



# Miracle Mountain Ranch **BOX CROSS**

**Spring - Summer 2021**



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# FREE AT LAST

by Matt Cox



We are excited to announce that our theme this Summer will be “Free at Last!”. Our summer verses are Romans 8:1-5. Verses 1-2 say, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” To appreciate true freedom we must first be aware of our captivity, specifically to sin! If we don’t comprehend the severity of the charges against us, we cannot be grateful for our freedom.

In the context of Romans 8, to understand freedom is to understand condemnation. We often think of condemnation as the verdict we are given for our crimes. As sinners, we are all condemned to death for our sin against a holy God, but the word condemnation here

(katakrima) actually refers to the penalty itself. What Paul is saying is that we are free from not only being condemned of our sin, but the penalty that goes with it!

We were condemned, sentenced to an eternal death, but because of Christ’s work on our behalf, we are free from that!

The chains of our sin, that once bound us to hopelessness, are now dissolved! This is not only the amazing message of the Gospel, but it is the joy and hope that we are to live in daily.

Spring is a time when we fine tune the training in our horse herd to prepare them for the retreat and summer season ahead. Horses are motivated to obey by either reward or consequence. They certainly aren’t driven to obedience by their gratefulness for all the things you do for them or provide for them like feeding them or cleaning out their stall. But as God’s children, we should be motivated to obedience because of what Christ has done. Freedom in Christ, because of Christ, through Christ is a liberating gift, and we should live out each day in this knowledge. There are times when we get discouraged by our sin, but these moments should serve as a reminder that we should be walking in tremendous gratitude for our escape! And that, my friends, is a game changer! For those of us who have placed their faith and trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ, we are truly Free at Last!

## BUILD A BUNKHOUSE CAMPAIGN



We are looking forward to the future ministry God has for Miracle Mountain Ranch. Due to the lack of camps this past year, it is tempting to pull back and not build anything right now. But, God has not given us a spirit of fear! There are thousands of kids that will come for fun, adventure, and finding Christ at camp and we need to be ready. For that reason, we are pressing on to build a new bunkhouse. It is both a replacement and an upgrade. We will build this bunkhouse with two units each housing about 12 people. They will each have a double bathroom so that we can better accommodate ranchers. You have helped us raise about

\$65,000 on this project. We need \$75,000 to break ground and between \$125,000-\$175,000 to finish it. The flux in price depends on material costs and volunteers to build. We would love for a professional construction company to help build this project. The savings would be huge. Would you consider helping with this project? We need volunteers, sponsors and prayer partners to help us finish. We are ALSO working to renovate 4 other bunkhouses, so if your church or company would be interested we could use volunteers to help finish those projects as well. If you have any questions or would like to help with the project, please reach out to Donnie Rosie today.



# Glimpse INTO OUR LIVES

by Jenni Cox



Winter is a unique time on the mountain. It is a quieter season but also a time to get many projects done before our guests arrive. Staff jump in from different departments to help out where needed. Many of our staff are diligently working on repairing some of our current bunkhouses. We have also had some changes in our staff team.



Our barn department has seen some changes as Kristin Thompson moved back to Vermont to be closer to her family and is currently working with a horse program there. In her year and a half here she was a tremendous blessing to our program and mentoring our students. We are currently considering hiring another staff in our Equine Department.



Katy Harlan, from Warsaw, IN has just recently joined us in the housekeeping department. Our current housekeeper, Miriam, was only here temporarily so she is training Katy before she heads home. Katy has formerly served as a counselor during our summer seasons and we are excited to have her join us for this next year.

We are excited to welcome the newest little staff member born to Tyler and Harmony Chundrlek. Jael Rose was born on March 5th! They are all doing well and we look forward to welcoming a couple more little babies this Spring!



## School of Discipleship

by Daniel Stanley

Winter usually slows down the pace of life, and doubly so in the age of COVID. Even so, our students have not let the cold get in the way of their training and growth. In the classroom, the students have been taking Practical Theology, hearing from visiting pastors about how the gospel affects our daily habits and practices, and Marriage Dynamics, preparing for the future joys and responsibilities of married and family life. In their areas of focus, the students have been continuing to learn and train in the skills needed for fruitful life and ministry. Other opportunities have come our way as well: In February, the students helped to process meat donated to Ranch staff, bagged 1800 pounds of donated potatoes, and sat through a weeklong intensive counseling seminar! Please pray for our students in the upcoming months as they will be ministering alongside our staff in Spring events and retreats, and as they continue to finish their Bible classes and prepare for ministry in our summer program!





# RETREATS & EVENTS



## SPRING HORSE LOVERS RETREAT

May 7 – 9

Are you looking for a weekend adventure centered around a western atmosphere with qualified instructors to broaden your horsemanship skills? This retreat will 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. There will be open fire cooking and many hands-on cowboy experiences all flavored with an ample portion of genuine western hospitality!

## MENS RETREAT

May 14 – 15

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 (1 Peter 5:1-11), and why we must embrace humility as a posture of heart before God, as well as a lifestyle of relationship with others.

## FATHER SON RETREAT

May 21 – 23

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, and time on our low-ropes Confidence Course. We also have an all-new activity this year – the woodsman challenge! The challenges will include cross-cut, tomahawk throwing, log roll, and others.

## OPEN HOUSE & 5K EVENT

May 31

Open House is a time to come up and enjoy a day of fun, entertainment, and hospitality in Old West fashion. Have you ever wondered what your kids experience in the summer? We invite you to come on Memorial Day and find out! Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and festivities wrap up at 5:00 p.m. We offer trail rides, a demonstration by our vaulting team, 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 and just enjoy the show. No registration is required for this event.

The MMR Ranch 5k is a walk/run event with a scenic course following dirt roads over rolling hills in a rural setting. Registration is from 8:00–8:30 a.m. Start time is 9:00 a.m.

## GOLF SCRAMBLE

July 30

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 positive impact in the lives of children!

## FAMILY CAMP

Aug. 12 – 15 and September 3 – 6

Family Camp weekend is a great opportunity for you and your family to get recharged after a busy summer. In addition to evening adult chapels featuring a quality speaker, we will have special optional chapels for children ages 5-12 and nursery for children ages 4 and under. 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!