



# BOXCROSS

Fall - Winter 2021



# Note from the Director

by Matt Cox



At the end of this past summer season, I found myself saying the words, "It sure seems that there's never been a better time for the Gospel." I'm certain that this statement has been uttered for generations, and it's still true. It's always the right time for the gospel! I must admit that my statement may have been based on a desire to address our current problems, not necessarily an eternal need. The Lord faithfully did amazing things in the

hearts of the youth and staff this past summer season, but we also saw significant challenges. It becomes easy to focus on behavioral issues, when it's truly the heart that needs to be addressed. The need for the gospel and its redeeming grace is just as important in my heart as it is in a struggling youth's heart.

The challenges and celebrations of summer gave way into the wonderful anticipation of the incoming students in the School of Discipleship. It is an exciting season of teaching and training. The students also play an integral part in the Ranch's retreat ministry through the fall, winter and spring. What a blessing to be a part of these young people's lives as they build their foundation before stepping out into the world.

In a time in our society when everyone is "rebranding" themselves, I am instead encouraged to look back at our own brand. The Box Cross has been the brand of Miracle Mountain Ranch since 1964 and is registered with the state of Pennsylvania.

Branding time at the Ranch means that new horses will bear the imprint of the Box Cross. It's not just a ranch brand, it also symbolizes our mission as well. Each bar of the box represents an "E". The first is Evangelize: to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. The second is Establish: getting them grounded in the Word (the Word of God is to be the lens we see life through and the mirror we see ourselves in). The third is Equip: coming alongside them and equipping them to make an impact for Christ. The last is Extend: sending them out into the world. The four corners of the box represent the four corners of the world and a reminder of the commission given by Christ, to make disciples of all nations. In the middle of our brand is the Cross. This is to remind us that everything we do is for the glory of Christ, that He must be at the center of it all, and that we are His instruments in His divine plan to redeem the world.



# Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie



It has been an impactful year. The programs we have offered in 2021 have been about as full as they can be. From family camps to the discipleship program, we have been blessed with an abundance of ministry opportunities. Despite everything going on, it seems like there is a growing interest in the Gospel and Biblical teaching. It is no surprise that the timeless Gospel message still brings hope, correction, and counsel. Camp is a great place to have fun, meet friends, and hear the good news of Christ.



After a delay to our new bunkhouse building project, we are back at it. We aim to raise funds needed for this bunkhouse, build it, and have it ready for next summer. We need it! We do not have enough quality housing for the guests that would like to come. Our aged housing limits the Ranch. The team here is so encouraged that we have raised \$114,000 towards this project. Our goal is around \$150,000. That means we only have about \$36,000 left. We would love your help reaching this goal.

In other news, we renovated four bunkhouses this last year! That is HUGE, and we are so thankful to have these finished. On top of this, we need to replace Fort Wilderness after the fire destroyed it last year. That was a setback for sure, but we are working on a new design that will better fit the program. Thank you for your continued support and for those who have come to volunteer for these projects.





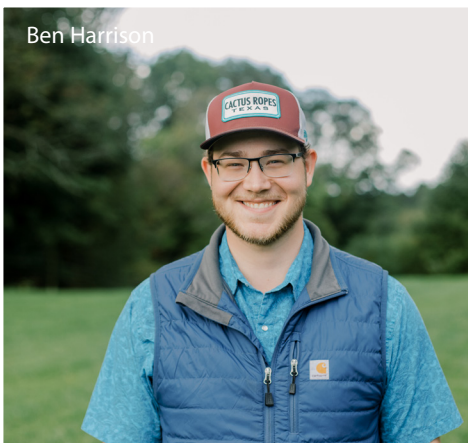
# Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

As we look into the months ahead, we anticipate the addition of some new staff here at MMR. Rachel Rothey recently joined us after her graduation as a second year student in the School of Discipleship. Rachel will be helping in the Operations department and is found lending a hand in multiple areas of the ministry whenever a need arises. With all of our varied events, this keeps Rachel very busy. We love seeing her smiling face around here.



Rachel Rothey



Ben Harrison

Ben Harrison is looking to join us in January in the Equine Department. Ben is a former summer staffer but has also come from IL many times to volunteer. Ben is a farrier and his skills have been a tremendous blessing to our horses and barn staff. We also enjoy his servant's heart towards ministry and look forward to him joining our team.

On May 19th, Teddy and Noelle Purdie welcomed little Ruby Grace to their family. Her big sister Hannah is a big help for mommy and we have loved watching their family grow.



Ruby Purdie

All of our staff are on mission support and many are still raising support to meet the suggested minimum. This allows us to keep Ranch costs down and has also been a way of seeing God meet each of our needs in a miraculous way. There is a tremendous donor base of individuals and churches that make it possible for our staff to serve here. If you'd like to become a part of this team, you can check out our staff page on the website.



# SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP



We're several weeks into another year at the School of Discipleship, and the Lord has blessed us this year with 35 students! 35 may not seem like a large number in comparison to traditional programs, but we serve a God who has done great things with far fewer servants. And that's our goal—to equip young men and women for kingdom work under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where “the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain” (Psalm 2:1), and so training in kingdom work involves learning how to confront that world. We don't want to equip our young men and women with cute little sayings and then send them to the lions; we want them to think with discernment about God, the world, sin, and salvation. We want to spend our time with these young people teaching them to think deeply, to work hardily, and to worship joyfully. So pray for our students this year, that they will do all their thinking and working for the kingdom with a deep reference for and trust in Jesus Christ, knowing that “blessed are all who take refuge in him” (Psalm 2:12).



# Retreats & Events



## **Christmas Party** | December 4

Come join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior with a time of singing, fellowship, and food. Feel free to invite friends and bring some finger foods or cookies to share. This festive event includes Christmas carols, decorations, finger foods, cookies, hot drinks, a memorable wagon ride through our western town, and great fellowship with friends. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Program begins at 6:30 PM.



## **S.A.L.T** | January 14 – 17

For teens considering the School of Discipleship, S.A.L.T. is a great way to experience Ranch life first hand. Personal devotions, Bible classes, as well as fun games and activities are all on the schedule! You will also gain valuable, behind the scenes insight into what it takes to make a ministry function as you experience the various departments of Miracle Mountain Ranch.



## **Youth Winter Blast** | January 21 – 22

Join us for our Winter Blast Day Event! This retreat will include adventure-packed activities such as dodgeball, team challenges, tubing (weather permitting), and much more! You will have time to enjoy the snow, build memories with friends, and learn more about God through chapel. Don't miss out on this fun-filled event!



## **Mens Retreat** | February 4 – 5

In a culture in which God's Word and biblical manhood are often under attack, it has never become more necessary than now for men to strengthen and encourage one another towards spiritual growth. Our chapel sessions will be focused on what it means to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and why we must embrace humility as a posture of heart before God, as well as a lifestyle of relationship with others.



# Retreats & Events



## Youth Group Fun Day | February 12

Calling all Youth Groups! Join us on Saturday, February 12th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and enjoy a day designed to refresh Youth Groups and Youth/Church Leaders alike. While your Youth Group is strengthening relationships through shared experiences and fun activities, we will be offering optional training sessions for church leaders and youth professionals.



## Quilters Retreat | March 10 – 12

Come join us for a weekend of finishing or starting those quilting or sewing projects you have been meaning to get to. We will hear encouragement from scripture, enjoy fellowship with other sewers, share quilting or sewing tips/hacks, and enjoy delicious meals and snacks. There will also be a small, weekend project to make if you would rather start something new.



## Family Fun Day | March 19

We have designed this day for families to have an opportunity to make memories together and to be encouraged in truth. Activities will include Trail Rides, Indoor Nerf, shopping at our Buckboard Store, Critter Corral, Pony Rides, and Cowboy Campfire! We will be providing both lunch and dinner. This event will start at 10 AM and conclude with dinner at 6:00 PM.



## Photography Summit | March 25 – 26

Come join our growing community of like-minded artists! This weekend is an opportunity for you to grow in your abilities to create art for the glory of God and connect with other photographers who are passionate about what they do. We have structured this weekend to both challenge and inspire you. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, we invite you to join us for this educational experience.



# Retreats & Events



## Fellowship Evening | March 31

We invite you to an evening of fellowship and appetizers with us! If you are a friend of the Ranch, or have never been to the ranch, we encourage you to attend! This free evening will include great food, fellowship with our resident staff and students, updates on MMR events and Scholarship Fund, and giveaways.



## Mother - Daughter Day | April 2

This day is designed for mothers and daughters to come and enjoy time spent with one another as they build a stronger relationship. The day will begin with a short devotional, a coffee/tea bar, and will be followed by many activity options. Whether you are looking to take a trail ride or talk while doing crafts, this day has much to offer. Registration will begin at 10:00AM and the day will conclude at 4:30 PM.



## Father Daughter Retreat | April 29 - 1

Come for a weekend of quality time, refreshing fellowship, fun activities, and rich truths from God's Word that will better equip dads and their girls to live their lives for the glory of Jesus Christ. Activity options include shooting sports, archery, trail rides, crafts, campfire, Buckboard store, and our low-ropes Confidence Course.



## Horse Lovers Retreat | May 6 - 8

Are you looking for a weekend adventure to broaden your horsemanship skills? Our Spring Horse Lover's weekend focuses on arena classes to help give you insights into riding and training skills while developing a deeper relationship with Christ. Some of the classes may include: English and western riding, ground training, trail obstacles, and trail rides.

# Retreats & Events



## Father Son Retreat | May 20 – 21

Take this opportunity to step back and focus on growing in God's Word and building a strong father-son relationship during this rustic, two day, one night, retreat. Friday afternoon activities will include paintball or a trail ride! On Saturday we will be taking a canoe trip on the magnificent Allegheny River! The retreat will wrap up with supper on Saturday evening following the canoe trip.



## Open House | May 30

We invite you to join us on Memorial Day for a day filled with fun, western activities. Open House is a great time for you to find out what Miracle Mountain Ranch is all about! Doors open at 10:00 AM and festivities wrap up at 5:00 PM. We offer pony rides, trail rides, a vaulting demonstration, a Memorial Day service, a Message from the Mount, and much more!



## Golf Scramble | August 26

Enjoy a rousing game of golf for a great cause! Proceeds will go toward the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, enabling kids to have the opportunity to experience camp at Miracle Mountain Ranch. This is a great opportunity to have a great impact in the lives of children!



## Family Camp | August 11-14, September 2 – 5

Family Camp weekend is a great opportunity for you and your family to get recharged after a busy summer. Experience great fellowship with other like-minded families, and a variety of activities including trail rides for ages 8 and up, pony rides for younger ones, wagon rides, swimming, basketball, confidence course, hikes, gopherball, campfires, an optional game of paintball, and more.









## Prayer

- For the graduates from the School of Discipleship, Summer Staff, Volunteers, and Ranchers that made commitments this past summer, that their relationship with God would continue to deepen.
- For the current class in the School of Discipleship as they seek the Lord
- Winter retreats and traveling to many conferences and events.
- For wisdom as a ministry as we make plans in both facilities and programs to accommodate growing and changing needs
- For the resident staff that they would be encouraged in their service to the Lord and provision of their financial support
- For safety, funds and completion of ongoing construction projects including the start up of our New Bunkhouse project, and the Fort Wilderness rebuild.
- For staffing needs as well as housing needs for the staff.

## Praise

- We had an amazing summer of ministry with over 1,100 youth attending summer camp. We praise God that we were able to offer overnight camps again this past summer, and incorporate day camps as well.
- A tremendous fall line-up of Retreats was well attended and the Lord really blessed.
- We have 35 students this year in the School of Discipleship
- The opportunity to help scholarship kids so they could attend summer camp and the many individuals, churches, and organizations that helped make that possible.
- We were blessed by a great summer team of staff and volunteers
- God provided full barns of hay.
- We were able to fully renovate 4 units of our bunkhouses over the summer, with others in process.
- For God's protection in health over the busy summer months.



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