

*Alleluia! O how the angels sang,
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light,
'Twas the birthday of a King.*

The Birthday of a King, William Harold Neidlinger 1863–1924

Eric & Janet Thimell

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Dear ones,

This is our heart's cry, more so than ever. Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel (and the rest of Your world, crying desperately for You). As once again we approach the Christmas season, we think more longingly of the day when the Lord Jesus returns for His bride. Until then, though, there is much work to do and much for which to be thankful!



THE RANCH

We are so thrilled that our calendar is **full** of events and busier than it has been since before COVID-19. We have had and will continue to have numerous opportunities ahead to serve Soldiers from Fort Jackson and Airmen from Shaw Air Force Base. Resiliency training, marriage retreats, family days, and individuals coming for R&R keep us hopping (and cooking!). We have hosted church events and youth groups as well.

The work at the Ranch continues unabated. Siding, floors, electrical projects, a new AC unit, remodeling, repairing and treating outdoor furniture, and so much more—job security! One job gets done, and seven more pop up or suggest themselves to us. It's like whack-a-mole, only more intense!

We are making improvements galore, many of them due to Trevor and Jen Claypool, the soon-to-be new directors at Victory Ranch. They are an amazingly gifted couple with vision and creative ideas about what can be done here. We find ourselves refreshed and impressed as we work alongside them. The team (along with Bob and Glenda) laughs a lot!

THE THIMELLS

We have been here nearly four-and-a-half years! We purchased a home five miles from the Ranch (a total God-thing) back in April, which has enabled us to use the trailer on the Ranch for expanded overnight guest space. Glenda and Jen have made it a lovely place, and the guys work faithfully on much-needed repairs as time and usage permit. We still have a guest room for those of you who would like to visit Victory Ranch and see it for yourselves!

Trevor and Jen, along with Bob and Glenda, are working diligently to build their support teams. Once the Claypools have met their goal, they will step into the role of Ranch Directors. The Lord knows when that will happen, but we do anticipate that it will be soon.

Eric and I will move to team member status as “Logistics and Maintenance” folks. There will always be plenty to do, and as long as we are in good health and able, we will stay on that course. It is such a privilege to minister to our military.





A side note: we have lost some of our monthly support due to unexpected circumstances in the lives of a few dear friends. Would you pray for us in this? The Lord knows.

We have begun worshipping and working at Shaw Air Force Base chapel. We love Shandon Baptist Church, where we were attending, and we will still occasionally visit our beloved Sunday school class, taught by Rick Hurst (our primo volunteer at the Ranch). But in August, the Lord clearly moved us to the Palmetto Chapel at Shaw AFB, and we have settled into this community. It is an even closer drive from our home to Shaw than it was to Shandon. I have been teaching the Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible study—a privilege! Additional roles have been suggested for us there, so stay tuned.

Soon, I will be teaching on the Advent season and what that means as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's birth. We don't need to be reminded that there is so much at stake

on the world stage and that it's getting more dangerous by the day, especially for God's people. We do need to be reminded not to let the season be stolen by hustle and bustle, financial stress, and family disruptions and disputes. May we encourage you to examine your hearts and your lists and do whatever you need to take **much** time to **look at Jesus**.

Isaiah 9:6 *For a Child will be born for us, a Son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Please let us know how we can pray for you. Merry Christmas, and may the new year be full of the joy of the Lord for you all.

Blessed by you and thankful for you,
Janet and Eric Thimell



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