

## All The King's Horses CHILDREN'S RANCH January, 2019

In 2018, the Ranch house parents gave several months' notice that they needed to retire. John and Jenny Manchester retired from the Ranch in November and returned to Tucson. They have decided that raising their two adopted toddlers are handful enough. The Manchesters continue to be close friends and I had the pleasure of attending church with them on Christmas day.

The four remaining children in our care were slated to be in kinship situations the week prior to Christmas. The Valenzuela's had 'retired' months before, but remained on-site to wrap up the loose ends with the children and to be a stabilizing influence during their transfer into other loving homes. The next day the Valenzuela's were at their own place diving into the Christmas season — heads down in prayer and hands up in worship.

Al and Daina will continue to volunteer at the Ranch and serve in every supportive role possible. Daina has now accepted a seat on the Board of Directors, Al will help out wherever needed. They will fill in as respite house parents for the new couples that the Lord brings.

The three homes now sit empty as we wait on the Lord to send the married couples who love Him and are called to serve the fatherless in this capacity. One potential couple worked studiously on the application process. But for reasons we cannot divulge for privacy protection, they were unable to complete it.

As we wait, we pray. As we wait and pray, we'll use this time to do some deep-cleaning in the homes and needed repairs that are best done when little ones are not running in and out — like repairing the Palomino porch roof for example, scheduled for January 5.

(Photos taken 12/29/19)



The Lord has made it clear what he *will* have us busy with now – building the Workman’s Accommodation Area (WAA). The engineering plans were stamped and all the permits were approved months ago. The WAA is necessary so retired professional groups can live on site in their RVs while freely contributing their expertise to the Ranch. Groups like SOWER Ministry, Servants On Wheels Ever Ready, have already planned to help. The WAA will be able to accommodate 12 units. All that was needed was money! During the last part of 2018, James Cox undertook the brain-drain of a grant application. Legacy Foundation of Cochise County called Jim a couple weeks before Christmas to say the grant was approved. On January 17<sup>th</sup>, two or three board members will go to the presentation to receive the check. You’ll see that photo next month.

The staff remains faithful to the Lord’s call at the Ranch. God has continued to pour faith into our hearts and into our plans. I personally want to acknowledge how the Holy Spirit has kept me encouraged by words of inspiration that have come ‘out of nowhere’. Such as my friend Carmen who e-mailed and said we have been on her heart when in prayer and that she wanted to share a word that the Father gave her for us on December 21, *“I text you, my friend, so that you know that you have been very heavy on my heart and I am praying. The Lord says that your **branch** will be built with wisdom and by understanding it will be established. By knowledge your rooms will be filled with rare and beautiful treasures. The Lord says, I love you and those treasures are the future children of promise.”*

Then a Christmas card from the Valenzuela’s who handed it to me in person: *“This year will be exciting to what the Lord will do bringing forth the **fruit** of our faith in him.”*

Jesus said (Jn 15:5) I am the vine, you are the **branches**. He that stays in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much **fruit**, for without me you can do nothing.”

And then an unexpected tour with a couple from the Phoenix area who drove to the Ranch (a two and half hour drive) to say they had a word from the Lord for us.

*“Occupy. I am pleased. Occupy.”*

Then I turned the new calendar to January 2019 and in front of my eyes, the calendar shouts a verse: *“He who was seated on the throne said, I Am making everything new.”*

Amen, Lord. As you work, we are faithfully occupying with hopeful expectation!

