

Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-Two Years of Showing God's Unconditional, Healing Love to Teen Age Girls

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A Fun Filled April!

By Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director

April has been a month packed with fun and exciting events. From 5k races to the VVCA carnival, church outings, Easter, speaking engagements, field day, recognition night and we will be ending the month with a graduation celebration! It has been a very busy month for the girls, but with all the busyness there has been a lot of fun and memories made. Our spring semester is coming to an end and with that it's extremely fun to look back at the school year and how each girl has grown in so many ways. God is doing great things out here!! Summer school begins in May and I can't wait to see how God plans to use Victory Village!! Please continue to pray for the staff and students at VVCA. Thank you for all of the continued love, prayers and support.



The VVCA cross country team has competed in two 5k runs. They all did a great job.



At the end of March a small group of women from the Plevna Community Bible Church held a formal for the girls. It was a super fun and special evening for them. They spent the day getting all dressed up, then went to the formal where they were served a delicious meal, had a devotional and lots of laughter and dancing. (continued on page two)

Visit the Village, with Bill and Carole

Celebrating Easter

Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is festive and special at VVCA!! It has become a custom to start with a Sunrise service at the Chapel, and then go to our house for breakfast. Bill makes his famous pancakes and they are devoured as fast as he makes them! We had eggs and lots of fruit, juice and that favorite drink--coffee!



Four of our girls, Olivia, Andinet, Carolina and Melissa, are looking happy and well satisfied after breakfast.



There was a lot of fun and fellowship before it was time to return to the Chapel for the special Easter service.

And it was really special as we celebrated our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Our oldest daughter **Mary Beth** and husband **Jim Murawski** came for the day, and Mary Beth was able to play the pipe organ for us. We had the usual participation of our students as we sang hymns, read Scripture, and worshipped at the Lord's Table in the breaking of bread. The music of Easter is so jubilant! Though we couldn't sing it in entirety, The Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's Messiah is in our Hymnal, so during the week prior to Easter, we tried to sing it in Chapel along with a recording. (continued on page two)

A FUN FILLED APRIL (continued from page one)



The girls that stayed for Easter enjoyed some fun activities with a small group of teenage girls from the Gospel Chapel Youth Group. They all had a great time dying Easter eggs and having fellowship together.



The girls love having cookouts at our fire pits. Finally the burn bans were lifted and we had one minimal wind day and were able to enjoy all pitching in and helping prepare, and then eat a yummy meal cooked fully on the campfire.



There is always work that needs doing around the VVCA campus. Since the fire, we have a lot of trees that need cut up on the backside of the pasture. One day we had a woodcutting day and the girls all helped out.

Needs List

- Zero turn lawnmower - Outside rocking chairs - Javelins
- Discus - Frisbees - Construction cones - Maintenance Gator
- Storage totes - Guitar stands - Soccer goals - Soccer nets
- Soccer balls - Volleyballs - Ball air pumps - Dryer sheets
- Face wash - Dish soap - Mechanical pencils

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)

Using new plants provided by our children for my birthday, we filled our new patio with flowers and ferns. Come and see it and sit a spell! We are grateful to **Sheldon and Rachel Van Amburg**, long time friends from my home county of Lincoln, for bringing another load of lime-stone rock. We also thank **Charles and Leoti Herman**, from whose farm the rock came, and to **Scott Hilburn**, our Maintenance Director, for putting the rocks in place and building the wall.

Speaking of Scott, please pray for him, as he was injured last week after falling from a ladder while replacing a bulb in a yard light. He has a cracked heel, and is not walking very well! We really miss him as he fixes everything and keeps the campus mowed and trimmed all the time. Please pray for his recovery. We do have some good teenage interim help, with **Reece Wilson**, son of **Candi Wilson** of our Dorm staff.

The Crossroads Area of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region held their annual meeting in our Chapel.



They invited our girls and staff to eat lunch with them in our gymnasium, following which the girls took them on tours of the Victory Village Campus. It was our pleasure to have them meet with us, and show them what God has done here at VVCA.



We also had a nice visit from the Christian Motorcycle Association, Jesus Group, on April 23. They brought a lot of supplies that had been listed in our Needs List. The girls also took them on tours, and then we all met at the Chapel, where they wanted to hear the miracle story of it's construction and listen to music played on our Pipe Organ. **Bob Warne** from the Bethany Baptist Church of Bentley, and their pastor, **Rev. Ron Jones** are both members of this group.



On April 24th we took the girls to the **First Baptist Church of Salina**, to sing, give testimonies and share about VVCA. **Pastor Kevin Hazelton and his wife**, along with their congregation, welcomed us with grace and kindness. The pot-luck dinner was a bountiful feast and the fellowship divine! We are thankful to God for all this fine Church has done for our ministry. Their support comes monthly, and they gave a large gift to help us build the Woodworking Shop / Art / Counseling building, along with bringing groups to help build it.



Bill's **Horticulture Class** has been growing plants in our old greenhouse, BUT BIG NEWS! We were able to order a Do-It-Yourself Greenhouse for \$350! It's a great price, but quite a jigsaw puzzle to put together! It is 12' x 26', more than double the space and a big improvement over the old one. We will need to add some extra support, as it is built rather light, and pray that **Scott** will be back to help us very soon!



We are in one accord with our Mennonite Friends and their ongoing efforts to help relieve suffering, oppression and hunger among peoples of the world. Some of our students took part in the **5k Run for Relief**, and some were able to attend the Feeding of the Multitude--a supper featuring German-Mennonite Foods. We made some purchases at the plant sale, and did what we could to encourage their valiant efforts to make a difference in the world. Over \$600,000 was made at this year's sale; all of it going to relieve suffering, alleviate hunger and help in any way possible as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Our Tourism and Hospitality Class (taught by **Mrs. Jessica Owen**) sponsored a neighborhood carnival for the children. The girls all helped out with Bean Bag Toss, The Auction, The Jail, The Refreshment Stand, etc. There was a good turn-out and many brought their children to enjoy the event.



This picture shows our daughter **Becky**, also a Board member of Heart Ministries, with her grand daughters from Manhattan, and our great-grands!

We were honored to have visitors and a special speaker from **His Helping Hands** ministry in Wichita. **Connie Heidebrecht** spoke in our Chapel service at 8 a.m. and told her story of domestic abuse and how she experienced healing through servants of Jesus who lovingly ministered to her.



Pictured with Connie are **Kristi Colvin**, our Case Manager, **Jessica Kerstner**, our Therapist, and **Carole**. Her testimony was a powerful statement of how healing from abuse is available to the many who desperately need it. Her coming to us was arranged by Jessica and Kristi, and a long time friend of ours from Marion County days, **Jerry Winkley** of Valley Center.



Bill added two more hives of bees, through the help of local veteran beekeeper **Mark Mounce** and his wife. Each new hive contains approximately 10,000 bees. These little miracle workers help with crop production and make a lot of sweet honey for us to enjoy

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MAY, 2022



HEART MINISTRIES, INC.
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(Address Service Requested)

Our 52ndth Year Changing Lives for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom; Jesus said, I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

Our Mission is to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Inspired by His Gospel, we seek to make God's amazing love and compassion real to teenage girls, serving them without charge to their families by providing a clean and safe home, a good Christian and State certified education, nutritious meals, training in life skills, outdoor and indoor activities and sports, opportunities to be involved in the ministry of helping others, and an introduction to Jesus, who will love them forever. We affirm the worth of all, without prejudice, partiality or intimidation. **Victory Village Christian Academy** is located at 201 S Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020, and is licensed by the State of Kansas, with State certified teachers and curriculum. Credits are transferable, high school diplomas are earned and recognized for entrance to colleges. **Rev. Bill and Carole Cowell, Founders and Administrators; Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director and Principal; Katy Nininger, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Marla Johnson, Jessica Owens, Jerry Nininger, Larissa Hawkinson, Teachers; Barbara Hedges, Office Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, Wilma Engle, Accountant; Jessica Kerzner, Therapist; Kristi Colvin, Case Manager; Heather Smith, Dormitory Director; Jenna Weimer, Robin Traffas, Shannon Fitzgerald, Emily Moore, Melynda McNicol, Sue Walters, Janice Janzen, Candi Wilson, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Cayleena Pilgreen, Elise Epp, Grace Smith, Dormitory Staff; Scott Hilburn, Maintenance, Board of Directors; Bob Friesen, Chairman, Rev. Bill and Carole Cowell, Becky Goering, Larry Chapman, Gordon Goering, Lyndal Penner, Rev. John Williams, Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Dr. Jessica Kerzner**



Kelli Schwarz-Rump, our VVCA Director, does a great job in fulfilling multiple tasks. Here she is conducting Study Hall in her office due to the absence of another teacher.



Two happy girls the night of the Formal--Helena and Harlee

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Antoinette (Elise) Epp, member of our VVCA Dorm staff, and **Cyson Gaeddert**, just announced their engagement. Elise's Great Grandfather, **AR Epp**, living on a farm two miles from Victory Village, often attended our meetings, over 40 years ago.



Once again, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and your financial help. When we stepped out totally by faith over 50 years ago to start this ministry, we were asked how we would support our family. Our only answer was that God would supply. He has done that now for 52 years. There have been some hard times, and the financial load today is many times what it was then, but God is faithful. Thank you for helping us make it through another month. We have never charged tuition or room and board. It takes both small gifts and larger gifts to keep VVCA going, but we believe with all our hearts that God will continue to supply. Your support is so much needed and appreciated. Thank you!