



MARCH 2018

Christian Encounter Ministries NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

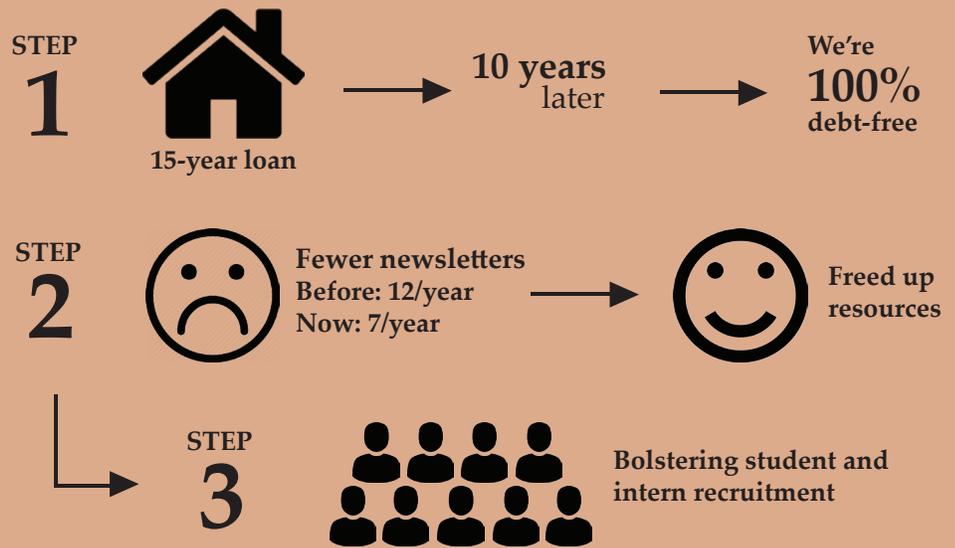
Steps One and Two Complete

Last month I discussed our need to step into the next phase of growth as a ministry and our excitement to do so. I'm happy to say that since then the first two steps forward are completed!

Step one: dealing with debt. We're thrilled to announce the Ranch is now 100% debt-free! Ten years ago CEM purchased the house and property of our closest neighbor on a 15-year loan. This purchase has provided crucial staff housing, enabling another family to live on property and provide community, safety, and support for our students. Housing is often essential for staff to afford to serve here, so this investment will be a key long-term benefit to CEM. Thanks to the last two record-breaking Agony rides covering much more of the burden of student sponsorships than usual, we were able to use general fund money to pay off the house five years early! This is a tremendous victory and a crucial first step in our plans. Please join us in thanking God! Now we can use those resources to tackle other hurdles we face.

Step two: streamlining operations. We're making a number of adjustments for efficiency and effectiveness; one has to do with these newsletters. We love keeping in touch with you, and we want to do what we can to best connect with people. Most organizations and companies have progressively decreased printed publications in favor of increasing electronic communications. Of course, many factors have played into this change in the

PHASE ONE: REALLOCATING RESOURCES



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culture of communication, such as costs, readership convenience for some people, a broadening range of available media, and more. After carefully examining the needs of the ministry, we've determined it will most benefit us to reduce the frequency of newsletters from 12 to 7 each year, dropping the one-page versions like this one. This frees up a considerable amount of time as well as printing and postage costs. Newsletters will still have the same feel and content: student stories, intern profiles, event recaps, and other Ranch life news will continue to be included.

This dovetails perfectly with our next step forward, which is bolstering student and intern recruitment—most of which happens online now. Over recent years

numbers have fluctuated more than we want: sometimes we're turning people away, but other times we have room for more. Now we can pivot and devote these extra resources toward increasing our online presence, which we anticipate will significantly help more young people find their way to us.

These are important changes: the heartbreaking reality is young people are dying—physically and spiritually—because they haven't discovered there's a place like CEM where they will find refuge and hope. At the end of the day, we can make all the great plans we want, but they only matter if they make a difference for these young people. Please pray with us that the Lord will continue to guide and bless our efforts!

Nate Boyd, Executive Director

JOB OPENING DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE

The Director of Student Life plays a key leadership role in the lives of our students and interns, as well as our Ranch community. *If you are interested in this position, send a resume to nate@christianencounter.org.*

Responsibilities include:

- Directing the residential program and maintaining structure
- Leading, supporting, and training the intern team
- Assisting in providing pastoral care for the Ranch community

Personal qualifications include:

- Commitment to Christ
- Desire to work with struggling young people
- Flexibility to work in a variety of settings
- Strong biblical grounding
- Experience in a pastoral role
- Managerial ability



CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER
MINISTRIES

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Planned Giving

Did you know there are creative ways you can support Christian Encounter Ministries that will benefit you, your loved ones and CEM? Contact us to hear more about Planned Giving and how you can make a lasting legacy in the lives of our students and interns.

Christian Encounter Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational, residential program helping 16- to 25-year-olds by providing love, spiritual guidance, high school education, counseling, and 24-hour supervision. Internships are offered to qualifying upper-level college students and graduates. CEM is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and all gifts are tax deductible.



MEMORIALS

In memory of Douglas Rieke, given by:
Mark and Peg Rieke

In memory of Nettie Yates, given by:
Elmer Lorenz
Lester and Constance Lorenz

In memory of Richard Bento, given by:
Roberta Bento

In memory of Melissa Attwood Bento, given by:
Roberta Bento

In memory of John R. Roberts, given by:
Lawanda Roberts

In memory of Judy Dugan, given by:
Lawanda Roberts

In memory of Susan Noll, given by:
Lawanda Roberts

In memory of Lt. J Gary Stevens, given by:
Marlene Stevens

In memory of Shannon Phibbs, given by:
Paul and JoAnn Phibbs

HONORARIUMS

In honor of Jim and Marion Parker's 60th anniversary, given by:
Art and Leah Echnacht

In honor of Chuck and Barbara Boatman, given by:
Don and Norma Baker

In honor of Mike and Teri Smith, given by:
Daniel and Sharon Ellis

In honor of Jim and Carme Barsotti, given by:
Catherine Barsotti

In honor of Joy Mosgofian-Koeker given by:
Peter and Gale Mosgofian

In memory of George W. Crane, given by:
Donna Crane

In memory of Lily A. Brown, given by:
Dan and Shelly Haagenson

In memory of Bob Hall, given by:
Jim and Carme Barsotti