

Eric & Janet Thimell



Victory Ranch

Dear friends,

We have been reflecting on how widespread our connections with you are. Did we meet you in California, Texas, Maine, Arkansas, Florida, Colorado, Idaho, or South Carolina? Or was it in the Philippines, Japan, Guam, Panama, South Korea, Germany, or somewhere in Europe? We want you to know that we are so thankful for each of you and the kingdom connection we share with you.

We have been at Victory Ranch for 20 months now, and the ministry of the last 14 has been unlike any we've ever done. Our regular AIT and Task Force Marshall retreats for Soldiers and Sailors ground to a halt in March 2020 due to the worldwide pandemic. On the one hand, while that created distress, it also gave us unprecedented opportunities to get work done around the Ranch without weekly interruptions. We've completed several repairs and upgrades to the property, and more are in process (or at the minimum, are on the list!) The Lord has sent us some very skilled volunteers to come alongside, and we are more than grateful.

volunteer in April, taking them on cleanup detail on our hiking trail. He and Eric are together every week replacing siding, cutting down trees, working on replacing the lodge patio entrance, solving construction problems, and a myriad of other things. Rick is so invested in the work out here and he loves the ministry of Victory Ranch. He gives generously of his time, talent, and finances, as well as offering moral support! He has a wide range of things he does elsewhere, which includes faithfully teaching a senior Sunday school class at Shandon Baptist Church. That sweet class has also been faithful to support the ministry at Victory Ranch with generous giving.

Don Bellanger, an all-around construction equipment mechanic, has time-after-time patiently taught Eric as he repaired our backhoe and zero-turn mower. Not only does he know how to repair heavy equipment, he puts his back to the work, undaunted by the inevitable heat and humidity. Two weeks ago, he brought Gene, a "retired" HVAC technician, to fix our "unrepairable" bunkhouse

air conditioning (how incredibly grateful we are!) On Sunday mornings Don greets people at the church entrance. Don is a faithful man of God who blesses us constantly.

We are glad to have hosted and continue to host teams of folks who come along to lend a helping hand at the Ranch. We had 17 Columbia International University students come last month. Next month, a group of men from Trenholm Baptist Church in Columbia will come for the day, and a skillful crew of



Rick Hurst, a retired engineer and educator, has been here weekly to help with anything and everything. Recently, he very skillfully helped build our new retaining wall for the upgraded patio entrance. He helped lead the team from Columbia International University who came to

men from a church in Colorado will come for a week to help with the deck project and rebuild the entrance to the bunkhouse. We will never be able to adequately thank all these folks for their labor, so we just feed them well and praise the Lord.

Our teammates Bob and Glenda Ball are such great assets here! Bob manages the lake and grounds to a large extent, along with barn projects, painting, and such. Glenda is so gifted in the kitchen and hospitality is her great love. When you look up “servant” in the dictionary, their picture is likely beside the definition.

Our current projects center on replacing the lodge deck and patio. We have been working on this in fits and starts due to the intermittent winter and spring rains. The retaining wall for the patio, the french drain, and the electrical service has all been completed. We are now grading the patio area for setting the pavers on gravel and sand. Next, we will replace the lodge entrance with a real door—it is now just sliding glass, and partially broken at that. Then, we will tear out the old rotting deck and replace it with a new one that is a bit wider. The present railings will likely give way if put to the test, as the decking has already done, leaving gaping holes in several places.

Cadence has set up the **Victory Ranch Deck Project** as a special project for which they will reduce the normal administrative allocation if you wish to help with funding this estimated \$14,000 project. You can give by check by following the instructions on the tear-off slip below, or online at Cadence.org/VictoryRanchDeck.

We have had several retreats and meetings out here despite COVID-19. Folks can come here and socially distance while still enjoying the Ranch and all it has to offer. We have had overnight retreats for churches, an awards ceremony for Task Force Marshall folks who were getting ready to transfer assignments, a few women’s events, and more. We average a couple of events a month.

Our big prayer request, while preparing the Ranch to be a better facility, is that we will soon be able to host **more consistent retreats and events more often** for our military men and women. Because we have been through more than a year without regular retreats, there will have to be new groundwork laid for them to begin again. Please pray with us about all of this.

On a personal level, we are feeling good despite being classified as “elderly” by some (we sure don’t THINK elderly, but we often FEEL elderly!) In recent weeks, Eric



has shoveled dirt and continued to prepare the patio area for gravel and pavers, and Janet shoveled and cleaned rock for use in the French drain. Eric and Rick also cut down six trees recently and Janet worked in the barn and bunkhouse on various projects.

We have hosted several friends who have come through and prepared menus for meals as more folks plan to come. We are so glad that we are “on the way” for people traveling south to Florida and north to other locations! What fun to renew old friendships and show them the beauty of Victory Ranch. Janet also has the privilege of teaching two women’s Bible studies. We just finished the book of Micah and our next challenge is the book of Titus.

We are honored to be given this work to do by the Lord. And we are honored by all of you who stand with us in prayer and support. Our door is open, and the fishing is good!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

In His love and for His sake,
Eric and Janet Thimell



Cadence
INTERNATIONAL

Eric and Janet Thimell

1043 Richard Simons Rd, Eastover, SC 29044
Eric.Thimell@Cadence.org • Eric: 720.937.5576
Janet.Thimell@Cadence.org • Janet: 303.503.8870

Cadence.org/Thimell
Cadence.org/VictoryRanchDeck

Eric & Janet Thimell
Partnership Involvement

Acct.# 10100

- I will pray for the Thimells
- I will support their ministry with:
\$ _____ per month quarter year
Starting date: _____
- Victory Ranch Deck Project (40196:996.1117)
I have enclosed a special gift: \$ _____
- I would like to receive the Thimells’ ministry emails
- Please remove me from their mailing list

To give to the Thimells’ ministry, please donate with a check* made payable to **Cadence International** or give online at **Cadence.org/Thimell**

*Please do not write a missionary’s name or information anywhere on the check. Instead, include this slip with your donation.

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