

RICK SOUZA

Mission Vision Values



It has certainly been a very warm summer, even though we expect it in this valley during the summer months. However, we are always grateful when our air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers continue to work. This is the newsletter for September and October. Hard to believe this year is moving so quickly. However, it always seems that way anymore.

I asked Zach Jackson to write his testimony for this edition. It truly is amazing and so representative of what the Lord does in this amazing ministry. The Holy Spirit is always present in our classes, outreaches, and chapels as we seek Him with all of our hearts.

Zach came into this ministry about 5 years ago. I almost didn't accept him because his health was so poor. I was afraid he might die anytime. Praise God he didn't and I am so glad I listened to the check in my spirit. But I want him to tell his story to you. Enjoy and rejoice in the goodness of God.

Rick Souza, *CEO, Executive Director*

ZACH JACKSON

My Testimony



When I was a kid, my grandma planted and watered seeds from the Word of God. Although I did not take it seriously then, I thank her for that now. I truly believe it was her prayers that saved my life countless times.

My parents divorced when I was young, so I grew up in two different households. Each house had extremely different living environments so I became mentally, emotionally, and spiritually unstable. I was very confused and angry. This led to getting arrested and drinking alcohol at school.

After high school, I went straight into the streets and got involved with the wrong crowd. On top of alcohol, I got addicted to weed, pills, meth, heroin and cigarettes. I wanted to escape this lifestyle of drugs, crime, and violence, so I moved out of town and tried distracting myself with college. However, I attracted the same crowd I was running from so I dropped out. So I thought moving out of state would give me a new start, but the same thing happened. Nothing changed, so after getting out of jail I moved back here.

Soon after coming back, I got a girl pregnant. We got engaged and tried starting a life together. I got off the streets, got a job and a house while remaining a functioning drug addict. **Continued on P.2**

COMFORT

From Genesis



FHATC had a golden guest on a Sunday family day in August. Genesis the comfort dog and a few of her handlers visited the ranch to meet with our students and visiting family where she was welcomed with opened arms and many happy hands as she enjoyed lots of petting and belly rubs.

The 4 year old golden retriever wasted no time getting to “work” once she was brought onto the ranch bringing smiles and laughter out of the residing men here. Genesis is a trained LCC (Lutheran Church Charities) K9 comfort dog at good Shepherd Lutheran church in Turlock.

She interacts with people at churches, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, events, and disaster response situations. She has had over 2000 hours of training before becoming a comfort dog. She is a friend who brings a calming influence and allows people to open up their hearts and receive help for what is affecting them.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been a great supporter of Adult Teen Challenge Faith Home for a few years now and we are very thankful to them for bringing Genesis to the ranch to share her love and joy among the men and their families.

