



# Serving the UNDERSERVED

NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Volume 5, Number 1

## From Mike - 2013

WOW!!!! What a start God has given Plant Today to 2013! I wish you could have been a part of each day since the first of the year.

So much has happened in a very short time. As most of you know, we just moved to our new location and are finally able to live on the property with the horses! Moving is always a BIG event. Moving a household is stress enough, but when you add moving seven horses and all of their equipment — that was quite a lot for this old man! We began cleaning the new house on the evening of December 29, then began moving the next day. We were so excited because we knew we were moving to the location that only God could have designed and put together, regardless of moving everything between Christmas and New Year's Day!

Many of you were able to share in the barn warming and open house held on January 19, so please forgive the repetitiveness as I describe a little of what God has provided. Late last summer, Sergio Esteves, our son-in-law, connected us with some people from Grace Fellowship church. The church had just purchased a 10 acre

parcel that had been the Roger Dean Stables. (For those of you who aren't "locals," the late Roger Dean was a local car dealer.) The property is beautifully groomed, with a 19 stall barn, two large turn-outs, a riding ring, and a three bedroom house.



This is the front of the barn, with the riding ring to the left. This photo was taken before the addition of the wheelchair ramp — which we will tell you about in the next update. As you can see, there is plenty of space for people to congregate.



A lesson in progress — with new rider Brianna being instructed by Debbie and assisted by Nikki, Mike, Micaela, and Pete. The house is in the background.





Pete assists Brianna with her helmet before the start of her lesson. In the background, Ollie, Janae, Daniel, and Mike discuss plans for the new wheelchair ramp, which was designed and built by Ollie, Janae's father.



A view of the riding ring during a lesson. Andrew, an independent rider, is being instructed by Debbie. The two turn-outs are in the background.

Over the course of several months of discussions, we found that we had a common mission to “serve the underserved” in the special needs community. By late November we determined that a partnership between Grace Fellowship and Plant Today was something God had put together. In a nutshell, we are partnering with Grace Fellowship to be their special needs riding program, while we continue to maintain our riding program in its entirety. We are initially taking ten riders recommended by Grace Fellowship, to be added to our present 30+ riders, for the end result that we will now be serving about 42 riders and their families!

As to the property, it is so picturesque. The house was built in the 1950s but has been remodeled and is perfect for the ministry of Plant Today, with a lot of area to entertain the people God has called us to serve. The barn was built in the 1970s and was designed to be functional — not just a show piece. It has a large tack room for all the equipment required for the riding program, a beautiful porch that overlooks the riding ring and turn-outs, and a real bathroom, not just a port-a-pottie!



We are so blessed by the facility. There were many things needed as we began to set up a barn operation from scratch, and many of you responded to the “wish-list” that was attached to our “Save the Date” flyer we sent out. THANK YOU for donating items on that list or making it possible for us to purchase many of them! You have been a very special blessing. We are still in need of a few items, so if God puts it on your heart, please contact us.

A verse that God gave me going into this year is from I Peter 4:19. Mike's paraphrase says, “. . . so trust God, the one who created you and all things, for He has never and will never fail you.” We saw God's hand time and again on this move. We continue to see God's hand of blessing on what we are doing. I ask you to pray for me as the leader that I will continually seek God's plan and no other.

For the barn warming, we invited you to bring gifts of clothing for us to take to San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala when we return at the end of April. THANK YOU so much for the beautiful clothes! Many were brand new! The people in the San Pedro Las Huertas area are so appreciative of your generosity. You are

clothing those who are barefoot and perhaps have only one set of clothes.

As I write this, we just had a donation of over 3500 used beach towels, given by a time-share in Orlando. This opportunity came through a supporter, Jim Laidlaw. We will be distributing these towels to other non-profits in need, including some local ones. The bulk of the towels are going to orphanages in Guatemala and Haiti, including Casa Samuel that you support. When we contacted Casa Samuel about the gift, they told us that they were so excited because they never have enough towels and these are very hard to come by. We are especially thankful to Pastor Byron Dardon for his provision of transportation in shipping these into Guatemala.

On that note, I would like to invite you to join us on our upcoming missions trip to Guatemala on April 23, 2013. Among other things, we will be visiting Casa Samuel on this trip, and conducting an eyeglass clinic for the children. If you feel led, please contact me for more information.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter of the latest happenings. And please pray daily for God to use us and the facilities to "serve the underserved." Thank you for being a partner with us, and such a vital part of this ministry!

In Him,

*Mike*



Janae's lesson, conducted by Nikki, Daniel, Pete, and Mike, and utilizing "Miss April." The front entrance to the barn is in the background.



Ollie, the designer and builder of the wheelchair ramp, working on its construction.

**Contact Us:**

<http://www.planttoday.org>

[mikemedley@planttoday.org](mailto:mikemedley@planttoday.org)

8304 Okeechobee Blvd.,  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Phone number: 954-646-0977

Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services Registration #CH31165. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.