



Miracle
Mountain
Ranch

BOXCROSS

Spring & Summer 2024



Note from the Director

by Matt Cox



As we enter into a new season of ministry with camps and seasonal retreats, our theme this summer is 'Abide.' We'll be focusing on John 15. Christ is the ultimate teacher, and His ability to illustrate truth is without comparison. The night before His crucifixion He is instructing His disciples in the reality of what it is to be a true follower of His. Hours before His death, He tells His disciples "I Am the True Vine." This is the last of

the seven "I Am" statements found in the book of John. We will be studying three things true of followers of Jesus Christ that we find in John 15. *They bear fruit, they abide (or remain) in Christ's love, and they keep His commandments.*

To abide describes something that remains where it is - continues or endures. To abide in Christ is to maintain unbroken communion with Him. Jesus' plea is for false followers to repent and express true faith in Him. It also was an encouragement to true believers to abide in Him fully. I believe that abiding is a position of true followers of Christ, but we must also learn to lean into this reality. So, what does abiding look like in our daily lives?

Abiding in Christ is more than just spiritual disciplines, but it's not less than that, either. I believe an aspect of abiding is "ordering" our life around Christ. How often do we think to consult him before building our to-do lists or in the transitions of our day? Do we ask Him for wisdom as we approach our relationships? Abiding in Christ is trusting Him to meet all needs and be our treasure. Abiding should also produce "fruit" in our lives, like love, joy, peace, patience, etc. We all want to see fruit, but only abiding in Christ can produce the genuine fruit that is pleasing to the Lord. Sometimes this lack of fruit is the revealing of the health of our relationship with Him. It's not a self-manufactured fruit, but instead, the result of abiding.

Recently I've been walking through some health challenges, and though my body isn't able to do the things that I'd like it to do, my spirit is still very active. Sometimes this is felt in restlessness or anxiousness, but at other times God reminds me to abide in Him for my strength and peace in the midst of the pain. So in those times of unease, these are some of the ways we can abide:

Abide in My Word - "Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.'" (John 8:31) Abide in My Love - "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love..." (John 15:9) Abide in Me - "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." (John 15:4)

The command to 'abide in Me' is more than a daily meeting each morning, then off to the races. It is a continual living in His presence. As I consider this call, I am comforted by what I know of God in His word; His faithfulness, His love, His mercy, and the assurance that He never changes. He is love. He is light. He is good.



FORT WILDERNESS

Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie

New Land and Home Project

Have you heard the news? In November we took a loan to purchase 94 acres and a farmhouse that bordered Miracle Mountain Ranch. *After only 2 months*, we were able to pay off this 15-year loan for \$223,000! We are so thankful for the support of those who chose to help the ministry in this unique opportunity.

The next part of this project is to raise enough funding to rebuild the farmhouse on the new property so that it can be used as a staff home. We estimate that it will cost \$115,000 to fix up the house and improve access to the property. We invite you to help us finish up this project!

Warren Gives

Warren Gives is a unique event where our county helps raise awareness for nonprofits and provides a partial match on donations given throughout the event. Every qualifying donation up to \$1,000 is partially matched, so your donations on this day go further! They also cover all credit card fees if you give online during the event. The money raised this year will go towards Fort Wilderness and the Scholarship Fund.

This spring, we are turning back to a project we started a couple of years ago - rebuilding Fort Wilderness. An accidental fire burned down the Fort 4 years ago. We received donations and insurance money to rebuild. We have \$42,000 in that fund, but we'll need to raise about \$60,000 more to finish the project. The Fort will have two bunkhouses for camping, a picnic area, an outdoor kitchen area, and a campfire area for kids to enjoy.

During the summer, kids can choose to upgrade their camp to include a memorable overnight experience at the fort after they ride out on horseback or hay wagon. We also host retreats like our Father-Son and others from this outpost location. Consider donating on this day to send families and youth to camp and finish the Fort Wilderness project. You can find more info about Warren Gives on page 5.

Around Camp

We are consistently working on small building projects and maintenance projects like painting, carpentry, landscaping, and mechanical work. If you or your group would like to come to the Ranch for a volunteer experience, please let us know. We couldn't do what we do without great volunteers.



Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

We get a lot of questions about being on staff here at Miracle Mountain Ranch. We recognize that we are a very unique organization and are so blessed by an incredible staff team! Here are just a few fun facts:

Currently there are 69 “staff” at the Ranch. This, of course, includes all of the staff children. We have 15 couples and 8 singles serving year-round with us. Everyone is housed on Ranch property and the Ranch’s general fund helps cover the cost of housing and utilities for our full-time staff. A few of the jobs at MMR are: Receptionists, Secretaries, Finances and Bookkeeping, Marketing and Media, Operations, Maintenance and Groundskeeping, Farming, Horse Department and Barn Maintenance, Food Service, Housekeeping, Guest Services, Construction, School of Discipleship Faculty, Programming and Camp Management, Nursing, and all of other jobs that fall under these departments. Many of these departments will also take on more staff through our summer season in a variety of paid and volunteer positions.

We often marvel at the team that God has built here and the sweet fellowship that we enjoy. As with any body, there are times of conflict, but we rejoice that God continues to walk us through resolve as well. We are blessed by a team of people that technically don’t get “paid” for their work. Every staff member is on mission support and has a team of supporters that helps them cover their costs of living and essentials. These are often families and friends, as well as churches and sometimes organizations.

Many of the staff serve as instructors in our School of Discipleship (S.O.D.) program. Each staff member also works in an advisory role with our S.O.D. students. The students visit their assigned staff houses weekly for time with their advisors, but it’s also very common for a group of students to spend time with staff for game or movie nights, or to just talk with them about things they are wrestling with. We are humbled to be a part of their lives and walk alongside them. This model of “life-on-life discipleship” is what drew my own heart to the ministry over 30 years ago, and I find myself blessed to benefit from the challenge and accountability that mentoring can bring so many years later.

Our most recent change on staff is the marriage of Josh Snyder and Rachel Rothey. Josh had recently joined us on programming staff and Rachel was serving in the operations department. They were married on October 21, 2023.

Thank you to everyone who is a part of supporting our staff team. Without your generosity it would be impossible for our staff to serve here and for the Ranch to minister in the capacity that we do. You are a vital part of God’s work here and we are grateful for you!

A Warren County Day of Giving

WARRENgives

Wednesday, May 15th, 2024

6am to 10pm

www.warrengives.org

Please consider giving to Miracle Mountain Ranch on May 15th by scanning the code here:



WANTED ITEMS

- Towels & washcloths
- ESV or NKJV Bibles
- Brooms with dustpans
- New vacuum
- Serving trays
- New sound board
- Microphones
- Archery arrows
- Athletic tape



Amazon Wish List

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

Retreats & Events



Open House | May 27

We invite you to join us on Memorial Day for a day filled with fun, western activities such as trail rides, a vaulting demonstration, and tomahawk competitions! Open House is a great time for you to find out what Miracle Mountain Ranch is all about. Doors open at 10:00 am with a special Memorial Day Service at 1:00 pm. This is a free event!



Golf Scramble | August 23

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 wonderful opportunity to have a great impact in the lives of children! This event will take place at Corry North Hills Golf Course. Registration starts at 12:00pm.



Family Camp | Aug. 7-10, Aug. 30 - Sept 2

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 enjoy a variety of activities including trail rides for ages 8 and up, pony rides for younger kids, wagon rides, swimming, basketball, confidence course, hikes, gopherball, campfires, and more.



Horse Lovers | September 20-22

Our Fall Horse Lover's retreat is a relaxing weekend focused on enjoying God's creation while riding our scenic trails. Other options include pony cart driving, vaulting, training demonstrations, trail obstacles, and arena classes to get you more familiar with riding. There will be open campfire cooking and many hands-on cowboy experiences all flavored with an ample portion of genuine western hospitality.

Retreats & Events



Ladies Retreat | Sept 27-29, Oct 4-6

Come experience a weekend of refreshment and restoration as we enjoy God's creation and the fellowship of others! These weekends offer encouraging sessions, hikes, trail rides, wagon rides, crafts, and other activities. Come make new friends or bring a group from your area for a memorable experience. We would love to have you join us as we seek God's face and learn what He desires to teach us through His Word.



Homeschool Day | October 3

This fun and educational field trip will be a unique homeschool adventure. We plan to provide wagon rides, a Message from the Mount, fire safety training, used book sale, animal science, and more. This day will run from 11:00am until 3:45pm. If you register online, the cost is \$8/person. Day of registration is \$9/person.



Dinner Trail Ride | October 11

Are you looking for an evening spent enjoying God's creation? Join us for a trail ride through the lovely fall colors. Stop to savor a cowboy-style meal, and listen to God's Word. After you enjoy some smoked pulled pork, a dough boy cooked over the fire, and our signature Dutch oven cobbler, we will mount back up and return to the Ranch. The cost is \$50 per rider.



Harvest Party | October 12

Join us for a day of fall activities for the whole family! We will have a variety of harvest games, activities, Message from the Mount, snacks, Cowboy Campfire (wood branding and peach cobbler), wagon rides, trail rides (pony rides for ages 7 and under), concessions, a pie baking contest that includes a silent auction, and more! This event begins at 10:00am and will conclude at 5:00pm. This event is free.

Praise

- **School of Discipleship** - for the work that God is doing in the students' lives.
- **Summer Camp** - registrations are looking like we'll see a well attended camp year, with some camps filling and already full!
- **Winter and Spring Retreats** were well attended!
- **Mexico Mission Trip** - plans are coming together for the trip.
- **For the many donors who make the ministry possible.**
- **Resident staff** - for their faithful service.
- **The Conklin Land Purchase** mortgage being paid in full!
- **2 new resident staff housing units added.**

Prayer

- **School of Discipleship** - for wisdom going into the summer and for next year's students.
- **Summer Camp** - for safety, bunks to be filled, and hearts to be touched and changed.
- **Scholarships** - for funds to be raised and the kids to be reached.
- **Summer Staff** - for the supply of young people willing to serve!
- **Volunteers** - for the many hands needed to make our summer run smoothly.
- **Retreats** - for attendees this spring and plans for the fall.
- **Resident Staff** - health, financial support and encouragement in the work.
- **Mexico Mission Trip** - for safety and an impactful time.
- **Rebuilding of Fort Wilderness**
- **Resident staff position needs** - particularly a Financial Secretary.



SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

It has become somewhat of a practice of mine recently to slow down, to pause, just for a moment, before entering prayer. I think there have been times at the start of class when the students have thought I've fallen asleep! But I have become persuaded that each of us, in the rush and busyness of life, must take care not to let routine be emptied of meaning. And it seems to me that discipleship must acknowledge this tension. We must learn the forms and patterns of life (how to ride, how to weld, how to lead, how to read the Bible, etc.), but we must not allow those forms to lose their significance. Our students find themselves wrestling with this now. Over the last months they have continued to grow in competence and skill; however, without care, without reflection, without godly intentionality and watchfulness, they could also grow in boredom and complacency. Happily, the testimonies that our students share from month to month show evidence of their zeal to grow in spirit as well as in their knowledge and skill. I'm very proud of these students for how they have wrestled this year with the demands that the Lord has placed on them as budding leaders within the church and the world. In a few short months, that growth will be tested during summer camp.



Please pray for our students this spring - that their progress in training would be matched by a sincere faith and eagerness for what the Lord is doing among them; and pray that our students (and our staff!) would remember, in the busyness of the coming months, to pause and to pray.

Daniel Stanley

Director, School of Discipleship



Follow us on Instagram!

@miraclemountainranch



Summer Camp 2024



*Scan to learn more
about Summer Camp!*



Buckaroo Camp



Come enjoy three days of swimming, games, pony rides, vaulting, a hayride, and crafts.

A full week of summer camp can be a little daunting, so this two-night/three-day camp is a great introduction to what camp life is all about! For kids ages 6-9.

For more information and to register for these camps, please visit our website.

Adventure Camp



If you are looking for the classic summer camp experience with field games, sports, trail rides, climbing wall, and more, look no further than our adventure camps. The two adventure camps that we offer are Wild West for ages 8-12, and Pathfinders for ages 12-16.

For more information and to register for these camps, please visit our website.

Wilderness Camp



If you are looking for a week of outdoor adventures - our wilderness camp might be the perfect fit! We offer a variety of different Wilderness Camps, but for each one of them you can expect to sleep and eat at our outdoor campsite.

For more information and to register for these camps, please visit our website.

Day Camp



If you are looking to experience a week of summer camp, but would rather not commit to overnight camp, then a week of Day Camp might be just what you are looking for. Drop off is at 9am and pickup is at 5pm.

For more information and to register for these camps, please visit our website.

Horse Camp



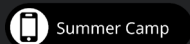
With over 80 horses on our Ranch, it's the perfect camp for the horse lovers! We offer a variety of horse camps to try to include every level of rider.

For more information and to register for these camps, please visit our website.

Registration Details

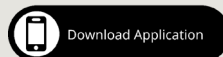


You can register and find all this information and more on our website mrrm.org. Our 2024 Summer Camp is filling up quickly so if there is a specific camp you are interested in, we encourage you to check it out sooner rather than later!



JOIN OUR SUMMER STAFF TEAM!

One of our core philosophies is to strive for excellence in our ministry and programs. We are seeking to partner with qualified staff who are excited about similar ministry goals. Our camp program would not exist without staff and volunteers who embrace these opportunities. Our vision is to purposefully disciple our Summer Staff, Volunteers, and In-Trainings as they in turn pour their time and energy into the people and tasks before them. We would be honored if you would apply for this exciting, rewarding summer opportunity.





Summer Staff

- Programming Staff
- Counselors & Assistant Counselors
- Food Service Staff
- Wranglers
- Vaulting Instructors
- Riding Instructors
- Lifeguard
- Housekeeping/Landscaping
- Operations
- Store Clerk

Volunteer

- Food Service
- Housekeeping/Landscaping
- Lawn Care/Maintenance
- Nurses



In Training Program

MMR's In-Training program is designed as a discipleship model to instruct young men and women in areas of Christ-like character, integrity, and maturity with practical training and experience in a variety of areas within the summer camp setting. In-Trainings are given assignments geared toward personal reflection in light of Scriptural truth, partnered with life application. Assignments are supplemented by one-on-one mentoring from qualified staff who are committed to speak into the teens' lives with truth and love.

The cost for the program is \$460 for three weeks of training. Structured leadership training is available for In-Trainings in the following areas: counseling, barn, and media.



Miracle Mountain Ranch Missions, Inc.
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