



DIRECTOR'S VIEW

## Meadow venue: a lesson in stewardship

God has given each of us gifts and calls each of us to use them. Some of us will receive the call to go overseas or into unusual circumstances, but the starting point for each of us is: serve God where you are and with what you have. Last year, after Russia invaded Ukraine, I wished I could go help with the relief efforts. I knew that wasn't what God was calling me to do, though: my assignment was to focus primarily on His work at Christian Encounter.

A couple of years ago, seeking to serve God with everything He had given us, we asked Him if there were additional ways we could use Ranch resources. The Angels' Meadow facility had 12 cabins with five beds each, a campfire ring, an outdoor amphitheater and stage, a fishing pond, and a few other amenities. It's a beautiful spot, and it sat unused most of the year. Perhaps the Lord had additional purposes for it. Some volunteers built an outdoor kitchen to complete the facilities and we opened it to guest groups. As a church, we decided to make it totally free; we never want money to be an obstacle to ministry with any of our programs.



**Top:** Bryte Church in Sacramento hosts a week-long camp for 100 refugee children. **Bottom:** Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) NorCal hosts their annual Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) camp.



Groups could donate if they were able. It felt a little adventurous and risky. We didn't know what would happen.

The first group was a men's retreat. The pastor had prepared a theme and

messages and expected ten men would come. When they heard the only cost was the food they would bring, twenty came.

How encouraging! The ministry doubled when money wasn't an issue. It confirmed our plan.

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God has continued to use the Meadow since. This summer we had college groups, a men's retreat, a wedding, a baptism service, family camps, a Child Evangelism Fellowship camp of 100 youth (many of whom responded to a

Gospel invitation), and ... four camps for refugees from Ukraine and Russia. Three were family camps and one was a week-long camp for refugee children put on by a Russian church in Sacramento. Families

traveled to Sacramento from as far as Texas so their children could participate, and there were 300 kids on the waitlist. Most who came had never heard the Gospel before.

We have received as freely as we've given. Groups have donated picnic tables, a shed for supplies, labor help, food, money, and more. Giving is God's design, and it is good. *(cont. on back page)*



# AGONY RIDE SNAPSHOTS



Photos courtesy of Jim Schuessler and others



**\$374,380**  
 RAISED IN GIFTS & PLEDGES

**21,916**  
 MILES RIDDEN

**104 / 8**  
 RIDERS IN PERSON/VIRTUAL



The Agony Ride is an annual 24-hour bike-a-thon fundraiser held in the Sierra Valley. All money raised goes toward student tuition scholarships. This year we're celebrating a new fundraising record!

*This page, clockwise: Riders depart from Beckwourth SAG with a few hours left on the clock. Chris Palmer assists Trevor Farris from Spokane Valley, WA. Forty-two first time riders this year comprised over a third of the rider count. Daniel Covert from Reno, NV gets his bottles filled at Vinton SAG. First time rider Erik Zuniga from Rocklin, CA. Opposite page, clockwise: Justin Haughin from Garden Valley, CA and Mark Reitz from Brentwood, CA en route to Loyaltton SAG. Bob Bayly, from Loyaltton, CA, riding his 20th Agony Ride, is attended to at a SAG. Our corporate sponsors for this year's ride. Grace Blackburn from Auburn, CA is greeted by student Joseph upon entering the SAG.*



# Ride Stats

## Leaderboard:

Top man: Justin Pfaffinger, 383  
 Top woman: Maddie Johnston, 281

## Money raised leaderboard:

- 1: Gregory Thomas - \$32,458.00
- 2: Tom Blackburn - \$21,195.32
- 3: Jonathan Palmer - \$20,261.40
- 4: Salena Unitt (CER staff) - \$16,245.70
- 5: Roger Brouwer - \$15,718.00
- 6: Zach Malech (CER staff) - \$13,984.80
- 7: Grace Blackburn - \$13,636.20
- 8: Gary Robinson - \$11,117.76
- 9: Paxton Fitzpatrick (CER staff) - \$8,433.32
- 10: Justin Pfaffinger - \$8,200.00



## STAFF TRANSITIONS



**Aaron Pellerino** (*top*) finished on staff in June. Aaron made significant contributions during his time here, particularly in spearheading the duplex renovation with a team of volunteers. Aaron and his wife Jaz remain local where Aaron continues his work as a general contractor.

**David Ramey** (*bottom*) joined our maintenance staff in July after completing a year internship in February and the months following as a volunteer in the maintenance department. A Grass Valley native, David's experience in ministry along with his acquired skillset through years of apprenticing have made him a natural fit for the position.



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*Fall Serve Day*  
Oct. 7, 9am - 1pm

## MEMORIALS

*In memory of Nana Lue, given by:*  
Linda Knapp

*In memory of Jim Parker, given by:*  
Grace Fujii  
Lyndall and Cathy Propst  
Don Swanson

*In memory of Phil Petrie, given by:*  
Darlene Moberg

*In memory of Dave Roberts, given by:*  
Polly Knight  
Candyce Roberts

*Christian Encounter is a non-profit, non-denominational, residential community helping 16- 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.*



## FALL SERVE DAY

Sat. Oct 7, 9AM-1PM  
*Lunch is provided*

*Come help us beautify our property!*  
Please RSVP to  
[austin@christianencounter.org](mailto:austin@christianencounter.org)

## Meadow (cont. from pg. 1)



I never would have guessed that serving God where we are with what we have would mean refugees from the war in Ukraine would be finding respite, peace, and the Gospel—all only a hundred yards from my home. God may use us in different ways than we expect, but the gifts He's given us fit into His plans in ways more beautiful than we could design on our own.

*Nate Boyd, Executive Director*