



Christian Encounter NEWSLETTER

STUDENT FEATURE

Melanie

Melanie describes the weeks leading up to arriving at Christian Encounter, "I was really disconnected from the world. I would spend all day at the house... A lot of the time I would have panic attacks at home when I was by myself. I got a service dog and that helped a lot. But the panic attacks didn't fully stop, they just slowed down."

Melanie had been attending court hearings and meetings with CPS. In this process, it was recommended that Melanie seek therapy in a residential type setting. She had completed her sophomore year at Forest Lake Christian School, but upon this recommendation, decided to transfer to Christian Encounter where she could continue to work toward her high school diploma.

Melanie arrived at the Ranch with the sole intent of finishing her junior year. Melanie had been exposed to different types of spirituality throughout her life

and was leery of a Christian program offering her any kind of actual help. In fact, she was intent on proving that the Christian lifestyle "didn't work."

Each new student is paired with a discipler upon arrival, and for the first time, Melanie met someone who had walked through similar life experiences, someone who could empathize with her. In those first few months, Melanie wrote a song and started learning the guitar. When her Bible class introduced her to the book of Ecclesiastes, Melanie resonated deeply with the writer's cry, "Everything is meaningless!" Although Melanie had walked in Christian circles, she had never actually read the Bible until now. Naturally inquisitive, Melanie began engaging more deeply with scripture.

(cont. on pg. 3)



INTERN VOICE



Hannah Cayetano, from Medford, OR, completed her internship last December. She returned to Liberty University to finish her Bachelor's degree in Social Work this spring.

Hannah shares, "I have never laughed more in my life than I have in the three months of being at the Ranch. I never expected to care this much about a group of teenagers. I

never thought that I would want to cry in loss at the thought of finishing my field internship. God made these beautiful, ridiculous, and bold teenagers. He placed them in my life for this time. And yes, they drive me crazy with their antics. But they make me laugh in pure joy and they inspire me through their resilience to get back up again and again after being hurt. What an honor it is to love them. What an honor it is to know them."

Alec Thies also completed his internship in December, returning home to Kalamazoo, MI.

Alec reflects, "I'm a big picture person; I spend a lot of my life thinking about the

overarching truths of my life:
(cont. on pg. 3)



God has begun to show me that there's a disconnect between these realities and the way that I actually live my life.

Events Calendar

Run for Hope

Saturday, April 22nd, 9:30am

Spring Serve Day

Saturday, May 20th, 9am - 1pm

Year-end Celebration & Graduation

Saturday, June 3rd, 10:30am

Family Camp

Friday, June 30th - Monday, July 3rd

41st annual Agony Ride

July 28th - 29th

Sign up today: agonyrideride.org

10th ANNIVERSARY

Run for Hope

This year marks the 10th anniversary of our on-site 5K, Run for Hope (previously Rescue Run).

The 5K run/walk route takes you on an expansive tour of our 86 acre property, including dirt roads, single-track trails, and grassy meadows.

Come see us!



Scan to sign up



Date: April 22, 2023

Time: 9:30 am

Where: On site. We are located at 17183 Retrac Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949.

Cost: Ages 18+ \$20

Ages 7+ \$10

Register by April 3rd for a participant t-shirt!

Art Studio Amazon Charity List

We recently installed an Art Studio for our residents! Help us get this space ready for use!



Now Hiring: Business office opening



Do you love Jesus, care about at-risk youth, and value financial stewardship? We are looking for a high-integrity, high-skills individual to run our business office and manage the resources God had given us. Come use your accounting and financial skills to expand the Kingdom of God through a unique ministry!

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Nate Boyd at 530-268-0877 or nate@christianencounter.org.

Material Needs List

Consumable goods

- Ultimate Frisbees
- High-quality soft-touch volleyballs
- Energy bars
- 12-16 oz Disposable cold cups
- Heavy duty paper plates 8" & 10"
- Paper napkins (every day style)
- Heavy duty foil
- Gallon & quart sized zip-lock food storage bags
- Dishcloths
- Potholders
- Aprons
- Lumber (2x4s, 4x4s, plywood)
- Work gloves



Alec (cont. from pg. 1)

God's purpose in creating the world and me, heaven and hell and what happens after death, and just the mind-blowing fact that I exist.

There's nothing wrong with dwelling on those realities, but God has begun to show me that there's a disconnect between these realities and the way that I actually live my life. Maybe I can put together a great sounding dialogue on God's sovereignty or the problem of evil, but can I fight my selfishness enough to take extra weight from someone's backpack when they're struggling? I can spend hours reading the Bible or a theological book, but can I take five minutes to come alongside someone in pain? Jesus didn't spend his whole life reading books and pondering theology; he was with people, living with them, healing them, loving them. He didn't keep score with a transactional, this-for-that love, expecting something back from those he loved and growing resentful if it didn't happen. He loved freely, sacrificially, unconditionally.

I feel that God is calling me to love in that way. To bring the key realities in my life from heaven and down to earth; to live them out in whatever season or wilderness trail or dorm room He's called me to. I've missed this call for a long time, and I will continue to struggle and fail, but I know that God's grace and the power of the cross will sustain me."

Melanie (cont. from pg. 1)

"Growing up with the religious experiences I had, I felt that God was out to get me.... In a lot of my experiences, I just barely skimmed death.... I watched a lot of people in my life deteriorate."

As the year progressed, Melanie began experiencing God in deeply personal ways, reckoning with His intimate knowledge and care for her interests and desires.

At the Agony Ride in July, Melanie saw an entire community of people come together to help teens they had never met. On the wilderness back-pack-

ing trip in August, when Melanie had sustained an ankle injury, she witnessed her own community sacrifice on her behalf.

"Is He a God of love or a God of punishment?" The evidence for the former was growing.

Melanie stayed at Christian Encounter beyond her initially projected timeline, completing her senior year of high school, earning straight A's in her final quarter. Melanie is the first to graduate high school in her family. She finished the program in December and plans to pursue a path in forensic biology.

Zoya Lee

Duplex remodel complete

Foreman Aaron Pellerino worked with a team of volunteers spearheaded by Dave Russo to see this renovation to completion. We are so grateful for the addition of two staff housing units on our property!



Christian Encounter Ranch
PO Box 1022
Grass Valley, CA 95945

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Run for Hope
April 22nd, 2023*

Christian Encounter 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.



When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the charity of your choice. Simply select Christian Encounter as your charity.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Alison Arcadi, given by:
Greg & Diane Boyd
David & Nancy Kennedy

In memory of Bill Boyd, given by:
Greg & Diane Boyd

In memory of Pam Cross, given by:
Janice Buck

In memory of Jack & Margaret Haden, given by:
Greg & Diane Boyd

In memory of Ken & Barbara LaBone, given by:
Scott LaBone

In memory of Jim Parker, given by:
Randy Moody

HONORARIUMS

In honor of Bob Bayly, given by:
Dan & Joan Kelly
Michael & Allison Welling

In honor of Greg Estoll, given by:
Anne Andersen

In honor of Alexa Gates, given by:
Michael & Shawna Majerus

In honor of Rollin & Jeanette Haas, given by:
Donnell Green

In honor of Randy & Salli Hearn, given by:
Ken & Mary Harrison

In honor of Kristine White, given by:
Matt White