



A Servant's Heart

Chino Valley Released Time Christian Education

Spring Newsletter 2020

A Letter from our Director ✂ Gail Blake Smith ✂

Chino Valley Released Time
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is nonprofit 501C3

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Released Time Christian
Education for Chino Valley
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Whoever coined the phrase, "where did the time go?", was truly a wise person. It seems like yesterday that our ministry was a baby and was crawling around for mere existence. We had no idea in 1998 what our Lord had in mind for His great and wonderful Kingdom work with children.

Today, almost 23 years later, there are no words to express our joy and gratitude for what God has done, by using us to make an eternal difference in the lives of kids in public education. **Only He** could open the door for us to bring kids on the bus for one hour a week at all 22 district elementary schools and tell them about a God who loves them and His Son who died for their sins. **Only He** could have moved deep into the hearts of our students to witness hundreds accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. **Only He** could have called a cadre of 45 of the most faithful domestic missionaries that I have ever been associated with. Lastly, **Only He** could have recruited the most dependable, gifted, and generous ministry partners who serve and coalesce with us today, as well as in years past.

Our volunteers are more than committed; the crazy picture below will better illustrate what I mean: a student became sick on the bus at Glenmeade Elementary. Our two volunteers, Caroline and Edward attempted to clean up the mess with sanitary wipes. However, they knew they needed to go back that night and do a thorough cleaning. So, all suited up and ready to attack the nasty left over germs, Caroline and Edward went back in the dark and did the cleaning! This is just one example of service above and beyond!

We thank God for this amazing adventure He has us on and especially all of you for your continued, love, prayers and support!



Train up a child in the way he
should go, and when he is old
he shall not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6



Chino Valley Released Time Volunteers

God certainly is doing a wonderful work at Litel Elementary. So many parents were very eager to enroll their children at BTSN, several expressing that they were new to the district or had just moved from out of state and were so happy to hear about this program being offered. 25 students hop on our bus at Litel every Tuesday, prepared with their memory verse and so excited to learn about their amazing Savior Jesus. Several 6th graders are on the bus this year and it is awesome to see that they will take all that they are learning into their junior

high years and beyond. Often, a mirror is held up to their beautiful faces so that the children can see that each and every one of them are God's special creation and who they see in the mirror is the reason that God gave everything. A key component of every class is that all of the students are told about how much they are loved by God and that He has a plan and a purpose for each of their lives. God is so very good and we continue to be so grateful for the abundance of children that He has provided at Litel.



Litel Elementary

Every Wednesday at 11am I am greeted by a great bunch of kids who are excited and yearning to learn about Jesus. These students are, at an early age, choosing to offer a sacrifice of time to the Lord to leave their classrooms and come on the bus to worship Him and read His Word. I have had the privilege of serving at Butterfield Ranch Elementary for four years and in those four years I have been a first-hand witness to God's faithfulness to the ministry at this school. Not only do we enjoy great favor with the principal, office staff, teachers and parents, but God has grown the group of students to 25 this year!

One of the greatest experiences I have had with the Butterfield kids happened right around Easter. After teaching a lesson in which the gospel was proclaimed, I asked the kids if there was anyone who had not yet asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. One sweet fourth grade girl who had been coming to the bus faithfully every week since the beginning of the year raised her hand. On the walk back to school from the bus, I talked with her one on one and she told me that she believed everything we had been talking about on the bus all year, but that she needed some time to think about it to make sure she was making the right decision. I was encouraged that she understood the importance of such



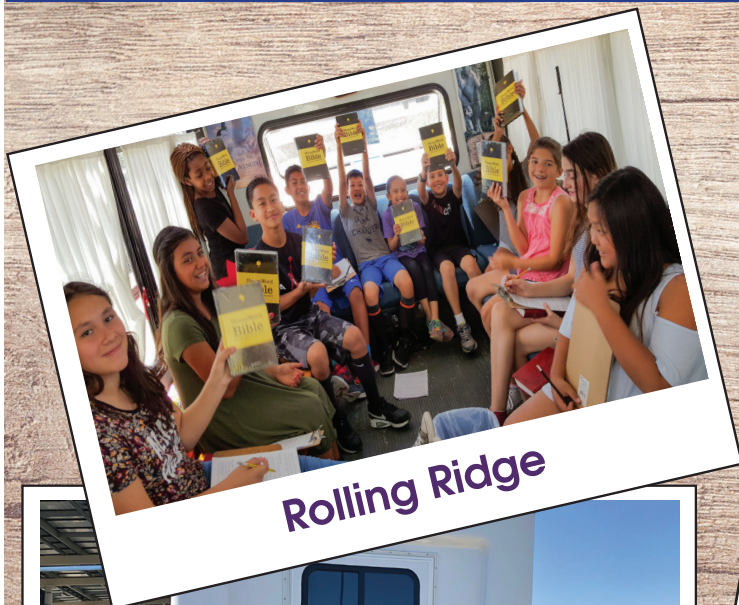
Butterfield Elementary

a decision, but I also encouraged her not to let too much time pass by reminding her that until you say "Yes" to Jesus, it's like you're saying "No." The next class we had was two weeks later and this young lady came running out of the office right up to me saying, "I did it! I did it! I thought about everything I've learned all year and I decided to ask Jesus in my heart! I'm a Christian now!" The whole bus celebrated that day!

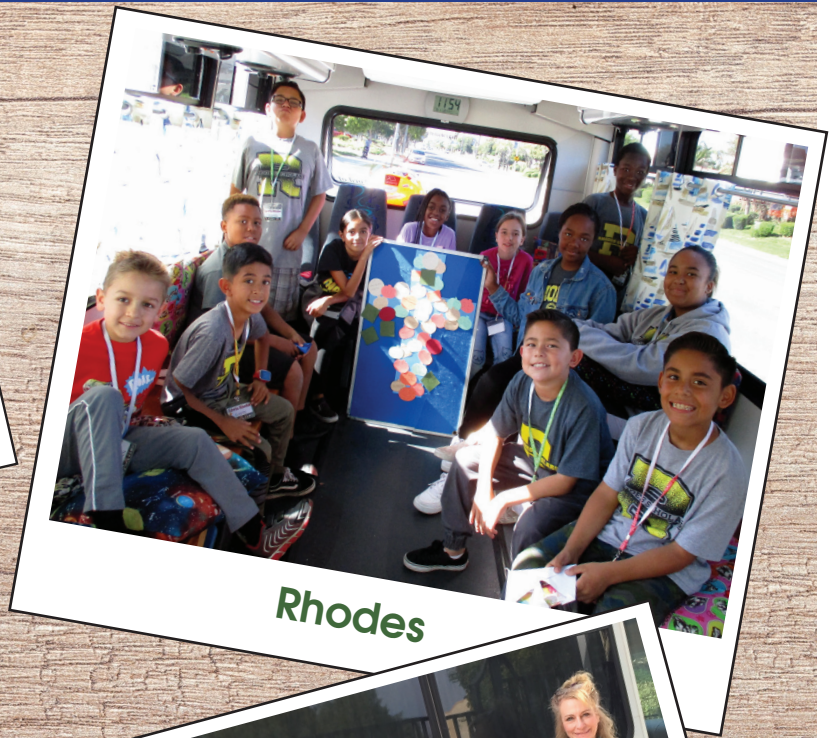
It is such a blessing to watch children come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to watch them grow in their faith and their knowledge of Him. No matter what is going on in their homes or in school, these kids know that the bus is a safe place where they are loved and where they are constantly pointed to their Creator who loves them and will never leave them or forsake them.

I pray there will be a Released Time bus parked on the street right outside of Butterfield Ranch Elementary every Wednesday morning for a long time to come; great things happen inside that bus!





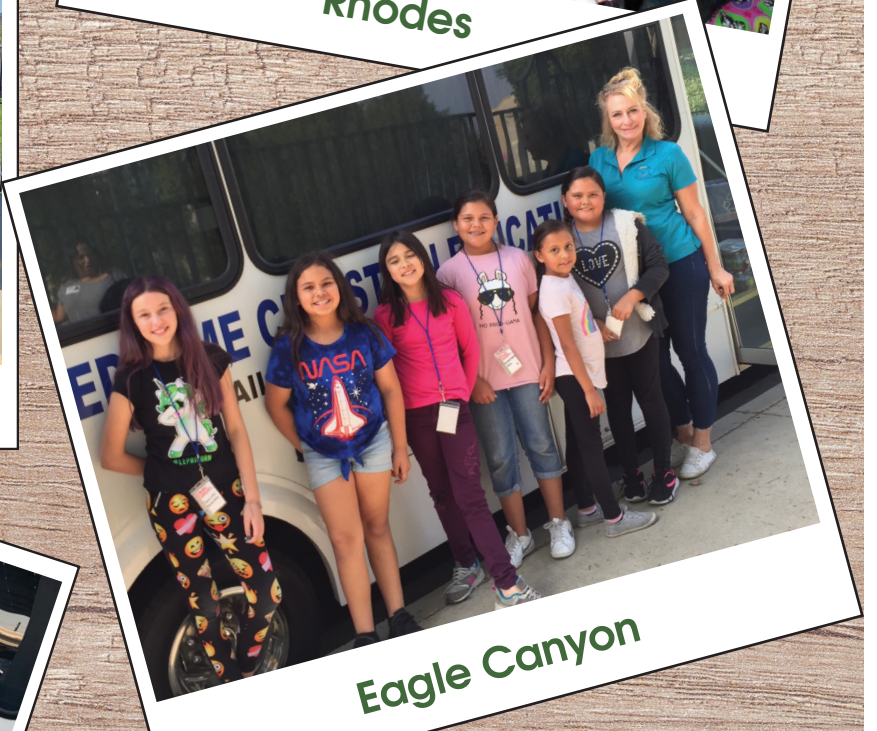
Rolling Ridge



Rhodes



Cal Aero



Eagle Canyon



Cortez



Hidden Trails



Oak Ridge

Help Needed to Grow CA RTCE



The Lord brought an amazing ministry partner to us last summer; her name is Bianca Yonathan. He put on her heart to help us grow Released Time through various medias. Bianca rushed into her new God-given assignment and had an interview set up for us with KWAVE almost right away. From left to right are: Matt Jonson with KWAVE, Gail Blake-Smith, Pastor Tommy Cota and Bianca Yonathan. Moreover, she has scheduled our next interview with KKLA on March 8. We need many people to help us reach out to other churches and school districts here in California.

*You don't have to
cross the sea to be
a missionary;
you just have to
see the cross*

WILL YOU HELP US GROW THE RELEASED TIME CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA?

- ♥ 1560 Evangelical Churches in California
- ♥ 977 Public School Districts in California
- ♥ 17 Districts have Released Time Programs

The newest active Released Time Program in California is 22 years old! There is a real urgency in today's culture to reach kids. We need your help in getting the word out to churches and school districts.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

We ask that people partner with us to grow and revive the California Released Time program. The work can be done from home via a computer and telephone. Won't you partner with us in the great Kingdom Work?

FIRST PRAY then go to the school web-site and search under Student or School Board policies for a "RELIGIOUS POLICY". Look for state code 46014. See if they have a policy in place or not, then write down the name of the district with a YES (include policy #), or NO next to District name.

THEN if no policy is in place, E-mail the School Board President and inquire about the process to establish one. Contact the churches within the district's area; ask to speak with their Children's Pastor, and explain what the Released Time Program is, let them know you have reached out to the School Board President and try to get their churches support.

LASTLY send an E-mail to Gail Blake-Smith to let her know your progress, so far. Please send your updates on a weekly basis: gail4rt@msn.com. Include the school district's name/ church name/contact person/status etc. and what follow up needs to occur. A weekly E-mail will, in turn, be sent to avoid duplication of activity and keep the team updated on all current activity.



California Released Time
Christian
Education Programs

Partnering together with Jesus
for His kids and Kingdom

For more information: smicalifornia.org