

Merry Christmas!

During this Christmas season, we have been going through a children's Advent devotional as a family. Each day, we look at another Old Testament prophecy that foretold the details of Christ's first coming. It is such a blessing to see how all of Scripture points to the coming of the Messiah who would redeem the world from the curse of sin. There are so many aspects of God's character on display when considering the Christmas story. We serve a wise, gracious, omnipotent, glorious, and merciful God whose plans are so much greater than our own. Who would have dreamed that God would come to earth as a helpless baby in order that he might live a perfect life, and die on the cross to save his people from their sins? As we recognize these things and are reminded of the magnificence of God's character, may we allow it to change us and draw us to glorify him in all that we do.

Some news since our last letter in September:

The newest group of School of Discipleship students was arriving as our last newsletter was sent out. They have been here for three months now. With 38 students, it is the largest group that we have had over the last few years. Bigger groups bring extra energy, but also a greater challenge to get to know each student well. We have enjoyed having some of the students over to our house. One of our favorite gatherings was for a worship night, where the students brought their instruments and voices. We are blessed to have such a talented group of young people!



We have three guys in our advisor group this year, which has been a fun change. Colton is from Virginia, and his area of focus is operations. Josiah is from New Jersey and is in camping ministry. Micah is from north-eastern Pennsylvania and is also in operations. These guys are all first-year students, and we have truly been enjoying having them as a part of our family!

Josh has begun work on his biblical counseling certification through ACBC and has enjoyed having the opportunity to teach

biblical counseling to the students this year. He taught Intro to Biblical Counseling in September to all of the students, and he just recently began teaching a more in-depth counseling class to the students who chose camping ministry as their area of focus. While he doesn't necessarily feel qualified to teach this class, the study of Biblical Counseling has been stretching him, and it has been a joy to see so many students get excited about using the living and active word of God to speak truth into the lives of people in need.

In October, we were able to visit a supporting church in Texas. It had been about five years since our last visit, so it was nice to touch base with the congregation there. During our visit, Josh spoke for a men's retreat weekend that they were hosting. He shared from the Ranch's summer theme passage, Hebrews 10:19-25. He had a great time hunting and getting to know the guys better.

While in Texas, we celebrated our seventh anniversary. We are thankful for all that the last seven years have held – innumerable blessings. We're thankful for how God has grown us and continues to sanctify us. Tessa turned six in November, and Jedidiah turned three in September.

Tessa really loves reading; she spends a lot of time with her nose in a book. Jedidiah has recently become our most frequent helper in the kitchen. Anytime he notices something being made, he quickly pushes over a chair and joins right in. Montana is eager to keep up with the big kids and is trying to figure out the English language. This fall, we have been busy with lots of canning and preserving. We are grateful for God's abundant provision both in the garden and in the woods, as Josh was able to harvest a few deer with his bow.

Thank you for the part that each of you plays in our lives. We are immensely blessed to have so many dear friends and family members who love us, pray for us, and care for us financially as we serve at MMR. We love the opportunities that this ministry gives us, and we wouldn't be able to do it without all of you, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!!

The Bridges Family

Prayer requests and praise:

- That God would give us wisdom as we parent our children.
- That Josiah, Colton, and Micah would grow in their understanding and love of God and his Word and continue to allow him to transform their lives for his glory.
- That God would provide the summer staff we need for the 2026 season.
- Praise God for a fruitful summer and retreat season.

If supporting us financially is something you would like to do, here are some things you might want to know:

- 100% of your support goes directly to us
- All gifts are tax-deductible
- Check or money orders should be made out directly to Miracle Mountain Ranch, designated for us on a separate piece of paper or in the memo line
- MMR does have the ability to do direct deposit withdrawals from your checking or savings account for your monthly giving. This can be done by calling the office at 814-664-7673
- Support can also be given online at mmrm.org.

