

# MELISSA JOY

## letting go old dreams and new vision

The day I first came to Rancho 3M I knew that this is where I wanted to be. It was a lifelong dream that God eventually fulfilled almost four years ago. I have loved every minute of being here and God has used this place and especially these children to teach me, grow me and humble me in ways I never could have imagined. There have been some hard times, but I wouldn't give up even a single moment of it. These children will forever be in my heart and a part of who I am.



I never really thought this day would come, but here it is. This October I will be leaving Rancho 3M and returning with my family to our home in Apex, NC.

## the long process prayer and decisions

About six months ago my family and I started praying about whether or not God was calling us to stay on here at Rancho 3M or if He was calling us to go back home. I prayed for months what God would have my family do and never really got any leading from Him either way, but one day I decided to pray specifically what He had for me. It was almost instantaneous and a stronger sense of His leading than I even had when I came here. I knew in that moment that God was calling me to go back home to NC. I honestly have no idea

where the Lord will lead through all this, but I thank Him every day for His clear leading in this because I don't think I could walk through the heartbreak of leaving without knowing it was the Lord's will for me. Tears have already been shed and I know there are more to come, but I also know that God will be with me and my family as we head into this new and very different season.

## staff needed the harvest is plentiful

The Ranch has many needs and we will be leaving behind even more work when we leave. Please join us in prayer for new staff.  
Dorm Parents for Little Boys: I have been praying for years for a bilingual couple to live with the boys who have a heart to really invest in, disciple and serve the little boys  
Dorm Mom for the girls: A single woman who wants to throw her heart and soul into caring for the girls.  
Secretary: Dean still needs a secretary!  
Maintenance: Someone to keep up with the never ending list of things that break and need to be fixed.

## prayers for grace taking one day at a time

I covet your prayers for the next couple months as I know I will be tempted to pull away and disconnect in an attempt to lessen the pain of

separation, but I want to give all I have to these children till the day I leave. I need God's grace more than ever before.



## moving on new challenges

My family and I are planning to work through the end of September and head back to North Carolina in early October.

I would like to ask my supporters to prayerfully consider supporting me through September. I have been putting aside all my extra money for the trip back home, but I still need enough to make it through the next couple months and hopefully a couple weeks back home until I can get a job.

I am excited to go back to our old church and to have the chance to be fully involved in a church family again. I will also be looking for a decent paying job, so if anyone knows of anything: :)

Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support over the years. I have been truly blessed and you all have been a part of the lives of the children here. Thank You! I hope one day in heaven we will get to meet each and every one of them.

