

Dear friends,

Here is our long overdue update about our summer and fall here at the Ranch:

Summer Camp:

Our summer flew by! Everyone was involved this year:

George worked in the media department as a photographer. He helped take and edit the pictures and then post them to our media site so moms can get online and see their kids having a good time at camp. Over 770,000 photos are viewed in a month as family members visit the camp from home.

Cole worked in the buckboard store as he has done in the past summers. Every day, almost every camper comes in to get little snacks and sometimes gifts for their parents. He has learned more about helping there each year.

Grant worked with the barn department, helping to install a new fence for intensive grazing of the horses, which allowed us to manage the land more effectively. He also helped with morning chores and finished around 5:30 pm at evening chores. Grant loves working at the barn.

Karis is still at the age of enjoying friends, stocking shelves at the camp store, and helping around the house. These days of working at camp are coming soon, but we enjoy having her around the house a little more.

All of the kids enjoyed their time helping at camp, and it is a blessing to see them in action and making new friends.

Tonya helped to mentor the summer staff ladies and worked a day in the buckboard. Tonya also spoke for the Ladies Retreat this fall.

I have been managing finance, office, marketing, media, and fundraising, as well as some speaking opportunities. Over the summer, I had 11 media staff. We are always interested in training the next group of leaders in this program. They did a fantastic job.

It was a great summer, with a larger group of campers this year than last. We also had two great family camps. We really enjoy connecting with those families, as many of them have become close friends. It is good to reflect on what happened.. This is the high point of action and purpose. The ranch teemed with conversations, play, mentorship, sharing, excitement, and faith.

This fall started our new year of the School of Discipleship program at Miracle Mountain Ranch. We have 38 students up from 26 last year. We are mentoring three students and they are from Switzerland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio respectively. Robby Esperat has stayed as a second year in the media and marketing area. He is doing a great job already! Our students from last year, Kathryn and Carleigh both stayed on at the ranch, which is wonderful! Kathryn is a second year student in the barn and Carleigh is now on staff in the barn.

Tonya and I had the opportunity to film a project for Alaska Bible College in Palmer, Alaska. We had a great time with their students and staff. After that we took a few days for an anniversary get away in Suward, Alaska. What an amazing place.

As summer camp ended as fall began, the kids started back into the routine of school. We have a high schooler! George, in the 9th grade, is taking some online classes. He played soccer for Corry High School and got to play a lot! Cole, 7th grade, is also taking some online classes. He too played soccer, but for the community league. Grant, 6th grade, played rec football this year. Karis, 4th grade, is on the swim team at the Y. The younger kids are also doing 4H this year! Tonya keeps busy teaching, running kids all over, mentoring students, and leading a mom's group.

Our house project is finally wrapping up and we hope to actually be in the house by the end of November. Come visit us there!

As always, we are incredibly grateful for your prayers and support. We appreciate each and everyone of you.

In Christ,
Donnie, Tonya, George, Cole, Grant, Karis