He made his decision, and a one-way ticket was purchased.

Even as seeds of hope and truth were bearing fruit over the past months, anger still lingered. "I blamed Him for a lot of stuff. I felt abandoned by everyone, including God." But as these painful memories resurfaced this time, God spoke to his child: "I didn't leave you. I was still there." *(cont. on pg. 3)*

## INTERN INTRODUCTIONS

Brie Owen joined the intern team after completing her B.A. in Psychology last December. Brie says her time as an intern has taught her what loving like Christ looks like. Brie returns to New Hampshire this month and will begin her graduate studies in counseling at Messiah University in Pennsylvania this fall.

Alec Thies stumbled upon WORLD Magazine's feature on Christian Encounter last summer. After diving headlong into the world of corporate finance for



two years, he was looking to change directions. Alec started to pursue international missions when he learned of our domestic mission. Alec comes to us from Kalamazoo, MI.

David Ramey, a second generation Grass Valley native, first stepped

foot on the Ranch property last summer serving with Christian Youth in Action's youth program. David was also involved at Campus Life, a local youth group.

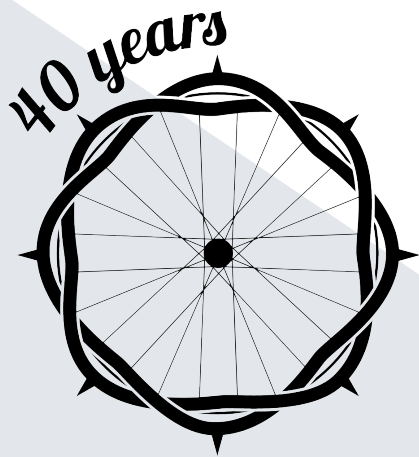
As he learned more about the work at CER and the opportunity to live and work alongside youth, it became clear this was his next step.

Bless Flores, from Mill Valley, CA, arrived in February after graduating from Biola University in December. Bless has been encouraged in her own journey of healing and spiritual growth as she continues to engage with the Ranch community. Bless plans to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology this fall.

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**"You live out the gospel here. I'm learning what God's love looks like and the two words that keep coming up are unconditional and sacrificial." - Alec, intern**

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# THE 40TH AGONY RIDE

2022 marks the Agony’s 40th anniversary and we’re expecting many returning riders to join us for this commemorative year. Among them are CER staff Caryn Galeckas and Suzanne Hartley, who plan to ride virtually before the event, allowing them to continue in their leadership roles during the event itself. This year’s staff riders are pictured below.

JULY 29-30 | SIERRA VALLEY | with virtual option



**Clockwise:** Nate Boyd, *Executive Director*; Caryn Galeckas, *Office Manager*; Suzanne Hartley, *High School Principal*; Aaron Pellerino, *Maintenance Foreman*; Jensen Near, *Director of Student Life*; Zoya Lee, *Communications Coordinator*

### From Aaron, first-time rider:

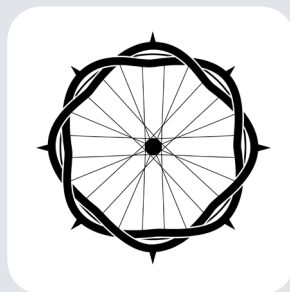
Working these past two years at the Ranch has been an absolute privilege and adventure! It is amazing to see how the Lord moves each day in the hearts of our students. Last year I sagged for the Agony Ride, and it was incredible to see the sacrifice the riders made for these students. Now, I get to be one of those riders! My prayer is for our students to witness the sacrificial love of Jesus in action. As I train, this isn’t just another physical challenge, but an opportunity to show them the love of God, who laid everything down for us!

To sponsor a rider or get involved, visit [agonyride.org](http://agonyride.org).



### MANY WAYS TO RIDE

Some people have overcome great obstacles to participate in the Agony. Tandem, recumbent, and stationary bikes have provided solutions for determined riders, and the virtual option makes it easier than ever to be part of this event.



### THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT

Download the Agony Ride app from your device’s app store to share training updates, reply to sponsors, and more! Not a rider? Add your riders to your favorites list and track their progress!



### LOOKING BACK

In 1994 there was a fire near Loyalton shortly before the scheduled ride. The fire took out the mill, the center of the town’s economy. The ride had to be cancelled, but the Lord still provided through faithful sponsors who gave even more than the previous year.

## Timmy (cont. from pg. 1)

As each painful memory came to mind, He spoke: "Even then, I was there."

Timmy heard the voice of His Father. And he wanted to respond. But the fear of failing Him, of disappointing Him, was too much.

Plans were in motion for Timmy's departure from the Ranch the next day. The day before, God spoke to him again. Timmy looked around at his Ranch family that evening. He saw a lot of love there.

Timmy changed his decision, and the flight was canceled. "I thought, 'If I'm going to stay, I need to grow. I knew that change was possible, but not by my own power. It all flipped when I allowed Him to work.'" The change in Timmy's demeanor was almost immediate. "Others noticed it a lot more than I did. It just felt like it happened naturally." Timmy had chosen life.

In the weeks to follow, Timmy sought counsel, asked questions, and looked towards his future. He built igloos, turned 18, and received his high school diploma all in the same week. It was a rich season. His family joined in on the celebration, of course.

During his graduation reception he took advantage of the helium balloons and performed a rendition of his "Chicken Nuggies" song, a Ranch family favorite. "The Ranch has a really cool family aspect. People from broken homes who don't have an older sibling or parental figure come here and they get that. I look at the interns as my cousins and older siblings; they also have a parental role. There is goofiness, and there is firm, yet gentle love. It's full of love."

Several weeks later, as Timmy finished out the program, he decided he was ready to make a public proclamation of faith through baptism. There was nothing holding him back. Timmy was free.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1-2

Zoya Lee



## MEMORIALS

*In memory of Brad Barry, given by*  
Gale Mosgofian

*In memory of Marna Carder, given by:*  
Don & Janet Priem  
Kenneth & Meredith Weldin  
Kendra Fifield

*In memory of Jerry Clayton, given by:*  
Roy & Debbie Clayton

*In memory of Daniel Paul Douglass, given by:*  
Randy & Salli Hearn

*In memory of Florence K. Harris, given by:*  
Steve & Leslie Harris  
Paula Meek

*In memory of Ronald McCurley, given by:*  
Eric Cochling  
Diane Seibel  
Richard & Susan Trost  
The Richard & Barbara Gaby Foundation



## Duplex remodel update

The foundation has been poured and the walls are coming up. Thanks to the volunteers and donors who have contributed to this project!

*In memory of Peter Mosgofian, given by:* Gale Mosgofian

*In memory of Wesley Robinson, given by:* Dennis & Kathy Bowman

## HONORARIUMS

*In honor of Susan Knappen, given by:* Margaret Shaw

Christian Encounter Ranch  
PO Box 1022  
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*Rescue Run 5K | April 23rd, 9:30am  
40th Agony Ride | July 29th-30th*

*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.*



## spring serve day

May 21st\* | 9am-1pm

Come join us as we get our property ready for summer and work on various projects throughout our 86-acres. Lunch will be provided.

*\*Note date change from previous publication*

NOW HIRING

## Food Service & Hospitality Manager Job Opening

Have a heart for struggling teens? Want to meet tangible needs? The Food Service Manager is immersed in the heart of the ministry. Come join the team and make a lasting impact on young lives.



**Personal qualifications include:** Commitment to Christ, desire and willingness to work with struggling young people, flexibility to work in a variety of settings, possession of Food Service Manager's certificate (or willingness to acquire it). Experience in leadership, cooking for large numbers and training in nutritional principles are desired.

*For more information, contact Nate Boyd at 530-268-0877 or [nate@christianencounter.org](mailto:nate@christianencounter.org).*