

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

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

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From our Director, *Kelli Schwarz-Rump*

The girls are back and the school year has begun! The VVCA campus is full of talking (LOTS of talking), teaching, and laughter again! The girls are moved in and settling into the routine. They started their first day of school the next day. Here are four of our returning students looking very happy!



Phica



Ivy



Jordan



Aubrey

Volleyball practice started on move in day. All of the girls chose to participate in Volleyball this year. They begin their season with an away game this very first week of September. The team will then be playing several times throughout the next couple of months. Stay tuned for pictures and updates on the team! We currently have four new students and several returning students to start the 2024-2025 School Year. I am so excited to see what God has planned for each of them. Please join me in praying for the girls as we start this new school year. Thank you for your continued support through prayer, love and donations.

(continued page two)

Visit the Village, with *Bill and Carole*

God's blessings are more than we deserve! A tractor is an essential piece of equipment at Victory Village, and through the years we have had tractors that were old, needing repair and a lot of tender loving care. Neighbors **Mack** and **Jack Clark** farm our 15-acre field, and have their own equipment, but that still leaves 92 acres of woods, grass, and school grounds for us to maintain.



Our old John Deere tractor finally broke down on us, but then a miracle happened! We were blessed more than we could have ever imagined with a new tractor! Pictured here on the tractor is our Board Chairman, **Bob Friesen**, along with **Matt Helton** of **Helton Farm Repair** in Wichita, and a brand-new **DK 4220 Kioti Tractor** (40 hp, 4WD, hydrostat transmission), complete with canopy, loader, and six-foot rotary mower. Our grateful appreciation goes to Matt for working with anonymous donors to secure the proper equipment to best meet our needs, and at the best possible price. The result—this very wonderful and useful gift to Victory Village! **Helton Farm Equipment** is well known for their friendly, high-quality service and repairs in Sedgwick and surrounding counties.



Here is our Maintenance Director, **Scott Hilburn**, with **Carole** and **Bill**—all extremely grateful to God and the donors.

(continued page two)

FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)



What a fine-looking group of girls!

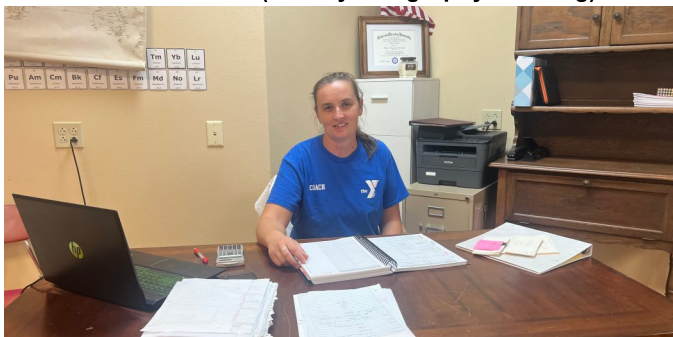
NEEDS / WANTS LIST

- Meat for the freezer - Beef, Pork, Chicken**
- Flour and Sugar (large bags) – Vegetable / Olive Oil**
- Trash bags (4 and 13 gallon) – Grid posterboard**
- Paper towels, Napkins, Kleenex - Liquid laundry soap**
- Cast iron Pans and Skillets (for Camp fires)**
- Dish soap and Hand soap refills – Box fans**

Meet Our Teachers



Marla Johnson (History-Geography-Reading)



Katy Nininger (Algebra-Geometry-Science)



Jerry Nininger (Mr. N) (English-Bible-Senior Thesis-Gym)

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)

From My Heart, by Carole

It is so good to have the girls back! There are several old girls and several new ones. We will all get acquainted and enjoy each other's friendship and fellowship with Jesus. Bill and I really enjoy meeting the girls each morning at 8 am for an hour-long Chapel. We sing and pray, read the Bible and fellowship together. Then, we watch a good movie—right now it is **The Son of God**, telling the story of Jesus from the Gospels. We also have prayer time each day, sharing our needs and requests.

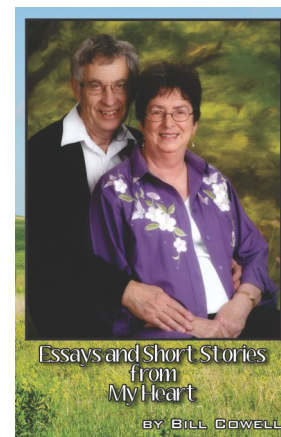
We were glad to have a visit from **Amanda Place Reyes**, and her daughter **Lia**, from Valley Center. Amanda came to VVCA and was a student here in 1997 and 1998.



Amanda and Lia enjoyed looking at the many pictures on the walls of our school, finding former classmates. Some time ago, she also wrote us a letter of gratitude. **Please know I am very thankful for everything you have done for me. You and the Staff at Victory Village go out of your way to help the girls through hard times. You show us a lot of love when others would just turn their backs. I have a beautiful baby boy named Domanic. He brings a lot of joy into my life...Being a Mommy is a lot of fun! I hope everyone is doing well. I miss and love all of you. Thanks again for everything! Keep up the great work!!! We love you! May God keep and bless you.**

Thank you for your gifts and prayers for this ministry. Our wish for you today--**The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.** (Numbers 6:24-26)

Essays and Short Stories from My Heart is a new book Bill has been working on for several years. It is an autobiography with over 700 pages and over 100 pictures. We will have them at our State Fair booth, and they are available for a donation to VVCA.

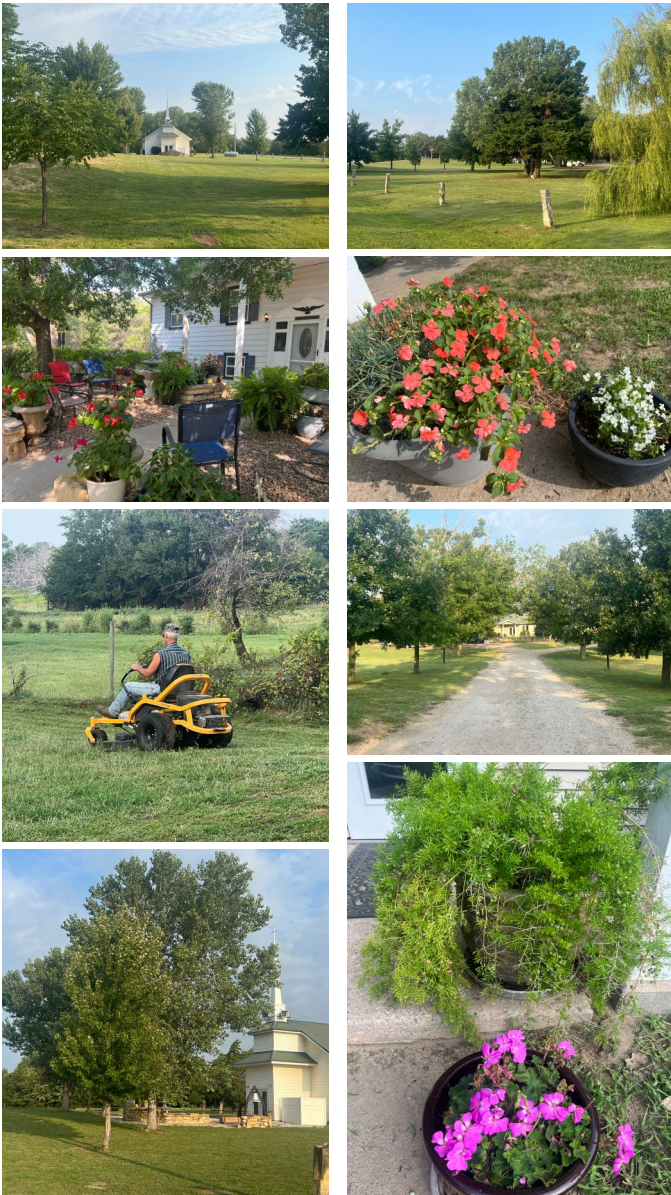


Beauty and God, by Bill

The Bible says that God is *The perfection of Beauty (Psalm 50:2)*. **M.D, Landis**, one of my childhood pastors, used to have us sing,

***O Worship the Lord, in the beauty of holiness...
Glory to the Father, abounding in mercy!
Be joyful all ye people, and magnify Jehovah!***

God made a beautiful world and has entrusted us with its care. Fifty-two years ago, we searched for a place of beauty to begin Victory Village. Carole especially wanted a place with trees, and God led us to this location where there are thousands! Our first school teacher, **Edna Neufelt**, said, **the very location is therapeutic!** As both new and former students arrived at Victory Village for this new year, they were welcomed to a beautiful campus, immaculately kept by our Maintenance Director, **Scott Hilburn**, with Secretary **Barb Hedges** and Dorm Director **Heather Smith** making sure the flowers were also planted and kept beautiful. The Patio **Carole** envisioned and established in front of our house is also a part of the exquisite beauty of Victory Village.



The Chapel at Victory Village

From Monday through Friday, and again on Sundays, we have the privilege of meeting with our students for an hour-long worship time in the Chapel that God miraculously provided for us twelve years ago. Worship styles differ, but perhaps because of our age we choose to lead our students with a traditional worship style. We use the Hymnal, full of beautiful music, and rich with Biblical truth. We sing with the accompaniment of the Steinway Grand Piano God provided, and with the Majestic Pipe Organ, given to us by the Madura Congregational Church of Wakefield, when our Chapel was built. It is not easy to find Organists these days, but **Karen Chatterton**, one of our Staff members, stepped up to the challenge, and is doing a great job. Through the kindness of **Karl** and **Luanna Voth** of Hesston, God also provided a beautiful small organ for Karen's house, where she can now practice at home.



Our students get excited about choosing songs for worship. **Be Thou My Vision**, **In the Garden**, and **Victory in Jesus** are among the favorites. We read, study, and teach the Bible, hoping our students will come to love and trust Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and want to follow Him for the rest of their lives. The new **Carillon** at the Chapel is also proving to be a real blessing with the Westminster chimes, bells striking the hour and ringing out familiar hymn tunes.



After supper and evening chores, there are study halls to help the girls keep up with their academics. **Heather Smith**, Dorm Supervisor and **Bri Neal**, Dorm Staff member are supervising these two rooms while students do their homework.

Victory Village Christian Academy

September, 2024



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, Teachers; Barbara Hedges, Office Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, Wilma Engle, Accountant; Jessica Kerzner, Therapist; Kristi Colvin, Case Manager; Heather Smith, Dormitory Director; Robin Traffas, Shannon Fitzgerald, Larissa Hawkinson, Karey Weaver, Angela Simmons, Emily Moore, Amanda Herd, Karen Chaterton, Cayleena Pilgreen, Grace Skiles, Bri Neal, Becky Valdois, Ahneka Valdois, Brenda Shenk, Dormitory Staff; Emma Foster, Cook; Scott Hilburn, Maintenance Director, 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.**

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Two of our great Staff -- **Ahneka Valdois** (left), cooking dinner for everyone, and **Angela Simmons**, a Dorm staff member.

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Meet our Therapy Team
Kristi Colvin and Dr. Jessica Kerzner



The Apple Crop was not as big this year as usual, due to a late freeze last Spring, but we still had enough apples to make several gallons of cider. Scott Hilburn is pouring apples into the press, ready to be squeezed.

As we have done for the last 54 years of this work, there is no charge made to families for room and board, education, and ministry to our students. We depend completely on God to supply nearly \$80,000 every month to cover all the expenses of salaries, food, utilities, maintenance, repairs, school materials and athletic equipment and insurance. Thank you so much for doing what you can to help. May God bless you.

For the 52nd consecutive year we will have a booth at the Kansas State Fair, September 6-15. You will find us along the south corridor of the Meadowlark Building, near the southwest door. Copies of Bill's book, *Essays and Short Stories from My Heart* will be available for a special gift to the ministry. We hope to meet many of you there.