



SET FREE CHURCH OF THE HIGH DESERT
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IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS



Visit Our Website: www.setfreechurchofthehighdesert.org —Jesus Loves You!

June was a blessed month in Jesus and we are excited about what the Lord is doing in us through us and to us in the coming month. On June 30th, 2018 at Serrano High School between 6 and 10 PM we were privileged to host our second annual Faith and Freedom Festival. The event was sponsored by New Life Church, Calvary Phelan, High Desert Baptist, Harvest Christian Center, Victorville Motors and us, Set Free Church of the High Desert. Admission was absolutely free and the event proved to be a blessed occasion of family fun and fellowship in the Lord. There was food, live music, a dunk tank, face painting, giveaways and even a skate park. Local residents were treated to a spectacular fireworks display. Our very own Pastor Ron Thomas shared his inspiring message: "But the Father" from Luke 15. We would like to thank the many thousands of high desert residents of our High Desert communities who came out and participated as well as our partners who for the second year in a row came together to help make this event a tremendous success.

churches or the Set Free Men's Ranch in Phelan. Supplies Needed are as follows: Paper, Crayons/Color Markers, Pens, Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, School Glue, Glue Sticks, Folders, 3-Ring Binder, as well as Compass/Protractor kits for middle school students. All school supply donations are needed before July 29th, 2018 we appreciate your prayers, help, and cooperation to make this event a great success! Monetary Donations toward the purchase of backpacks or supplies are also greatly appreciated. For more information or to give, please call (760) 868-3805.



For the third year in the row, Set Free Church of the High Desert is partnering with other local churches in the community to be a blessing to local students and families by blessing elementary and middle school age students with backpacks filled with essential school supplies. Our Backpack Giveaway will be held at New Life Church on Saturday August 4th. Supplies needed for the backpacks can be dropped off to any of our participating

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PASTOR'S CORNER

*By PASTOR
 RON THOMAS*

But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate." (LK 15:23-24)"

In the familiar story of the prodigal son we see a son who demanded of his father his inheritance, and his father (who wasn't under any obligation to oblige him) divided his property and gave him his portion. The son quickly left the father's house and squandered everything on wasteful living. Ultimately this young man found himself in a far away land of foreigners—broken, desperate and alone. He found himself a job feeding pigs, which Jews weren't even supposed to touch, and the pigs had it better than him—he was coveting the pigs' food. Finally this youngster came to his senses and realized how much better life was at his father's house. So he journeyed back home, humble and contrite not looking for restoration, but to be one of his father's employees. The father saw him coming while even still off in a distance, and ran out and embraced him, kissed him, and restored him.

Our heavenly father has always loved us, even before we were in our mother's womb. He knew that we would make mistakes, but loved us anyway. He gave us many blessings in life, and like the prodigal son we squandered them. But like the father did for his prodigal son, God wants to restore us. The Word of God tells us in Joel 2:25:

"I will restore to you the years
 that the swarming locust has eaten,
 the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
 my great army, which I sent among you."

The Prodigal Son didn't approach his father with an attitude of entitlement, but with a spirit of contrition. He didn't head back to his father's house, expecting to be an important shot caller, he would have been content to scrub the toilet. Any day in his father's house was better than every day he was spending in the world. The Father saw him coming from afar, He surely was waiting in anticipation. When we repent and turn toward God and acknowledge our sin as this son did (v.21) God sees us. God loves us! He wants to restore our joy, peace, and love.

Word of our Testimony

Amber's Testimony

My Name is Amber, I am 32 years old and this is my testimony. Well, growing up was very difficult for me. Both of my parents were absent a majority of my upbringing. As a child I experienced different variations of abuse. As I grew into a teenager I ventured on into hardcore substance abuse and with that came traumatic situations. I lost my cousin at 16. Then I just kind of went really wild, into very self-destructive behaviors. I wanted nothing more than not to feel anything. I was in and out of group homes and foster homes and on this crazy mission to completely destroy myself. Then I became a mother at the age of 23. I gave birth to a beautiful little boy named Kalib. Fresh out of prison I completed two residential programs. I thought I had it all figured out. Little did I know that I was only temporarily struggling to stay clean and not resolving the reasons as to why I would use. There would be periods where I would do really well and then I would relapse. There was so much pain and self hatred I carried with me. So, as time went on I was still very broken lost and struggling to live through guilt. Something had to change. After a series of unfortunate events, my life was in complete shambles. My Dad tells the only way you can truly change your life is to go to the ranch. After some time away from my child, I ended up on the front porch of Set Free Women's Ranch in Phelan. I was broken, tired, strung out on heroin. I was consumed with guilt and shame. During my stay at the

ranch, I found it to be a home filled with love and so much healing and the one and only answer to all my sorrow. I finally surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. Slowly, but surely the weights started falling off/ The ladies at the ranch would lay hands on me, pray for me and helped pave the way for a new way to live, buy preaching words found in the one and only manuscript on how to live righteously called the Holy Bible. I was once broken, lost, condemned and filled with sorrow and severe heart aches. As I write this testimony now, I am completely reborn and ready to live my life according to God's will. I am forever grateful to God for this mercy and grace. I am forever grateful to Set Free Women's Ranch for having such great women of God to help me transform into what God destined for me to be,

Thankful Forever,

Amber

Mary Ruth's Testimony

They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 1 John 4:5

This is my testimony. My name is Mary Ruth Loucks and that is how I once lived. I was lost, hopeless, drug addicted and lived as the world wanted e to live. I let the adversary have his way with me and he was slowly dragging me down

to the depths of hell with him. I had the volume of the world turned up so loud that I tuned father God out. See I thought I had it all—the job, a place to live, a car, etc.—and a snap of a finger and I lost it all. I am here to testify that God pulled me out of the depths of hell, out of Satan's hand! Father cleansed me and gave me life and hope again. As it says in 1 John 4:4," You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Philippians 4:13:" I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I have surrendered my whole heart, mind, and soul to God. I am no longer hopeless or ashamed. I am a daughter of them most high God that has faith, hope, joy and love. I live my life as God directs me and with my living hope inside my heart.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1 John 5:4)

Mary Ruth Loucks



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