



BOXCROSS

Winter 2023

**SUMMER
CAMP
2024
dates inside!**



Note from the Director

by Matt Cox



As a ministry, we often ask for prayer. Martin Lloyd Jones said, "Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God." Prayer is so valuable as it aligns our hearts with God's, helping us acknowledge our dependence on Him.

I am blessed to have a mother who prays for me. My mom is now 90 years old and much of her morning is filled with prayer and study of the Word. This past summer she shared how her volunteering at the Ranch has evolved. Because of challenges with her hearing aids in a noisy environment, she's not able to have the same interaction that she used to enjoy, but her primary role for the Ranch ministry is now that of "Prayer Warrior." As she has said, retiring from ministry is not an option, but finding the one that suits us best is a blessing." My mom prays each morning for so many. She prays when she's crocheting and while quilting with friends at church. She has said, "No matter our age, there's always a ministry."

I wrongly used to think being a "Prayer Warrior" was a title allotted to those that were older and limited in other ways of service. While that season in life may allow for time to focus more on prayer ministry, obviously that kind of thinking is completely wrong. Hudson Taylor said "Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him." Several things that I've been employing in my prayer life include; starting my day with focused prayer, using landmarks around the Ranch to remind me to pray for certain individuals, praying scripture (particularly the Psalms before bed), and trying to be considerate of my words when I pray. I can fall into patterns of expressing things and not really considering what I'm saying. For instance, I always used to pray for others by asking the Lord to be with them. (If you do this, by the way, I'm not saying you should stop). Instead, when I pray for folks who are followers of Christ, I thank Him that He is already with them and ask Him that they would be assured in that truth.



This article barely scratches the surface of prayer, but if it stirs consideration then I've effectively "salted the oats." I don't know if I'll ever be seen as a "Prayer Warrior", but I am blessed for how the Lord has been increasingly drawing this to my attention. I also pray that as a ministry we would be characterized as a people of prayer; daily declaring our dependency on the Lord and walking in the confidence of His sufficiency. May we be reminded of the start of Psalm 65:2 regarding the Lord "O You, who hear prayer." As we enter this winter season, there are many things that we are praying about, which you can find in our Prayer and Praise section. We would joyfully ask you to join us as we come before the throne together and align our hearts with God.

Progress Report

by Donnie Rosie

Summer Camp 2023 This past summer season was impactful! Over 2000 guests heard more about Christ and 80 of those made decisions for Christ. We had very full programs, great volunteers, and progress on our building projects.

Cattleman's Hotel In late spring, crews worked to get the newly renovated Cattleman's Hotel ready for camp, and they made it happen! We still need to add heating and cooling options to these units, but overall, they are open. During the summer, the upstairs of Cattleman's often holds volunteers like speakers and nurses, and downstairs, it is full of kids. Six newly renovated units with bathrooms are indeed a blessing! We will use this building year-round, and it will allow us to host our first couples' retreat in many years.



Staff Housing Look to your left as you come up the front hill where the pasture starts and you will see a new driveway and two new staff housing units. Crews continue to work on these units to have them open as soon as possible. This housing is much-needed and will go a long way to alleviate our shortage of staff housing on the ranch.

What's Next? With a camp that is turning sixty years old, there is always more to do. We need to add restrooms to the Settlers' bunkhouse and begin renovating additional bunkhouses before next summer. If you or your church would like to either come volunteer to work on or sponsor one of these projects, please let us know. We could not do what we do without the help of volunteers!

New Land Campaign For many years now, our neighbors, the Conklins, have shared with Matt Cox about their plans to sell their property that borders the Ranch. They also said they wanted to give the Ranch the first opportunity to consider the property. We are excited to announce that the board and Ranch leadership have moved to purchase this property. It will add about 90 acres to the Ranch—many of which we have already been using for trail rides. The property includes a home and several ponds. Our end-of-the-year giving campaign will focus on raising money to pay off this land. The cost is approx. \$220,000. We are getting a mortgage, but our goal is to pay this off in under 3 years, hopefully saving a lot of interest. If we can pay it off this winter, that would be even better!

The Role You Play Would you consider helping with this land campaign or coming to volunteer at Miracle Mountain Ranch? We have so many opportunities right now, but it does not come without great need. We are so thankful to those who support the ministry of the Ranch. We could not do it without your support. As Matt mentioned in his update, we also need your prayers. Please pray that God's will be done and that he will be glorified at Miracle Mountain Ranch!



Glimpse Into Our Lives

by Jenni Cox

If there's one thing that never changes at the Ranch, it's that things are always changing! Some changes are good, and others are hard. A wonderful change amongst our staff is the arrival of 4 more babies! These sweet new arrivals have been such a joy to have around the Ranch.

*Justin Purdie was born on March 4, 2023
to Teddy and Noelle Purdie.*

*Lara Marshall was born on March 28, 2023
to Adam and Chelsea Marshall.*

*Seersha Wallace was born on April 25, 2023
to Simeon and Megan Wallace.*

*Finneas Martin was born on June 2, 2023
to Chad and Miriam Martin.*



We have also had some challenging goodbyes. Chip and Sandy Hungerford, who have served here on staff for over 35 years, pulled out at the end of the summer season to begin their new adventure at Tuckaleechee Retreat Center in Townsend, TN. They have both served in vital roles in the ministry for many years and not only do we feel their absence in the office, barn, buckboard, and all the other areas they helped with, but also in the key part they played in the lives of the students and staff. Many of those that they have mentored are now on staff and/or raising families of their own. We are excited to hear about what God is going to do in and through them in the days to come.

Megan and Simeon Wallace have also pulled out for their new lives in Ephrata, PA. Megan served on staff in the programming department for 4 years but a recent job opportunity arose for Simeon that has them moving downstate with baby Seersha. Although they will be missed terribly, we look forward to hearing about this new adventure and all that it holds for them.

As a staff body, we can also feel like a family. A family grows and disperses over the years, and that is not dissimilar to the changes we experience on staff. These times are bittersweet but we rejoice that God goes with each of them. He has faithfully sustained the ministry here for many years and we are trusting Him to do just that through these recent changes.



SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Daniel Stanley

What a great summer! In August we graduated 25 students, and two weeks ago we welcomed 27 students, 18 first-years and 9 second-years. It's always enjoyable to get to know a new group, and to help them become familiar with the ins and outs of our program. Every year, when I walk through the schedule, expectations, and due dates for various projects and program requirements, I watch the incoming class grow more and more overwhelmed. It's a feeling familiar to anyone who has gone through some kind of college program. We call it "the fog—" a mix of confusion, panic, and uncertainty about whether or not the assigned tasks can actually be completed. I love watching the students wrestle with it, because I know where they have to turn in order to deal with those pressures—to the same God they came to this program to pursue, who upholds us in all our confusion and weakness. As the fall wears on, I enjoy seeing the students emerge from the fog stronger, happier, and more confident in God, not in spite of the trial our schedule presents to them, but because of it.

This fall, pray that our students would approach their training and their studies with joy, and would receive everything the Lord has for them in our program.



Retreats & Events



Christmas Party | December 2

Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior with a time of singing, fellowship, and food. This festive event includes Christmas carols, decorations, finger foods, hot drinks, a wagon ride through our western town, and great fellowship with friends. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and the Program begins at 6:30 pm.



S.A.L.T | January 12-15

For teens considering the School of Discipleship, S.A.L.T. is a great way to experience ranch life first hand. Personal devotions and Bible classes as well as fun games and activities are all on the schedule! You will also gain valuable insight into what it takes to make a ministry function as you experience the various departments of Miracle Mountain Ranch. This retreat is for ages 13-20.



Youth Winter Blast | January 19-20

Join us for our Winter Blast Retreat! The weekend will include adventure-packed activities such as trail rides, octoball, tubing (weather permitting), and much more! Our weekend starts on Friday, January 19th with registration at 4:30 pm and wraps up on Saturday, January 20th at 7:00 pm. Don't miss out on this fun-filled event for ages 9-14.



Men's Retreat | February 2-3

In a culture in which God's Word and Biblical manhood are often under attack, it has become even more necessary for men to strengthen and encourage one another toward 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



Couples' Retreat | February 23-25

For the first time in many years, MMR is holding a couples' retreat! Matt and Jenni Cox will be discussing the fundamental Biblical principles of marriage and how they impact our day to day dynamic as couples and individuals. Housing is limited, so sign up soon. We'd love to have you come and be refreshed as couples in God's Word.



Quilter's Retreat | March 7-9

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, and enjoy delicious meals. If you have fabrics, notions, patterns or other sewing/ quilting related items that you no longer want or need, bring them along to place on our "share table."



Family Fun Weekend | March 15-16

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 4 pm and conclude after dinner on Saturday.



Mother Daughter Retreat | April 19-20

This weekend is specifically designed as a special time for mothers and daughters to come and enjoy time spent with one another and 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 4 pm on Friday and conclude after dinner on Saturday.

Retreats & Events



Father Daughter Retreat | April 26-28

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 Christ. During this retreat, you'll find a relaxed environment as well as active options for fathers and daughters to enjoy together.



Spring Horse Lovers' | May 10-12

Are you looking for a weekend adventure with a western atmosphere to broaden your horsemanship skills? Join our qualified staff for a weekend of scenic trail riding, practical ground classes, open-fire cooking, and genuine western hospitality! This retreat will teach riding and training skills while also helping you develop a deeper relationship with Christ. If you'd like to bring your own horse, contact MMR for more info.



Father Son Retreat | May 17-19

For this year's retreat, we will be taking a canoe trip on the Allegheny River, which is only about 13 miles from the Ranch! Enjoy Saturday out on the river with your son or mentored youth, then come back to the Ranch for a grilled supper and Biblical teaching. This is a rustic retreat designed to help us take a step back to focus on growing in God's Word and building father-son bonds through awesome activities.



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!



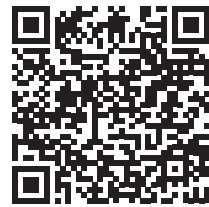
Solar Eclipse Retreat | April 7-8

We invite you to join us for a once-in-a lifetime event as Warren County will experience an almost-total solar eclipse on April 8th. This one-time retreat will kick off April 7th with registration at 4:30 pm, and will conclude Monday after dinner at 6pm. This weekend's activities will include trail rides, Confidence Course, climbing wall, and more, with a schedule break in the afternoon to enjoy the solar eclipse. Join us as we marvel at God's creation together! Visit our website for pricing and details.

WANTED ITEMS

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

You can view these items and more on our Amazon wish list by scanning the QR code here.



Amazon Wish List





Prayer

- Please pray 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.
- Pray for the current class in the School of Discipleship as they seek the Lord.
- Please pray for winter retreats and traveling safety to many conferences and events.
- Pray for wisdom as a ministry as we make plans in both facilities and programs to accommodate growing and changing needs.
- Please pray that the resident staff would be encouraged in their service to the Lord and provision of their financial support as well as housing needs.
- Please continue to pray for God's provision for Ranch finances, particularly for the land purchase opportunity.

Praise

- We had an amazing summer of ministry with over 1,200 youth attending summer camp. 81 kids accepted Christ!
- A tremendous fall line-up of Retreats was well attended and the Lord really blessed our time together.
- We have 27 students this year in the School of Discipleship.
- Through the support of many individuals, churches, and organizations, we had the opportunity to help scholarship kids so they could attend summer camp.
- We were blessed with a great summer team of staff and volunteers.
- God provided full barns of hay.
- The Cattleman's remodel project was able to be wrapped up and used just in time for the summer camp season.
- Staff housing projects are still progressing.
- We praise God for His protection in health over the busy summer months.
- We are so thankful for the many donors who help make the Ranch ministry possible.



Miracle Mountain Ranch

Miracle Mountain Ranch Missions, Inc.
101 Rodeo Dr.
Spring Creek, PA 16436
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