



Hi friends!

As you know, I worked at Miracle Mountain Ranch (MMRM) this summer as a camp counselor. During that time, I was a bunkhouse counselor for over 65 young men between the ages of 10 and 17. Besides having loads of fun during games and activities, I spent quiet time having good, spiritual conversations with “my” ranchers. I had the incredible opportunity to be the tool that God used to lead two of these guys to a relationship with Jesus Christ, which was the highlight of my summer.

Towards the end of the summer, I became aware of a permanent staff position that was opening up in the operations department. A good friend of mine, Johnston Williams, was leaving for San Antonio, Texas, to work with his dad’s ministry. Shortly afterwards, I talked to MMRM’s executive director, Matt Cox, about the possibility of joining the staff. He said he would pray about it and talk to the other staff and get back to me by the end of summer camp. At the same time, I spent time praying, and felt a total peace about going on staff—as much as I have ever felt about doing anything.

But there were still two weeks of summer camp left—two weeks before I would find out whether or not the other staff wanted or needed me to join them. It was not terribly hard to wait because I was so busy with the Ranchers, but on the last day of camp, I saw Matt Cox and asked if a decision had been made. He told me to wait until the next day, which was the day of the summer staff outing. All the summer staff, volunteers, and permanent staff went to a nearby camp and had fun unwinding and just hanging out together before the summer staff departed.



That night, after my final bunkhouse inspection, Matt Cox found me and told me that he would be excited to have me on staff. I was so ecstatic!

Why was I so happy? Because this was basically a prayer of mine coming true. Did it look like what I was hoping for? No, not really—but let me explain. Ever since going through the apprenticeship program I had wanted to disciple young men. My plan was to shoe horses, get a business running, hire a few boys/young men that wanted to learn, and teach them the trade but also share with them what the Lord had been teaching me that day/week. But as many of you know, it took me a very long time to get my business off the ground and in the process I got discouraged. I stopped really seeking after God as much as I needed to be because I became a stagnant pool of the knowledge of God. I became full because I was not pouring into the lives of the people around me. Being at the ranch puts me into a place where I can be constantly pouring into others while learning from other staff that have been doing what I want to do for years. They can teach me to be more clear and organized in sharing my thoughts, so others can better understand them.

Matt gave me a few things to do before officially coming on staff, including filling out an application as a formality (so they could have all my information in one place), coming up with a budget for the year, and raising 75% of that amount by time I arrived on staff. All permanent staff at MMRM are on mission support. Housing is provided and because I will not have a kitchen in my housing this first year, meals will be provided at the main kitchen. This is a blessing, not because I can't cook, but because it will save me a significant amount of money. The Ranch would like me to arrive no later than September 11th, and even a few weeks before that if possible.

At first, I was not sure if I wanted to ask people for money, because I was not sure it was scriptural. I talked to a number of the staff and some other people and I got mixed ideas, which did not help a whole lot, so I did what I should have done right away—turned to the Bible. Now I know that Paul was a tentmaker to support himself on his missionary journeys, but he also thanks individuals and churches who have supported him along the way. So I was like, “Where in the Bible does it say either that we should or should not ask others for money to help us in our ministry?” I found what I was looking for in 1 Corinthians 16:1-3, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.” Paul, despite being a tentmaker, also asked for money from others when it was needed.

After seeing that I am Biblically able to ask for money to allow me to further the kingdom of God, I still questioned how much, because I know





my budget will change a lot even from this year to next year. One factor is that the Ranch requires me to have medical insurance, which, this year, because I am still 25, is covered by my parents' insurance, but will not be covered after next year. Then there is also the food, which, for this year, is covered by the Ranch, but may not be after the first year. So in some ways, the budget for this year is a fake number that has the potential to change a lot for next year.

The budget that my family and I came up with is between \$7,500 and \$10,000 a year, or \$725 to \$850 a month. To me, this seems like a huge amount of money, but the Bible says that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and if He can take care of them, and since He has taken care of me so far, I know that I can trust Him to supply all of my needs. Just as as He has over the last almost 25 year of my life! But if you are interested in partnering with me by supporting me with a donation, the information as to how you can do that is at the bottom of the page.

Now as pressing as the financial support is, I know for a fact that it is the least important kind of support that I need. What I need far more is prayer support. If you are interested in praying for me, there is a list of things that are currently on my mind that you could pray for! And I thank you for both or either!

Like I mentioned earlier, I was chosen by God to lead two boys to the Lord this year, and I know that there were over seventy other ranchers that were saved this summer at the Ranch. I know that is in large part because of the huge number of people that join the staff at the Ranch in praying for the Ranchers that come in each week over the summer. But the Ranch is also a lot more than summer camp. The School of Discipleship trains around thirty college-age, young people each school year. I will be involved in leading the students during work crews and will be a part of weekly advisor meetings alongside a veteran staff member. The Ranch is also a year-long retreat center, with many people coming to us—I'd love to see you visit some time!

Now you may be asking, "What will you be doing on staff?" That is a very good question. I know some of the things I will be doing, but I don't know what it will look like, because there are a number of different departments that I will be helping out. The main place I will be serving is operations, which is responsible for the farming, construction, maintenance of buildings, and keeping the Ranch cars, tractors, trucks, and trailers in working order. We are also responsible for keeping the grass mowed and the landscaping looking nice. On top of that, I will be helping with the vaulting program, with the blacksmithing and farrier needs that come with being on a Ranch with 90-100 horses, and with the outreach that includes going to the homeschool expos, sports shows, and messages from the mount (presenting the Gospel through horses, rope tricks, dogs, etc. to create analogies and keep people's attention). It will be a good (and

stretching) experience and I am excited to see what the Lord does through my life. I think I will be busy!

I am praying that I can make the move to Pennsylvania within the next few weeks. With God's blessing and your support, that can happen!

Thank you so much,

Nathan Snyder, c/o MMRM, 101 Rodeo Drive, Spring Creek, PA 16436. 260.437.2857
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Financially Support Nathan Snyder's Ranch Ministry:

I can only be a part of the ministry of Miracle Mountain Ranch through the generous support of others. Be a part of the work by contributing monthly:

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Thank you for your generous prayer and financial support!

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Donations may also be made online at: <http://mmrm.org/about/donation-center/>
Designate your gift to "Nathan Snyder." Any gifts given are tax-deductible.



Prayerfully Support Nathan Snyder's Ranch Ministry:

*That I would be teachable.
*That I would be able to live my life in such a way that I can tell the students that are coming, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

*That I would be able to love the unlovely.

- * That I would see areas to serve and be willing to serve.
 - * That I hear the Holy Spirit.
 - * That God would prepare the hearts of the students coming to the ranch, those coming in for retreats, and those that I meet while I am off the mountain.
 - * Health for me and the rest of the people at the ranch.
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