

An Update From Niyah Sheeley

Hello there! I hope this letter reaches you in good health. It's amazing how fast this year has gone by. It is already February and we are getting ready for the Summer. Truth be told, Summer is our biggest event of the entire year, and there is a lot of preparation for it. One of the ways my fellow staff members and I are doing that is by reaching out to people who may want to join for Summer Staff.

To those who don't know me, my name is Niyah Sheeley. I work at Miracle Mountain Ranch Missions as the Housekeeper. My responsibilities include, but are not limited to, preparing bunk houses and units for guests, and maintaining the public spaces for guest and staff alike.

Miracle Mountain Ranch is a non-profit camp ministry. All staff who work here are on mission support, and that includes me. I know that it is the Lord who will provide for me, and if there is something that I would ask of you, it would be for your prayers. Whenever you do something for a long enough time, you begin to work on autopilot and may become numb to the things around you. Please pray to the Lord that He would always remind me that I need Him everyday. To help me treasure Him above everything else in this world. If you wish to partner with me in my aim to serve the Lord, you may send a check in the mail. If you do, it should be written out to the Ranch, but write in the memo that it is Niyah's support. If you wish to donate online, you can go online to www.mmmr.org, on the website is my staff page and you can donate there. To those who have supported me before with either your prayers or donations, thank you so much!

I had a wonderful Christmas, I was able to go visit my family who live in Athens PA. While I was back home, my brother and his wife had their baby! She was born on the 21th of December, and her name is Louisa. I was able to get back to the Ranch at the end of December, despite the snow storm that passed through. I currently don't have a car myself, and I am thankful for my parents for driving me back, but I am saving to buy a car.

We here at the Ranch have had a lot of retreats in since the beginning of January. We had our Youth Winter Blast (A short weekend with kids playing in the snow, or at least what little snow we got that week), our S.A.L.T Retreat (Servant Attitude Leadership Training Retreat, for teens and young adults), and we just had our Men's Retreat.

A few of the staff, all the Second Year Students and myself have taken a week long trip to Lafayette, Indiana. We went to BCTC (Biblical Counseling Training Conference). The Biblical Counseling Training Conference was a week of equipping Christians from all over as biblical counseling leaders share the Word of Truth and how to minister that truth with grace, compassion, kindness, mercy and love. I was very excited for this trip.

When I was a student of the School of Discipleship, I was able to attend Track 2 during my second year. I learned so much doing Track 3 this year. One of my favorite speakers was Brad Bigney, author of "Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols." One of his topics was about making much of God while you are counseling. That one stuck out to me a lot. When ever a person goes to a counselor, it is because something is going wrong in their life and they want to make it better, and in that many people use God as a means to an end but in reality God is the end goal Himself.

Thank you all for your prayers and support while I serve here at the Ranch.

Niyah Sheeley