

 **Miracle
Mountain
Ranch**

BOXCROSS

Fall - Winter 2022



 **CHRISTIAN CAMP
& CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION**
MEMBER

Note from the Director

by Matt Cox



The reviews aren't always good. We love sharing testimonies of those whose lives have been impacted by their time at the Ranch. We realize that the work done here in hearts and lives is all to the glory of God. He's in the business of changing lives and eternities; we're simply in communications. But the reviews aren't always positive.

Of course we appreciate critical feedback as it helps us to know how to be more effective in what we do, but sometimes those critiques are difficult to hear. When you're in a service industry, it is important to know how people best feel served. It's also crucial that there aren't issues that distract from the Gospel Message.

Proverbs 27:5-6 - "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."

I've had meetings where an individual opens with this verse. You know they love you, but they're also about to tell you something that may be hard to hear. Other times critique does not come from a trusted and loving source. But despite the delivery, our pride is what makes criticism so difficult to digest. We don't like being reminded that we're fallible and capable of offending or falling short. To put it bluntly, we don't like being reminded that we're not perfect, we're not God. We may define ourselves one way, but God often uses other people to show us our true selves.

Criticism can remind us to be humble. It can expose our pride, misplaced values, and reveals our desire for control. How we receive it tells us a lot about ourselves.

Though it can be hard, it is also a blessing. If we never saw our sin, we wouldn't embrace the need for our Savior. Even as believers, having our sin exposed helps us appreciate the grace and mercy that He bestows on us. When we're shown our failings in the light of God's holiness, we can rejoice all the more in His forgiveness that is so freely given. We can celebrate the fact that instead of letting us live in our sin, He gently corrects, restores, and helps us to walk in greater fellowship with Him.

The reviews may not always be good, but when God does His refining work, we can be grateful for the feedback, both positive and challenging.

Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie

Hopefully you have seen pictures and heard about the finishing of the new bunkhouse. This multi-year project was exciting to finish. It was used every week of Summer Camp and Family Camp and will be continued to be used throughout our Fall retreats. It is a huge blessing to have another full-season structure to use all winter long for those who visit the Ranch. As you know, the Ranch is almost 60 years old so although we have made progress we need to continue to be diligent to upgrade housing.



The Cattleman's Hotel has been identified as the next project. We would like to fully renovate this structure so that it can more adequately host our guests during all seasons. Would you consider helping us with this project? Our goal is to raise \$100,000. Because it is just a renovation we can start as soon as we have some support for the project. The goal will be to finish the project by next summer.

We also ask for your support for our General Fund that helps with day to day operations. Finally, we ask for your support for our Scholarship Fund. Without support from others we would not be able to offer this ministry to serve those that come or are impacted on and off the ranch. Thank you to each one of you who have given of yourself through volunteering, prayer, or finances to help support the Ranch throughout this past year. We look forward to serving together during our 2023 Camp and Retreat season.





Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

Throughout the summer, we welcomed three babies into our staff family. David James was born to Nathan and Kelsey Snyder on June 11th. It is fun to see their family grow and be involved around camp. Daniel and Cherish Benedict welcomed their first child, Caroline Jane on August 10th. It is so sweet to watch these two become parents and Caroline is just the cutest! Josh and Alyssa Bridges welcomed their precious son, Jedidiah Thomas on September 1st. Tessa is so excited to be a big sister! We are looking forward to watching these babies grow and learn to love the Lord.



As we start this new school year, we are welcoming 6 new staff members. Josiah Gross will be joining our programming department to help plan and lead our many retreats. Hunter Uplinger is our newest barn staff member. She will be taking over a lot of the administrative side of the barn as well as being a lead instructor for our SOD students. Kyle Hilton is our new Marketing Manager and will be overseeing the media team, photographing retreats, and posting on social media. Caitrin Allen will be taking over the Receptionist position since Cherish will be moving into a part time role to care for baby Caroline. Melissa Beckman is our new Housekeeper as Katy Harlan is switching from housekeeper to our programming department. Both of these gals are so vital to our guest services. Hannah Landis, a recent summer staffer, will be working in our Food Service department. We are so thankful for each and every one of our staff members and their commitment to serving here. They are all in the early stages of raising their support to be on staff so if you are interested in coming alongside them in this way, you can visit our website: mrrm.org/about/staff/support.



Christina Coder, who worked in both our kitchen and equine departments while on staff has recently finished her time here with us. She has remained in the local area so we are still able to see her frequently. We are so grateful for Christina's time spent in service with us here.



SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

This time of year, the School of Discipleship is alive with the excitement of new beginnings. At the beginning of September we inducted a new class: 18 first-year students and eleven second-year students. Our first-years have had a flurry of orientation classes in their first several weeks: from learning the ins and outs of the kitchen to finding their way around the Ranch to the basics of wrangling, our students are doing it all.

In addition to the furor of activity around camp, the students are hard at work in the classroom this fall. Bible Hermeneutics, Technology and the Christian Life, and Conflict Resolution are just some of the classes our students have had in their first several weeks of the program.

What is the goal of all this activity? The Great Commission tells us (Matthew 28.18-20). In it, we see that Christ has given us work to do: the risen Lord Jesus told his followers to disciple the nations, and an essential part of that discipleship is teaching all that Christ has commanded. Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, and so our discipleship includes everything under the sun. It's a big job, but we're not alone; as he told his first followers, "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Retreats & Events



Christmas Party | December 3

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 6:00PM. Program begins at 6:30PM.



S.A.L.T | January 13 – 16

For teens considering the School of Discipleship, S.A.L.T. is a great way to experience ranch life firsthand. 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. This is for ages 13 – 20.



Youth Winter Blast | January 20 – 21

Join us for our Winter Blast! 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! This is for ages 9 - 14.



Mens Retreat | February 3 – 4

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. "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17). In response to this need, we are very excited to host our annual Men's Retreat.

Retreats & Events



Quilter's Retreat | March 9 – 11

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 couple of free patterns if you would rather start something new.



Family Fun Weekend | March 17-18

We have designed this weekend 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, Cowboy Campfire, and more! This weekend will begin on Friday at 4pm and conclude after dinner on Saturday.



Photo Video Summit | March 24 – 25

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, we invite you to come and join our growing community of 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.



Mother Daughter Weekend | April 21-22

This weekend is specifically designed as a special opportunities for mothers and daughters to come and enjoy time spent with one another as they build a stronger relationship. Whether you are looking to take a trail ride or talk while doing crafts, this weekend has much to offer. This event will begin at 4pm on Friday and conclude after dinner on Saturday.

Retreats & Events



Father Daughter Retreat | April 28 – 30

The relationship between a father and daughter is so very special. 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. During this retreat, you will find both a relaxed environment, as well as active options from which to choose.



Spring Horse Lovers | May 5 – 7

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. Come join our qualified staff for a weekend of scenic trail riding, practical ground classes, and valuable horsemanship instruction. The weekend will conclude with a Breakfast Trail Ride.



Father Son Retreat | May 19 - 20

Take this opportunity to get away and share some quality father-son bonding time together in the great outdoors at Miracle Mountain Ranch. There will be a variety of activities including: shooting sports, trail rides, paintball, the woodsman challenge, and time on our low-ropes Confidence Course.



Open House | May 29

We invite you to join us on Memorial Day for a day filled with fun, western activities. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and festivities wrap up at 5:00 p.m. We offer pony rides, trail rides, a vaulting demonstration, a Memorial Day service, a Message from the Mount, and much more! We will provide a concession stand, but you're also welcome to bring a picnic lunch.



WANTED ITEMS

- Pony Vaulting surcingle
- Driving harness for small draft
- Vaulting saddle pads
- 6' ladders
- NKJV or ESV Bibles
- Brooms
- Snowmobile
- Vet Wrap

You can view these items and more on our Amazon wish list.





Prayer

- Graduates from the School of Discipleship, Summer Staff, Volunteers, and Ranchers who made commitments this past summer, that their relationship with God would continue to deepen.
- Current class of School of Discipleship as they seek the Lord
- Winter Retreats and those who attend
- Traveling safely to many conferences and events
- Wisdom as we make plans in both facilities and programs to accommodate growing and changing needs
- Our resident staff to be encouraged in their service to the Lord and provision of their financial support.
- For God's provision for Ranch finances

Praise

- We had an amazing summer of ministry with over 1,200 youth attending
- A tremendous fall line-up of retreats was well attended and the Lord really blessed
- We have 29 students this year in the School of Discipleship
- The opportunity to help scholarship kids so they could attend camp
- Great summer team of staff + volunteers
- God provided full barns of hay
- Completed construction of the new bunkhouse and renovation of 3 units
- Health over the busy summer months

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