

New Year's Day 2020 seems like a long time ago. There are many terms and expressions we use today that were unknown to us on New Year's Eve: Social distancing, stay-in-place, Wuhan virus, payroll protection plan, one package toilet paper per customer; and there are many more!

Thirty million unemployed, California beaches closed, no parking lot church services, no major league baseball opening day, no hospital visitations, and no Easter Sunday services. What country do we live in? Mandatory face masks in many places; millions are home made. Really?

Our world has changed, but this we know for sure; "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" [Hebrews 13:8]. "We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield" [Psalms 33:20].

Our ministry at the ranch is strong, morale is excellent, and we are having wonderful chapels, devotions, and streamed church services. We celebrate our mission "Putting hope within reach of everyone struggling with life-controlling issues." Nothing will ever stop us!

Our staff is committed to their calling. Our prayer warriors are strong. Yes, we can use your financial help at this time. We have always trusted Him, and will continue to do so. We are praying for you also, for your safety, health, and families. This too will pass.

We have some great things to share with you in this newsletter. We hope you enjoy them. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

COREE ROBERTS:

My name is Coree Roberts, and I've been a Christian since I was about 12 years old. My walk with the Lord began with my brothers and I doing Bible studies with our neighbor from down the street.

In living my life I never really knew what it meant when everyone said keep God 1st place. Without really seeking Him, I thought my life was okay.

Looking back through the years, trying to live my life my own way got me addicted to nicotine starting at 16 years old, marijuana and drinking at 17, and becoming an alcoholic at the age of 24 and weighing 260 lbs.

Experiencing unhealthy relationships, losing jobs because of my addictions and totaling my truck due to drinking and driving, I was fortunate enough to walk away without a single scratch; that was my wakeup call from God that I needed.

I've been sober from alcohol ever since. But for the last two years I've struggled with substance abuse and nicotine addiction. Up until I heard about Adult and Teen Challenge, I didn't like who I was becoming. I'm extremely lucky and grateful to be a part of this ministry. I've been set free from all of my life-controlling issues. I could not have done it without our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Most of us struggle with change, right? Even good change can take some adjustment, but unwanted change over which we have no control is just hard! At this moment in time we are all adapting to a lot of change and a very different world than we have known. Yet, we can be confident and grateful that we are held by a God who has proven Himself trustworthy even in the storms. That is the truth we are teaching and modeling to our students, many of which are new to the faith.

As a ministry caring for people with life-controlling problems, sending our students home when social distancing was implemented was never an option. For the well-being of them and their families it is essential for them to keep pressing in on the hard work of transformation.

During COVID-19 they are safely "sheltering at Faith Home" under the care of our staff who are facing uncertainty alongside them. Just like you and me, isolation from their families and the outside world has been the hardest thing, followed by too much time on their hands. To help them navigate these issues we opened up more family phone or Zoom time for them. Morning classes continued without interruption and we kept to our daily schedule. They deep cleaned the facility and detailed the grounds.

These were all good things but having them available to reach out to our supporters turned out to be the very best thing! Did you receive a call from one of them? If we have your phone number, we likely tried to reach you. We wanted to know how you were managing all the change and uncertainty. We wanted to thank you for your prayers and support.

As I sat in on these calls it warmed my heart to hear students get to say a heartfelt "Thank you!" for making it possible for them to be here. They asked how they could pray for you and some even prayed with you over the phone. Then all those prayer requests - almost four full pages - were gathered and taken to the students' Friday night prayer session. They took your needs very seriously. They are sincerely grateful for the opportunity you are giving them.

If we missed you, please call 209.537.0606. Leave a message at extension 111. I will see that one of our students calls to thank you. It would be our honor to take any prayer needs you have before the Lord! May you know the peace and hope Jesus longs to give you - even during COVID-19!

-Margo Ely, Program Supervisor

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT BELOW AND SEND BACK TO US!

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PRAYER REQUESTS?

