

SENIOR HIGH 2012



MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO



JUNE 30-JULY 8 2012

- WHO: SR. HIGH SRCC STUDENT MINISTRY PARTICIPANTS
- WHAT: MISSION TRIP TO RANCHO EL CAMINO - SERVING AT THE 40 ACRE RANCH AND IN THE LOCAL VILLAGE - partnering w/ SRCC missionaries, Pete and Cher Gatto
- WHERE: LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO
- WHEN: SAT AM - JUNE 30 - SUN PM - JULY 8. 2012
- WHY: TO MINISTER TO PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, HELPING GOD TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN OF REDEMPTION BY DISCOVERING AND USING "OUR" GIFTS FOR GOD'S KINGDOM PURPOSES.
- COST: FUNDS TO RAISE - \$1000 - \$1200 (Airfare, ground transportation, Room, Food, VBS supplies, Activities) GO TO SOUTHRIDGECC.ORG - YOUTH - MISSION TRIPS UPCOMING - CLICK ON SR HIGH MISSION TRIP FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PARTNERING WITH SRCC MISSIONARIES – PETE & CHER GATTO

RANCHO el CAMINO, LA PAZ, MEXICO

The family of Peter & Cher Gatto:

The family of Peter and Cher Gatto are missionaries that God sent to the city of La Paz, and were put in charge of Rancho El Camino.

Isaiah 43:18-21 has a special meaning for the Gatto's God's calling in their life and an affirmation of their placement at Rancho El Camino.

Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. I'll do something new! It's already happening, do not you see? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my chosen people, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Isaiah 43: 18-21



You can learn more about the camp by visiting: www.ranchoelcamino.org

Examples of Projects/Ministries at the Ranch:

The desire of the ranch the way is to create a place where the local church can serve and grow in the mission field.

There are currently various activities / ministries that are used as opportunities to share God's love and salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ there. There are several projects where work is hard, but with great joy to know that this place is used for the Glory of God.

PROJECTS@ THE RANCH: mornings would be spent at the ranch helping with building project of new staff house or working with horses in various capacities. Pete and Cher would oversee.



BIBLE SCHOOL IN THE VILLAGE: the evenings would be spent ministering to families by running



a VBS program for the children (Mon-Thurs) and sharing time, food and testimonies with their parents and friends who stay and watch. This is in the local village of Marques de Leon.

Rancho el Camino

Cross Cultural Short Term Opportunities

NOTE FROM PETE AND CHER:

We are delighted that you are considering coming to La Paz, Mexico to serve here at the ranch. The following information is intended to give you the information you need to organize a life transforming short-term missions experience.

One of the primary purposes of the ranch is EQUIP the people of God for the work of God. Here at the ranch we have an environment where people, young and old, can come to the realization that God can use them. We believe that God wants to use *you* to carry out His plan of redemption. Our goal is to empower you and your team to discover and use your gifts for God's kingdom purposes.

There are two primary areas that we are currently developing:

1. The continued site development of a 40-acre ranch.
2. Church planting in an impoverished village 3 miles outside of the ranch.

Each of the ministries is at the ground level, and full of potential to bring about transformation to our city. We are praying that God will send his people to accomplish His will here at the ranch and in the village. The only requirement we have is that you and your team come with a willing spirit to serve God.

FAQ's:

What will we do?

There is much room at the Ranch for the team to minister from everyone's passions and gifts. The door is wide open for effective, creative ministry. With that in mind, the nature of each team's experience will be based upon the gifts of the team.

The SRCC team will be ministering at the ranch in the am helping with either the horse ministry or the staff house building project. They will use each team according to gifts and abilities.

After dinner we will head into the village to minister to the families with a Children's program as well as offering food and sharing with those other members of the family who stay and watch.

Where will we stay?

***The Ranch**

The SRCC team will be staying at the ranch. As the Lord continues to develop the ranch facility, through the efforts of short-term of teams, they are growing in their capacity to host the teams there at the ranch. One of the goals of the ranch is to enable the short-term efforts by providing an outstanding place to host teams. Currently they have beautiful bathroom facilities with showers, sinks and toilets to serve groups upwards of 100 people. They also have a large shaded area where groups can gather for worship and devotions. The dorms should be completed and ready for use in January 2012. (We are giving them plenty of wiggle room to complete). These dorms will house up to 40 people comfortably. *Each participant will have a bed with a comfortable mattress, and should plan to bring their own sheets or sleeping bag.* The outside kitchen continues to become more practical as well. There is a beautiful grill, a large outside griddle, a fryer, and a gas barbecue. Recently the ranch also received a generous donation of two high quality outside burners.

The ranch provides a unique place for teams to really experience the glory of God through His creation. It is situated in the Sonoran Desert, surrounded by majestic mountains, and full of life. The ranch currently houses 12 horses, cattle, goats, chickens, and various other farm animals. The ranch is a natural oasis as well, with streams of living water flowing from the ground. There are many hikes available, and they love to set up trail rides for the teams. During the hot months they offer the teams the rustic pool, which is filled with fresh spring water that is guaranteed to cool everyone off. Beyond the beauty of staying at the ranch, it is also practical. There is limited distance to cover by driving, as the area they minister to is right outside the ranch. This allows the team more time for debriefing, fellowship, and times of worship and celebration, and less time traveling.

The Ranch is SAFE and there is not a concern regarding criminal issues. Valuables and passports will, however be locked in a safe in Pete's home to insure safe keeping.

The cost of staying at the ranch is @ \$6.00 per person per day.

What about food? (We are planning on \$20/day to cover meals. Pete states that is more than enough.)

There are several great options for our team to taste the incredible food that the Mexican culture has to offer. All restaurants and food preparation are totally clean and "okayed" by Pete and Cher – they have had lots of time to find the "safe" places to eat. Choices are:

- ***BG Restaurant (Prepared Meals) – This will be where the SRCC Team will do Lunches.***

Believe it or not, there is a great roadside Mexican restaurant right at the end of the ranch road is a brand new restaurant owned by one of our neighbors. They serve eggs in the Mexican tradition, and also serve tacos, burritos, tortas etc. We will be able to purchase cold beverages there as well. All of the food is very reasonably priced. The average meal will cost about \$5.00, which includes food and drink.

- ***Restaurants in La Paz (Prepared Meals)- SRCC Team will do this for 5-6 dinners***
Many of the groups choose to eat out in the evenings to enjoy the Mexican culture here in the city of La Paz. The city is full of great Mexican restaurants to choose from. Or perhaps you may want to include a trip to the city for a special meal on your free day. We will want to budget \$10.00 per person for meals to be eaten at restaurants in the city. (We may do this once or twice).

- ***Prepare your own meals – SRCC Team will be choosing this for breakfasts and 2-4 dinners.***

Many groups prepare all of their meals at the ranch. Local Church ladies assist in this. There is an outside kitchen equipped with an outside grill, gas barbecue, griddle, and two large camping burners. There is running water that can be used for cooking and washing. We have local groups and missions groups that choose this option every year. The local grocery store is 20-25 minutes outside of the ranch. The general cost for food products here is the same as the US. If your team chooses this option, it is a good idea to have someone on your team who is comfortable driving in Mexico, and also capable of preparing meals in a camping environment. You will want to budget \$5.00 per person per meal. This may be a little high, but if you have a few funds left over from your food budget it is better than falling short.

What about transportation?

Every group is responsible to organize their transportation, and the cost will vary.

- ***Air Travel:***
The current cost of airfare is \$650 plus tax USD for round trip tickets to San Jose del Cabo. **We will be flying into the most frequently used airport in San Jose del Cabo (SJD) from Newark airport. (the current cost of a non-stop flight is \$458.** We will also be booking as a group which helps with the discounted prices as we move forward and book the flight as early as possible. **Passports are needed!!!**
- ***Transportation from Airport to the Ranch: TBD -*** There is a 15 passenger van that can be rented for about \$200 for the week that we are at the ranch. Pete will meet us at the airport where he will pick us up with the Ranch's Van and depending on the size of the group we will pick up the rental van/s needed for the week. Ground transportation is needed to minister in the villages each evening as well as group activities at the end of the week. We will also be renting another van for the week.

What about the Weather?

The Weather during this time of the year tends to be The average temperature is around 88° (the high has been 104). Siestas and swimming will be common during the free afternoon hours due to the heat.

Where exactly is the ranch located? *La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico* see below.



What about raising funds for projects?

Most every team tries to include funds for projects in their fundraising efforts. It is recommended that we raise a minimum of \$200 per participant. This ensures that the group has sufficient funds to accomplish a meaningful project. This is included in the suggested \$1000 funds to raise for the trip. Fund raising and donation letters should begin in January, 2012. We will go over that with the Team, once the sign ups are completed. One of the needs they always have are Spanish NIV Bibles (that is the NIV in Spanish) to be passed out to local residents.

What does the ministry look like in the village?

The Ranch's goal is to plant a community center/church in the impoverished village of **Marques de Leon**. Through a compassionate, Christ centered approach the desire is to establish ministries and programs that will meet the deep needs of the community. The ultimate goal of this ministry is redeeming the lost and transforming the village. Currently the Ranch is reaching into the village with the love of Jesus through their weekly horse ministry, **VBS programs**, medical clinics and health seminars. The SRCC Team will be bringing balls to play

games, crafts, Bible Stories, food, and loving on all of the families of the village. Sharing testimonies with those who sit on the “outside circle” of the VBS program will be encouraged

What about our free days? SRCC Team will have 2 free days to connect and share with one another at the end of the trip.

They strongly recommend that each team plan a free day during their stay. La Paz is the home of some of the most beautiful beaches in world. As the dry desert clashes with the turquoise blue waters of the Sea of Cortez, one cannot help but give glory to God for His marvelous creation. Options are many and will be chosen based on the desire of the team and the weather.

Here some of the options.

Souveniring: Definitely one of the free day/afternoon activites!

Planning some time on free day to go down town and visit shops is a great way to experience a little more of the culture and find something to bring back to a loved one or friend. This is something we would recommend for earlier in the day before heading out on a longer adventure.

Visit a local beach (\$0) Another definite for the SRCC Team!

There are many incredible local beaches a short distance from the ranch. This excursion is relatively cheap, but none the less an incredible way to end a great week of service. After souveniring and a bite to eat at the best taco shop in La Paz, we will head to the beach to enjoy the Sea of Cortez.

Snorkeling: For a \$15 fee each team member can be outfitted to gaze at the beautiful tropical of fish of the Sea of Cortez. (Possibility)

Adventure Program- This is a new feature that Pete has partnered with to offer various hikes and other activities in the old River Bed.

Trail Riding – Opportunity to go on a horseback trail ride through several gorgeous areas.