

# News from the Hungerford's

January 2022

We had an awesome summer this year with every bunkhouse filled almost to capacity. Our biggest difficulty, like many places, was getting enough counselors to staff the bunkhouses we had. However this was a blessing in disguise, as it allowed us to complete work on some of the bunkhouses we had been remodeling (more on this later). This year we were able to have regular overnight camps and, after a great experience last year, we also added two weeks of day camps. With covid still active during the summer, we did our best to make sure we followed the best procedures we could to lessen the chance of infection in camp. We are so grateful that we had a covid free summer.

After summer camp was over, we went right into hosting two family camps, which were both very successful. We then finished up our fall with horse lovers and a ladies retreat (which were both filled to capacity), as well as a school group and a couple of church groups. We also had a community Christmas Party the first week of December. It was great to catch up with many Ranch friends and to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord together.

At the end of summer camp, we saw our 14 students (a very small class from the usual) from last year's School of Discipleship (SOD) graduate, with five of them choosing to stay on as second year students. Then in September we had 33 new students come in for our 2021 - 22 class. Of these we are privileged to disciple three young ladies, Chloe from Maine, Grace from Maryland, and Caleigh from Ontario Canada. We are enjoying getting to know them and watching as God works in each of their lives.

January starts off our winter / spring retreats. We've already had a group of 44 teens and young adults in for SALT (Servant Attitude Leadership Training). This is a mini School of Discipleship program where they attend classes, have hands-on experience in an area of focus (i.e. barn, kitchen, program, or operations) and get a little taste of what the program is like. We also have a Cowboys for Christ group, a youth Winter Blast (snow camp), an online photography class, a quilters retreat, a men's retreat, a family day, and a mother daughter day, all of which will keep our weekends hopping. Over Easter break in April, we will be taking a group of students and others to Mexico to assist a mission organization down there. A couple of years ago, we raised money to build a drill. Since then, over the past few years, we have been drilling a number of water wells for the many small villages down there. This year, our group will continue with the drilling, as well as help run a VBS and a women's ministry, and help with a number of work projects in the village.

As mentioned earlier, I oversaw the remodeling of four bunkhouses (two per building) last year. We completely gutted the units and replaced rough sawn wood walls with plasterboard and put in beautiful tongue & groove pine ceilings. We also replaced wall heaters with Mrcool mini split heating and cooling units. This means we will now have air conditioning in some of our bunkhouses. We are currently in the process of remodeling three more for next summer. We are also planning to build a brand new bunkhouse. We praise the Lord that we have been able to raise all the money needed for this project. This bunkhouse will be larger than our current ones, with bathrooms, a capacity of 12 in each room, plus heating and air conditioning. People who came to camp used to like the rustic feel, but not so much anymore, so we are trying to upgrade our facilities as quickly and as best we can, without losing the western flavor. We have a lot to get done before this upcoming summer camp. It all seems

very overwhelming at times, but we will do all we can and trust that God will get us to where we need to be, even if it's not where we think we should be.

In October, Sandy, Matthew & I went out to visit Kyle and Tim & Sam and the kids, Michelle also flew out to join us. While there we celebrated Thanksgiving together, it was a great time! We visited Yellowstone and Glacier National Park. Even though part of Glacier was closed due to the snow, we still saw lots of beautiful scenery and snow capped mountains. Matthew and Kyle took a hike over a mountain pass that eventually came to an end because the snow got too deep to be able to continue. Shortly after our visit, Kyle came home for a month. While home, he helped us remodel our laundry room. He is now living and working in the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Long term housing is hard to come by there. Please pray that he will be able to find more permanent housing there.

At Christmas, Chris and Sarah, Marisa (Matthew's fiancée), Kyle, and Michelle joined us in PA (as well as Shawn & Matthew who live here). Once again it was great to have most of the family together. It's been a couple of years since we have all been together, but hopefully we will all be here in May for Matthew and Marisa's wedding. We are looking forward to both.

We are so grateful for:

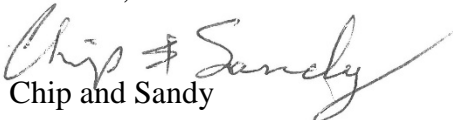
- The many Christmas cards we received from all of you.
- For God's faithfulness
- For all of your friendships, love, and your support, both financial and prayer
- For a safe and reasonably healthy year for our immediate and extended family.
- For the many opportunities to travel and see our children and grandchildren.
- For the opportunity to serve at Miracle Mountain Ranch alongside awesome coworkers (friends).

We are looking forward to this summer and have much to get done before it starts so please pray for:

- Completion of bunkhouse remodeling
- Completion of the new bunkhouse (at least to the point of being able to occupy the sleeping area)
- The replacement of our Fort Wilderness, which burnt down last spring,. We are still considering what to replace it with (platform tents, covered wagons, or something else)
- Some significant pool repairs
- Staffing for the summer, especially counselors
- A replacement for Chip's Receptionist / Registrar who is expecting her first child in August.

We pray you all have a safe and healthy 2022!

In Christ,

  
Chip and Sandy

PS if you receive our letter by mail and would like to change to email, or visa a versa, just let us know.  
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