



Box

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Miracle Mountain Ranch

Cross

Bulletin

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Miracle Mountain Ranch Missions, Inc.
101 Rodeo Dr.
Spring Creek, PA 16436
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2012
Summer Camp
Brochure Inside

A Vision larger than the Arena

When I was in high school, I had a physics teacher who was nearing retirement. While math was never my strength, I will never forget that class. The teacher taught more on life than he did on physics. He talked to us about community service and prioritizing family. He told stories of WWII and taught us about sacrifice, honor, and duty. While I know it was his job to teach us physics, I must say that today, I exercise the life lessons from that class more than I utilize the physics formulas. He had a vision for his students that was larger than physics.

As a young horsemanship instructor, during summer camp, I was challenged by the Lord to have a vision for my students that was larger than the arena. I realized that I had been given leadership not just through position, but even more so by the opportunity for influence. How would I use this gift? Would I be satisfied with my students only gaining horsemanship skills, or would I draw attention to the tremendous life lessons that were occurring within that class each day?

When I look at the ministry of Miracle Mountain Ranch, it is with purposeful eyes. Each retreat, outing, summer camp, and apprentice schedule is viewed through the lens of eternal impact. We call it "programming with a purpose." It is our privilege to help people learn to view the circumstances of their lives according to God's character, not view His character by the circumstances of their lives.

As a young man just learning to train horses, an accomplished horse trainer told me that if I was going to get into this business that I should get a big tool box, not just a bag of tricks. He explained that no two horses are alike and that I should learn multiple ways to accomplish the same maneuver so as to be able to accommodate the differences I would find in each horse. God knows this about His children as well and He doesn't simply have a toolbox or bag of tricks but instead has all things at His disposal to accomplish His purpose.

A challenge on the confidence course, an occurrence within a field game, or a significant moment with a horse, whether during a riding lesson or out on the trail, can bring about an opportunity to learn a life lesson. This is how the expression "A Mountaintop experience that will last a lifetime" came about.

While we at the Ranch are deliberate in our programs, we cannot take credit for the orchestration or lasting results of these events; they are completely within the Lord's control. His hand is purposeful and loving toward the accomplishment of His will. Philippians 2:13 tells us "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."



Regretfully, I must admit that I am a child of my culture and tend to struggle with being an instant gratification person. I choose soft candy over hard candy because I don't have patience for the latter. God's processes in our lives are not rushed but instead work on a time frame that is based not just on moments and days, but on lifetimes, generations, and eternity.

Years ago I heard the story of a freshman college student meeting with his advisor and considering the class selection that would lead to his desired degree. The advisor laid out two scenarios. One was streamlined and would see the student graduate on time or even earlier. The other would take longer, but would equip the student more substantially for his long-term success. The student quickly jumped on the streamlined package until the advisor wisely reminded him that when God makes an oak tree, He takes 50 years, but it only takes three months to grow a squash. There are no shortcuts to the processes that God is taking us through. We need simply to rest in His timing and His tools. Remember to have a "vision larger than the arena."

Matt Cox

Executive Director
Miracle Mountain Ranch

into our lives
Glimpse

Meet The
BOARD

Miracle Mountain Ranch is blessed to have a tremendous Board of Directors that plays a critical role in the ministry here. These members give sacrificially of their time and energy.

Our board presently consists of:

Roger Allen, the president of the board, who is a friend and supporter of the Ranch, has served on the Ranch board for 12 years. He also teaches a class for the School of Discipleship called "Grief and Grieving". This class is open for the public to attend. It has been a blessing for those who have experienced loss or desire to be better equipped to comfort those who are going through times of grief.

Gary Wells, the Vice President of the Board, resides locally. He has offered his talents and financial expertise to help the Ranch many years before becoming a recent board member.

Carl Matice is new to the role of board member, but is a very familiar face around the Ranch. Carl and his wife Mary are both graduates of our apprenticeship program. He also served on staff for 6 years as our Program Director. Carl is the Secretary of the Board.

We are excited to introduce these men to you and ask that you pray for them and their leadership.

PROGRESS Report

We are expecting to move from the old maintenance building into the Operations Headquarters this winter. Inside the Operations Headquarters, we are now building office space, a mezzanine for storage, and connecting the heat. This move will benefit our operations crew by creating many heated spaces for our ever-growing student body to work on maintenance and construction projects.

This fall we have remodeled our Town Hall reception area. God blessed us with a timely finish just before the Community Christmas party on December 3rd. We have also re-roofed Zed's, and other bunkhouses, a portion of Cox's house, and the Carpenter's house. We praise God that we have finished the roofs before any heavy snow has fallen here on the mountain!

We are looking forward to starting the Central Restroom reconstruction. This new building will be erected on the site of the old Central Restrooms. It will contain four bunkhouses on the 2nd floor, new updated winterized restrooms on the street level, and an activity center in the walkout basement leading to the outdoor court area behind. This building is a critical part of our strategic growth plan as we seek to broaden our impact in our community. We need help to make this happen. It is going to take money and muscle over the course of the winter and spring to get it ready. If you would like to volunteer or organize a group to volunteer, please contact us!



Scholarship Update:

What defines whether we are successful as a ministry? According to the ministry philosophy at MMR, success is when we are able to maximize our spiritual impact in our community. Success is not about maximizing our income, though it helps to be profitable. Sometimes a little less income is better, if it means a greater opportunity to share the gospel. This is where our summer camp scholarships come into focus. This year the Lord enabled us to scholarship \$36,000 in camp fees to help kids come to camp who otherwise would not have come.

We have always said that no child would be turned away from camp for a lack of money, but this year we were out looking for those kids needing scholarships to come to camp. Through our local churches and community leaders, we have found some of them, but the field is large and white unto harvest!

The Lord is putting a burden in our hearts for the 100,000 kids in our local communities. These children have very real spiritual needs and many have never heard the clear plan of salvation. This summer 47 children accepted Christ as their Savior!

We believe the scholarship program will be key to impacting these previously unreached youth. We are setting a goal to scholarship \$50,000 during summer camp next year. Pray with us, as we seek the Lord's direction and provision for this adventure.

How can you be a part of this opportunity?

1. Help us find the kids. If you know of families that could benefit from the scholarship program, let us know.
2. Get your church involved in the scholarship program. We will work with churches to see that the children they are ministering to have the opportunity for summer camp.
3. Support the scholarship fund. We host a golf scramble and a 5k race that benefit the scholarship program. Many others contribute directly to the scholarship fund.
4. Contribute toward the building projects that will be a part of this growth through financial backing or by volunteering your construction skills.

For more information, go to the Scholarship page at mmrm.org



Miracle Mountain Ranch Winter Retreats

Winter Youth Retreats:

Are you living a called out life or do you find yourself just blending in with the world around you? Join us for our winter retreat weekends as we dive into what it means to live as one called out for Christ. Find encouragement and challenge with others your age and get ready to impact your world. Trail rides, indoor and outdoor activities, Octaball, team building activities, sports, sledding, and tubing are all part of the plan.



MMR Media Summit Mar 23 - 25

This weekend camp is designed for those who aspire to learn Video and Photography skills. We will have both Video and Photography Professionals teaching techniques for these areas of media production. Come for an educational experience as well as fellowship and spiritual challenge as it relates to media. You are welcome to bring your own equipment, but it is not required. Speakers are Caleb Pike, Donnie Rosie, Sarah Eddy, and Mark Spencer.

Cost: \$109 (\$125 after Mar. 1)

Cost to attend but not stay at the Ranch is \$75.00

Youth Conference: Jan. 13 - 16

We kick off Friday night at 7:00, and our weekend concludes at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Martin Luther King Day. We have specifically designed this weekend for youth groups. Cost: \$109* **Age 13+** Look for details online.

Jr. Winter Camp Jan. 27 - 29

Jr. Winter Camp starts off on Friday night at 7:00 and wraps up on Sunday around 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$85* **Age 7-12**. Our planned speakers are: Timothy Rega, Noelle Minor, Nichole Smith. There are more specific details listed online.

Sr. Winter Camp Feb. 17 - 20

This camp starts Friday night at 7:00. Our weekend concludes at 1:00 p.m. President's Day Monday. Cost: \$109* **Age 13+**. Matt Cox is our planned speaker. There are more specific details listed online.

SALT Week: Feb. 12 - 20

If you're looking for an opportunity to deepen your walk with God, experience being part of a working ministry, train alongside our apprentices and staff, and build valuable life skills, this is the week for you. Our S.A.L.T. (Servant Attitude Leadership Training) week is designed to enable young adults (age: 13+) the chance to experience being a part of the accountable fellowship of other Christians as we explore God's truth in both challenging sessions and intimate small-group discussions. Our planned speakers are: Matt and Jenni Cox, Donnie Rosie, Mark Carpenter, Mark Brenner, and Curtis Twigg.

You will also gain valuable insight into what it takes to make a ministry function as you become a part of work projects in the many departments of the Ranch. These work times will give you opportunity to evaluate your actions, reactions, and belief systems, as you learn what it takes to serve unconditionally.

Experience sharing your heart and watching others live transparently as the day wraps up in a fellowship time. You will not regret the challenges and blessings you will gain as part of this week. (Includes Sr. Winter Camp)

Cost: \$550 **Age 13+**

***Bring a group of 5 or more and get a \$10.00 per person discount.**

REGISTER
ONLINE
WWW.MMR.RCH

Miracle Mountain Ranch Spring Retreats

★ Visit our Website ★
For pricing Details

Dinner Trail Ride: May 26

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather of northwest Pennsylvania! Come join us for a Dinner Ride out on the trail. This special evening will include two hours of trail riding, as well as great food and fellowship around the fire. You will want to arrive at the Ranch by 2:30 p.m. to head out on the trail.

Price: \$35 by horseback, \$15 by hayride

Father/Son Retreat: June 1 - 3

Join the ranch staff at the 2012 Father-Son retreat weekend at Fort Wilderness, our outpost camp. Take this opportunity to get away and share some father/son time in the great outdoors. This year our hosts will be Dale Brenner, Don and Donnie Rosie, and Les Utegg. Our theme is Love, Honor and Wisdom.

Activities will include:

Trail riding, hiking, clay pigeon shooting, confidence course and this year we hope to add the Flying Squirrel and/or King Swing, as well as a paintball range and southern style BBQ. You may bring your own gun and shells or use ours.

Optional: Paintball on Friday afternoon



CHA: June 3 - 8

Miracle Mountain Ranch is hosting a CHA Certification Clinic this spring. CHA is nationally recognized for their horsemanship instructor certifications. The clinics are available to those age 18 and older hoping to obtain instructor certification with CHA. The clinics include both Western and English certification. The cost is \$675 For the week.

For more information, go to www.cha-ahse.org.

For registration, go to www.mmrm.org.

Reining Clinic: May 4 - 6

Speaker: Ben Baldus

Ben Baldus trains and shows NRHA reining horses for the Waggoner Ranch in Electra, Texas. He is an exceptionally talented horse trainer and more importantly he is an effective communicator, with a passion to teach others. Whether you are beginner or a seasoned reining veteran, come and learn the fundamentals of this exciting sport or hone your skills as a rider and competitor. You are sure to enjoy fun, fellowship and a weekend filled with quality instruction, geared at developing both you and your horse in a relaxing atmosphere.

Horse Lovers: May 11 - 13

Speakers: Matt Cox, Matt Smith

Are you looking for a weekend adventure centered around a western atmosphere with qualified instructors to broaden your horsemanship skills? With many areas of horsemanship to choose from, this weekend is designed to have something for everyone, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned horseman. The weekend will give you insights into riding and training skills and developing a deeper relationship with Christ. Come join our qualified staff for a weekend of scenic trail riding, practical ground classes, and valuable horsemanship instruction. Open fire cooking and hands-on cowboy experiences are all flavored with an ample portion of genuine western hospitality. Hope to see you there!

Mexico Missions Trip:

March 31 - April 16

The Mexico Mission Trip is focused on proclaiming the gospel of Christ to the small Pima Indian village of Bobicura. We support an established mission that is already building a church there by doing construction on the church and running day camps for the Pima Indian children. All alumni and friends of MMR over 15 years old are welcome to apply. Please prayerfully consider if God would have you be a part of this trip! Contact the Ranch for more information.

New Name – Same Mission.... MMR’s School of Discipleship

Since its inception in 1981, the apprenticeship program at MMR has provided a discipleship model for young adults interested in deepening their walk with Christ, building godly character and developing leadership skills. As staff, we constantly review and evaluate the program, making changes to increase effectiveness, re-focus our efforts and pursue higher standards of excellence. A year ago, as we reviewed the program, we felt that the primary focus of the program was not just geared toward preparing them for camping ministries, but for all areas within the sphere of Christian ministry. We felt that the name Camp Apprentice Ministry Program should be changed to more accurately reflect our purpose and decided to change the name to the Ministry Apprentice Program. As we began seeking to officially change the name of the program, we continued to discuss the overall purpose and goal of the program and ultimately came to the decision that our focus is not simply an apprenticeship in “ministry,” but an in-depth discipleship program following Christ’s model, that focuses on character development and spiritual leadership, which prepares young adults for ministry in all areas of life. Everyone... whether involved in a Christian camping ministry, in college, employed in the secular workplace, or serving in their church and community... is responsible to minister in the position God has placed them. The focus of our discipleship program is simply that – discipleship – as a way of bringing about exponential growth in the body of Christ, by training our students to impact the world for Christ. With that perspective before us, we made the decision to change the name – one last time – to Miracle Mountain Ranch’s School of Discipleship. The name may be new, but the mission is still the same – providing the opportunity for young men and women to grow in Christ-likeness, mature in godly character, and increase in leadership skills that allow them to impact their world for God.

In September, a new group of students arrived to begin their year in the apprenticeship program. This coming August, when we celebrate their graduation, we will be celebrating the 30th year of the discipleship program of Miracle Mountain Ranch. We rejoice in 30 years of helping students in establishing a spiritual foundation for their lives, equipping themselves for service in ministry, extending their sphere of godly influence, and evangelizing those around them, while serving Him in all walks of life. Thank you for your many years of prayer and faithful support for this ministry.



Retreat Registration Form

Name _____ Date of Birth ___ / ___ / ___

Parent's Name if under 18 _____

Address _____ Sex ___ M ___ F

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Roommate or Group Request _____

Housing Type ___ Bunkhouse ___ Top Hand Quarters

Event Name _____

Event Date _____

Other Family Members Attending (Same Household)

Name _____ Date of Birth ___ / ___ / ___ Sex ___ M ___ F

Name _____ Date of Birth ___ / ___ / ___ Sex ___ M ___ F

Name _____ Date of Birth ___ / ___ / ___ Sex ___ M ___ F

Payment Type ___ Check ___ Money Order ___ Visa ___ Master Card ___ Discover

Name on Card _____

Card # _____ Payment Amount _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV# _____ (last 3 digits in the signature space on the back of your card)

Signature _____

Please include a \$25/person non-refundable deposit with your registration. (\$50/family for family retreats.)
This form is not applicable to Summer Camp.

Additional Retreat Information:

We offer two housing options for most adult and family retreats:

Bunkhouse: a heated bunkhouse which sleeps up to 10 using our central restroom facilities.

Top Hand Quarters: a heated dorm-style room which sleeps between 2 and 10 with a restroom in the room. All accommodations are group housing units (sorry, no private rooms; individuals and non-family groups will be housed by gender groups). Couples and families will be housed together in their own room. All housing is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Directions:

For accurate Internet directions go to Google.com and click on Maps and enter Eldred Hill Rd, Spring Creek, PA 16436 for your destination. Mapquest & Yahoo *do not* give accurate directions.

If you are coming from South Central or Eastern New York, route your trip through Warren, PA. Miracle Mountain Ranch is located in Spring Creek, PA, 10 miles southeast of Corry, PA, on Route 426, and 23 miles west of Warren, PA, using Routes 6, 27, and 426.

Airport Pick-ups

Airport pickups from Erie International Airport are also available if you plan to fly in for a retreat. The cost is \$80.00 round trip. All arrangements should be made with the Ranch office *prior* to securing your tickets.

Retreat Housing

Cost & Housing:	RV Site:	Bunkhouse:	Top Hand Qrts:
Adult (18+):	\$125.00	\$139.00	\$159.00
Youth (8-12 must come with adult):	\$95.00	\$109.00	\$109.00

If you would like to bring your own horse, contact the Ranch to obtain the necessary forms and boarding cost.



THE MMR Land Purchase

"Stake Yer Claim in the Land Campaign"

December Update:

We are grateful for God's blessing and your generous giving through the first year of the Land Campaign. Since December 2010, we have been able to pay back over \$70,000 in principal toward the \$861,000 original loan amount! This year we are praying that if it is His will, God will provide for us to be able to pay back the rest of the debt. From a human standpoint, that may sound ambitious, but we believe that God would have us pay back the entire amount as quickly as possible.

Over the last year, many of you have been praying with us about the potential lease of our natural gas rights. We entered a listing contract with a company to sell our lease, but there was no movement toward a sale. Our listing contract ended December 2011, and we are free to market our lease again. Continue to pray that we will find God's will and wisdom in this matter.

A couple of our apprentice alumni started a campaign of their own called "Give Back" on Facebook. Their goal was to inspire their fellow apprentice alumni to raise enough money for the Land Campaign to purchase one of the large hay fields that we affectionately call "the mile long field". They have raised thousands of dollars and we are so encouraged by the outpouring of generosity from our alumni.

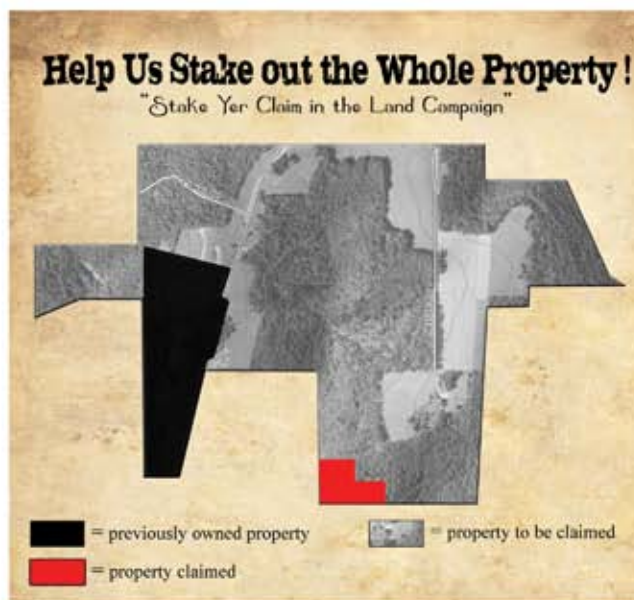
Besides directly contributing to the Land Campaign, there are many other ways you can help. Remember that each person attending summer camp, retreats, and the School of Discipleship helps the Land Campaign by increasing

the finances we have to operate with. Tell others about us and help us take full advantage of every ministry opportunity with full attendance.

Reasons to give now!

Every dollar of the principal paid is a dollar we are not paying interest on. The sooner we repay the loan, the less profits we are paying to our lender. Last year we were able to make the interest payments on our mortgage out of our operating budget. That means every dollar contributed to the Land Campaign went directly to repay the principal in the month it was given. We would like to continue this in 2012 if possible.

1. Please PRAY for God to continue to provide for the Land Campaign.
2. Please GIVE if the Lord would direct you to do so. Your investment will be in the spiritual lives of many who will be challenged here. All gifts are tax deductible.
3. Please COME. We greatly desire your continued involvement in the Lord's ministry here at Miracle Mountain Ranch and are blessed with your friendship.



We are thankful for this opportunity to see the faithful hand of God at work at MMR and we look forward with great anticipation to see what God will do in the year ahead.



The MMR Land Purchase

"Stake Yer Claim in the Land Campaign"

Send your donation to:
Miracle Mountain Ranch
101 Rodeo Dr
Spring Creek, PA 16436

Please send my tax deductible receipt to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

By trusting God, I am committing to give as He provides the following amount to the MMR Land Purchase Campaign:

\$50.00 \$100.00 \$500.00
 1/2 Acre (\$1,250) 1 Acre (\$2,500) Other \$ _____

I prefer to send my support: Monthly Quarterly Total Enclosed

You may also give online at www.mmrm.org. Go to "Donate" on the home page or call (814) 664-7673 for more information.

By The Numbers:

Purchase Price	\$1.6 million
• Cash Down	\$39,000
• Mortgage	\$861,000
• Final balloon payment due	
October 2015	\$700,000

\$70,000 total principal paid to date.

\$791,000 total principal left to be paid on mortgage.



School of Discipleship

At Miracle Mountain Ranch

Get more than an
education this year...
Discover Discipleship

www.schoolofdiscipleship.org



Calendar of Events 2012

January

- 6 - 8** Summer Staff Retreat
- 13 - 16** Youth Conference
- 20 - 22** Cowboys for Christ
- 27 - 29** Jr. Winter Camp

February

- 12 - 17** SALT Week
- 17 - 20** Sr. Winter Camp
- 23 - 25** Horse Expo Harrisburg, PA

March

- 1 - 4** Sports Show Erie, PA
- 22 - 24** Homeschool Convention
Greenville, SC
- 23 - 25** Media Summit

April

- 31 - 16** Mexico Missions Trip
- 19 - 21** Homeschool Convention
Cincinnati, OH

May

- 11 - 12** CHAP Convention
Harrisburg, PA

- 11 - 13** Horse Lover's

- 26** - Dinner Trail Ride

- 28** Open House and 5k Race

- 31 - 2** LEAH Convention

Rochester, NY

June

- 26** Father Son Retreat

WANTED

- English and Western Saddles
- Shovels and Rakes
- Apple iMac 21"
- T3i Canon Camera
- Tractor
- Wood Working Equipment
- Push lawn mowers
- 60' Round Pen (6' x 10' panels)
- Wheelbarrows - 2 Wheeled
- 2-3 Horse bumper Pull Stock Trailer

Praise God for:

- Continued financial provision for the Land Purchase
- Blessed and fruitful fall retreat season
- Great 1st year for our Fall Harvest Party
- Strong class of discipleship students with hungry hearts
- Continued opportunities to network with other ministries
- New avenues for community involvement and service
- Moderate fall weather allowed for several roofing projects to be completed
- Operations Headquarters nearing completion

Pray for:

- Paying off the purchase of the land
- Continued learning and growth in the Lord for our students.
- Our winter retreats and SALT program- for great attendance and spiritual impact
- Central Restroom renovation project- resources are needed!
- Need for hay
- Sale of our gas rights to aid in the land purchase campaign
- Safety in travel during the upcoming Ranch promotional season
- Mexico Mission Trip- success in service and ministry