

# Victory Village Christian Academy

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

Heart Ministries, Inc., 201 S. Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020; Phone 620.463.6112; [www.victoryvillagechristianacademy.org](http://www.victoryvillagechristianacademy.org)

*Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director; Bill and Carole Cowell, Editors & Administrators*

Newsletter Volume 55, Issue 3, - EASTER - March, 2024 – Cell Phone 620.694.7938

## From our Director, Kelli Schwarz-Rump

The VVCA basketball team ended the month of February with a 2 day tournament at the Kansas Association of Christian Schools invitational tournament in Abilene, Kansas. They won 3rd place and received the Good Sportsmanship Award. This award was voted on by all of the coaches that were present at the tournament.



I'm proud of the girls for their growth on the basketball court, for their sportsmanship and displaying Christlike character during their time at the tournament. The team finished their season with the annual staff versus team game-- a fun event for all! Basketball season is now over and cross country is in full swing. Coach **Jenna Weimer** has the girls doing all sorts of activities during their first week of practice, from running trails to swimming. They will compete in various 5k races throughout the season.

March is starting off busy as ever, and Spring Break will be here quickly. April is a packed full month of a formal event, volunteer opportunities for the girls, 5k races, Charlotte's Web, recognition night and graduation. Thank you for all of your continued support. Please continue to pray for the VVCA girls, staff and the ministry as a whole.

You can now make a donation to VVCA with credit cards. This has been a request for quite some time and it is now possible. <https://app.autobooks.co/pay/heart-ministries>.

(continued on page two)

## Visit the Village....with Bill and Carole

We are well into 2024, and continually thanking God for His blessings here at Victory Village. Psalm 40:5 expresses the gratitude of our heart for what God has done and continues to do for the ministry. **O Lord my God, You have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal! If we tried to recite all Your wonderful deeds, we could never come to the end of them.**



It was a perfect score for the 8th year and takes a Team, but teams must have Leaders! Our Director, **Kelli Schwarz-Rump**, has just led us through the big annual inspection at VVCA by Representatives from the State of Kansas, and for the 8th year in a row we had NO VIOLATIONS! Students and Staff cooperated and worked diligently to achieve this honor once again, for which we give God the glory.

We are thankful for the support of many Churches, some nearby and others farther away. **Pastor Willmar T Harder** of the **Buhler Mennonite Church** was away preaching in Southwest Kansas, and we were invited to bring the girls and fill the pulpit for him that morning. Our Board Chairman, **Bob Friesen**, was in charge of the service.

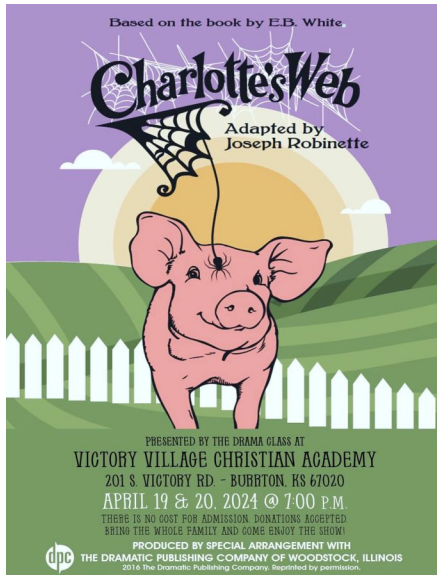


The girls sang a number of songs and several of them shared testimonies. Carole and I brought a short message, and it was a great morning with this fine Church.

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## FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)

Mark your calendars! Our Victory Village Drama Class will be presenting the play, **Charlotte's Web**. There is no price for admission, so please feel free to bring your family to enjoy this.



The girls take a lot of hikes with the Staff on our beautiful 107 acre Victory Village grounds. Sometimes they make interesting discoveries. **Ivy** is shown with some wild tulips they found in the pasture. The girls transplanted them, watered them and now will watch them grow!



Birthdays are always special occasions at VVCA. Here is **Essi** on her special day.



**Robin Traffas and Brenda Shenk** serving supper at the Dorm

### WISH LIST

Liquid laundry soap – Paper towels – Kleenex  
Spotlights for the stage of our drama production  
Canvases to paint – Hand soap – Napkins  
Paper plates, bowls, Plastic forks and spoons  
Large blender – Large slow cooker/crock pot

## VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)



### The Triumph of Easter

The Message of the Resurrection...by Bill

*Almost at the moment He died, I heard Him say "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.....Even then I felt His voice take the sword out of my hand."*

Those lines from General Lew Wallace's classic movie, "Ben Hur," need to be amplified in this day of violence and revenge. We like to show the movie every year to our students, hoping the words might resonate in their hearts for the rest of their lives.

Growing bitter over mistreatment of his mother and sister at the hands of the Romans, Ben Hur spent years on a mission of seeking revenge. Not until he witnessed the crucifixion, and heard Jesus' own words of love and forgiveness while suffering on the cross, did his own heart change from hate to love.

Those words of Jesus are sorely needed across our troubled world. It is up to those of us who know and follow Jesus to both model and teach them to others. Jesus rose from the dead! He is alive, and His Words are powerful to change lives just as they changed the hard heart of Ben Hur! He had been consumed by anger and a desire for revenge on his childhood friend Masala, who had become a servant of Rome—an arm of merciless punishment of anyone who would not submit to their ruthless system.

We hope you will rejoice with us because of the Living, Resurrected Christ, Who said, "Because I live, you shall live also!" Let us make sure our hearts are not similarly consumed by anger over injustices in the world. True freedom comes by believing and following Jesus Christ.

## His Eye Is On The Sparrow!

By Carole

Did you ever wake up with a song in your heart? I did, and one morning the "Sparrow" song was going through my head.

*Why should I feel discouraged?  
Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely,  
And long for Heaven and home?"  
When Jesus is my portion,  
My constant friend is He.  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.*

African American singer, Ethel Waters, popularized this song a great deal in Billy Graham crusades years ago.

I really connect with Sparrows—they are a common bird—no beautiful feathers, and may not sing as well as some other birds, but they seem to sing their hearts out in the Spring. Their song is nondescript, and they don't do any special tricks either. But the Bible says that God does not forget them, and He also does not forget us. If God cares so much for a little brown bird who may not seem to be anything special, just think how much He cares for us all!

It is interesting that Jesus chose the sparrow to call special attention to birds, and how they never worry about where their next meal is coming from. They just trust in God. Matthew 6:26 says, **Look at the birds. They do not plant or harvest....for your Heavenly Father feeds them.** And, aren't you far more valuable than they are? Yes, **His eye is on the Sparrow, and I know He watches me!**



It's exciting to be starting another garden season! **Scott Hilburn** is helping Bill with the class, and the students have already planted Garden Peas and Onions. Potatoes are next!

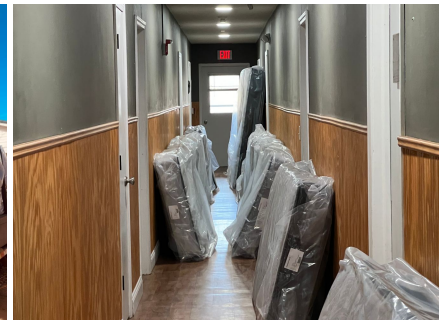


Here is the Class and **Carole**, cutting up 225 pounds of seed potatoes from **Smith's Market**, to be ready for planting.

Sterling College hosted a Theatre Workshop Day for high school students with workshops, lunch in the cafeteria, and a matinee Performance of "Baskerville."



Here are **Sophie, Julia, Essi, Ivy** and **Jordan**, along with **Mrs. Larissa Hawkinson**, our Drama Coach.



A huge Thank You to **Ron and Pam Koehn** from Enid, Oklahoma, (parents of Staff member **Cayleena Pilgreen**), and **Sleep Haven** in Haven, Kansas for buying new mattresses for all the girl's beds. They were very glad to see them, as the old ones were quite well used! God bless those who made this blessing possible, and sweet dreams to all the girls with their new mattresses.



We were blessed by a visit from **Larry and Irma Van Scyoc** of Wichita, members of The Calvary Baptist Church of Hoisington when we were pastors there in the 1960's.

# Victory Village Christian Academy

March, 2024 – Easter Edition



**Our 54th Year of 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, 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, Amanda Herd, Janice Janzen, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Cayleena Pilgreen, Grace Skiles, Lauren Holmes, Bri Neal, Becky Valdois, Ahneka Valdois, Kayla Felix, Brenda Shenk, Dormitory Staff; Emma Foster and Hadassa Foster, Cooks; 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.**

**The Newsletter is printed by Taylor Printing, Pratt, Kansas**



**Ruby Shindle**, 2023 VVCA Graduate, is living and working in Rose Hill, Kansas. She came to see our **Saints** play the **Defenders** from Wichita, in basketball, and is pictured here with **Carole**.

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Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
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**Steve Janssen**, longtime friend, and supporter from Lorraine, made several nearly 60-mile trips to watch our Saints play basketball. Steve is pictured here at one of the games with our Board Chairman, **Bob Friesen**.

**Ahneka Valdois** has cooked and worked as dorm staff at VVCA since May 2023. She is the author of several fantasy novels, including *Stone of Athaen*, *Beldanian Conspiracy*, *Belonging*, *The Channeler's Daughter*, and its sequel, *The Seer's Protégé*. She uses her extensive experiences traveling abroad and living in other cultures, to inform her work. Ahneka served in the Peace Corps in the Republic of Georgia and lived in China for over ten years. In addition to writing fantasy novels, she enjoys spending time with her extended family and church community. You can find her books on Amazon both as paperbacks and Kindle versions.



**FROM BILL AND CAROLE:** The Easter season is another wonderful time of year to honor our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and show Him our gratitude for His death on the cross for our sins, for His glorious Resurrection, and for the promise of His coming again. Our Chapel times include many songs and Scriptures related to this special time of year. We also thank you for your support with finances and prayer. After a good 2023 year-end, we have needed to ask for special help in this new year. Thank you so much, and may God bless you all.