

EMPOWER THE MINISTRY

AROUND the FIRE

FALL 2013

RESCUE *the Equine* ★ MENTOR *the Child* ★ HOPE *for the Family* ★ EMPOWER *the Ministry*

HIS PERFECT TIMING

BY KIM MEEDER

Here's what I know is true—God is faithful. He is kind, loving and just. He is a God of profound design and purpose. No good or bad thing within our lives occurs outside of His unique plan for us.

He answers every prayer with one of three simple responses: yes, no... and *wait*. Whether we believe His reply or not, whether we agree with Him or not, whether we understand or not... His wisdom and timing are *always* perfect.

Not long ago, I was pondering this truth. It was August first, a poignant day, the ten-year anniversary of my beloved grandmother's passage into the arms of Jesus. Not coincidentally, it was also the same day that *Hope Rising*, my first book—dedicated to her—was released.

Lost within a tide of grief after the death of my parents, my grandmother, affectionately known as "Mimi," had the foresight to buy a little horse for me. Although she saw the ensuing redemption in my own life and witnessed the early foundations of the ranch, she left this life before seeing what God fully intended through her gift to me.

In the ten years since *Hope Rising* was released, the world learned of a tiny ranch in Oregon that rescues broken horses and broken children; loving both back to life with the hope of Jesus. By the revelation of this simple concept on August 1, 2003, a global ministry was set into motion.

Because God's timing is perfect, on August 1, 2013, I found myself face-to-face with another astounding chapter of His perfect plan...

The date was Tuesday evening, June 25th, a Ranch Fellowship night. It had been my turn to teach and I had just finished speaking on following God in "Spirit and in Truth." Most of the crowd had moved outside between the barn and the tack room even though the night was very cool.

A small group of 4-H kids had come from another state to bring a donation they had earned for the ranch through a fundraiser held in their own town. They came to the ranch to hand deliver their precious gift and to volunteer for the day. Standing in the fading light with my back to the horse corral, I delighted in fielding the hail of questions from the girls. "What's that gold horse's story?" "Where did the black and white one come from?" "Why does that bay gelding over there only have one eye?"

As their curiosity was satisfied, the adult leaders of the group started to steer them toward the driveway. I asked the group where they might be spending this brisk night. One of the girls answered with an ample amount of concern, "We're CAMPING in tents and it's going to be COLD!"

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Considering the answer for a moment, I responded by saying, “You know, I believe that someday the Lord is going to provide more room for the ranch so that when groups like yours come down, we’ll already have a place for you to stay. Just think how easy and fun that would be! All we need is just a little more space.”

There, in the twilight, mingling within the crowd, I saw an individual about 30 yards away purposefully turn around and look directly at my face. Our eyes locked momentarily. While I answered the last few questions from the girls, I noticed the individual take several steps toward the back of the group. Then, they just stood fast... *listening*.

After many hugs and kisses, the evening slowly came to an end. I stood in the darkness and watched the last few families make their way back down the hill to their vehicles. Looking up at the deep purple canvas glittering with stars, my single thought was simply, *What a great night!*

The following day an unprecedented message crossed my desk. It was from the one who’d turned around and looked at me the night before. Although wrapped in kindness, the tone was urgent. “I would like to meet with you and Troy.” After trying to shuffle our schedules to match, I discovered that they were leaving for an extended trip in a few days. Respectful of their timeframe, I suggested, “There’s no need to jam up your remaining days with more busyness, how about if we wait and have coffee after you return?” With gentle but firm persuasion, they countered, “No, I want to meet with both of you BEFORE I leave.”

After a bit of schedule wrangling, Troy

and I met them a few days later. The urgency of the meeting ignited my curiosity into a roaring flame. Why the rush? What was so pressing? Had we missed something important? Was the ranch somehow at risk? I searched our friend’s face for any clues as to why our meeting was so urgent. They gave none. Instead, they spoke at length in a relaxed tone for nearly 45 minutes of their upcoming trip. Completely stumped, I gave up my internal guessing game.

Finally, with the timing of a professional poker player, our friend simply lifted their hands and said, “Okay!” This was it, my heart rose to its tippy-toes. This was the announcement of why we were summoned to rush together...

With a hint of a smile, they explained, “God has been talking to me... and far be it from me not to listen! When I heard Kim say to that group of girls after Fellowship, ‘All we need is just a little more space,’ I heard God say, ‘And YOU are going to give it to them!’” Without speaking, they reached into their pocket and pulled out a folded sheet of paper. As they unfolded it, instant recognition shot through my chest like an arrow!

The crumpled paper was then held up at eye level for Troy and I to clearly see. It was a real estate flyer for a 51-acre piece of property across the street. The pictures captured a beautiful ranch that we knew well. Twice previously, the Lord had turned our attention toward this land to our west to pray over with intention. With a giant barn, indoor arena, two-story home and a 25-acre hay field, this ranch had captured our dreams more than once.

Yanked back to the present, our friend smiled broadly and announced, “I’m going to buy this for you!”

I glanced at Troy and saw his jaw drop! Our eyes danced between the faces in the room and the sheet of paper. As the power and wonder of this gift thundered into my heart... I couldn’t stop the tears. As if from a distance, I heard my own voice repeat, “Oh Jesus, oh Jesus! Oh Jesus!...”

With the meager ‘talents’ given by God in 1995, Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch has inhabited, invested and sown the truth of the redemption of Jesus Christ as hard as it could. On August 6, 2013 our tiny 8.9-acre ranch—built within a rock quarry—was expanded by the King we serve into 60 acres.

It is with overwhelming joy and anticipation that we—the staff of Crystal Peaks—stand at this new threshold, with full awareness that, “To whom much is given, much is expected” (Luke 12:48). We beseech you, our extended family to join us in prayer as we carefully, thoughtfully and purposefully proceed to grow our ability to share the hope of Jesus through this gift.

(Personal note—it is still so surreal to even write this! And yet I could hardly wait to share the news—the miracle—of how Jesus has answered the culmination of YOUR combined prayers over us!)

This is what I know is true: our God answers every prayer with one of three simple responses: yes, no... and *wait*. Whether we believe His reply or not, whether we agree with Him or not, whether we understand or not... His wisdom and timing are *always* perfect.

For reasons beyond our human wisdom—God—in His perfect timing has chosen to expand His ministry through us after 18 years of service. Once again, we stand on an unknown threshold of a new season... and we can hardly wait to see what’s next.



ON THE MOVE

BY TROY MEEDER

Our God is on the move. Yet, often is the time we as believers doubt the power of prayer. With all good intention, we bow before our King seeking His provision, patience and guidance... while tightly gripping a lifeline to our own pride, understanding and strength. Even still, with passionate mercy, our wise and loving God—in His time—answers our petitions.

Recently, answered prayers came to us in the form of a 51-acre ranch, now owned debt free by Crystal Peaks. In God's perfect timing, He has begun to reveal what's next for our ministry. Within the context of Rescue—Mentor—Hope—Empower, the Board of Directors and staff of Crystal Peaks are passionately, and with great intention, seeking God's perfect plan for the addition.

Crystal Peaks' core values, our foundational pillars, include: Rescue the Equine—Mentor the Child—Hope for the Family—and—Empower new Ministries.

While our horse herd is currently healthy, the addition of the "West Ranch" will afford us the opportunity to more fully pursue the rescue of horses in need. The additional acreage will also allow us to retire our own equine family into care we can provide, rather than outside adoption. What a blessing it will be for us to have our faithful "Angels in Horsehair" at our sides until the Lord calls them home. By now owning a 25-acre hay field, we are—for the first time in our 18-year history—able to harvest our own hay. With the current donations of hay added to what we can grow... we are better able to meet our herd requirements in full, as well as gift additional hay to those in need.

Mentoring the Child will largely stay on the current ranch site. Our foundation, story and roots of redemption are clearly displayed in the transformation of our grounds from what it was when we bought it—a barren rock quarry—to the peaceful

place of hope and rest it is now. This visible accounting of restoration bears silent witness to the redemption of broken lives. The addition of space will, however, offer expanded opportunities for our teenage participants through the addition of advanced horsemanship, a training venue, trail riding and carpentry.

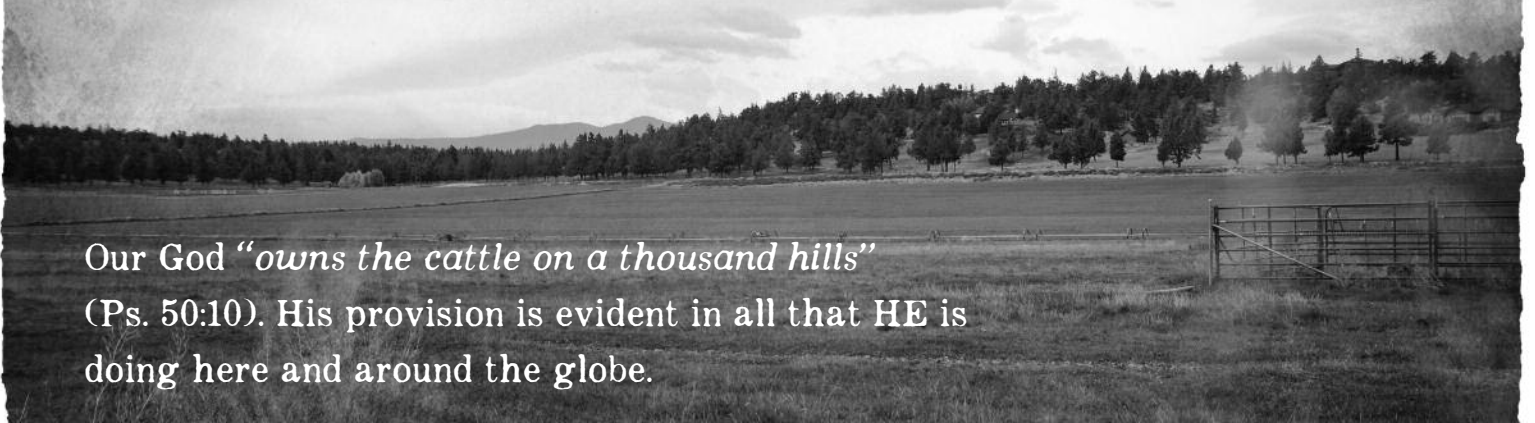
Hope for the family will be furthered by a larger facility in which to meet for Fellowships. Our current barn has been bursting at the seams for years. The barn on the West Ranch affords space tenfold. Serving families in need will also be greatly enhanced by a new and vast ability to grow food for those we serve.

Empower the Ministry will be strengthened by being able to stay "on the property" for counsel, clinics, instruction and forums.

Our God "*owns the cattle on a thousand hills*" (Ps. 50:10). His provision is evident in all that HE is doing here and around the globe.

Since the beginning, Crystal Peaks has held close the value of existing debt free. Because of His great provision through the hands of thousands, we once again look into the future with bright hopes and anticipation of what He has next for all who call this place home.

Let us no longer doubt the POWER of prayer. Our God is on the move... we delight in joining Him as He courageously builds His Kingdom. Jesus is purposefully taking back the land. Please join us in prayer as we wait on His timing and provision in the building of new structures and remodeling of the old. Our continuing desire is to serve with all we have—the horses, families and new ministries of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch.



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STAFF QUOTES

Here's what our staff had to say when asked what ministry opportunity they were MOST EXCITED about concerning the new property!

"I am so excited to see all the unexpected ministry opportunities that this new property will provide. Perhaps it will be volunteer groups coming in to serve and be encouraged themselves; or new families having a chance to participate in Fellowship and find a place of belonging; or children learning valuable skills in gardening and care of the land. I have a feeling the Lord has much greater things in store than we've even dreamed about."

– Julie Miller

"I am most excited to see how the Lord is going to use the enormous barn in regards to events and Fellowship."

"The ministry opportunity that I am excited about is having a place to continue our mentorship program throughout the winter months. This will help our mentors to continue to nurture the seeds that God has planted during the session season."

– Ellen McBride

"There is so much I am excited about concerning the new property; but the thing I am most excited about is having a greater opportunity to minister to local families. We will have a lot more space to host larger events like Fellowships, Clinics, Christmas parties and Harvest Days. The new property is truly a gift from God. It is so cool to look across the street and dream up countless possibilities about what could be done with it."

– Xandra Assur



"I am most excited about the possibility of expanding our ministry to families as a whole. The expansion of property means the ability to dream up new and exciting ways to reach out to the community and provide opportunities that some may not have anywhere else. The potential for a fishing pond, horse obstacle course, trail riding, swimming hole, etc. means creating more life experiences for those who come. It also means providing more opportunities for families to interact and play together, building positive memories which produce cohesiveness."

– Katie Jacobsen

"God is so big, and He is moving in such a massive way—it is hard to wrap my mind around what I am most excited about. I guess I would have to say that I am most excited to see what He will do. I think it will be beyond any expectation. That fills me with anticipation. I feel like we are at

the peak of the highest part of a roller coaster and at any moment the wheels will be free to descend into turns and loops of His amazing plan."

– Scott Gwin

"I am most excited about the opportunities that the new property has to reach more families as a whole—between the new vegetable gardens, the larger Fellowship barn, and just more space, the possibilities seem to be amazingly, incredibly endless! Another piece that brings lots of excitement is the indoor arena! The ability to ride and work with horses or play with kids despite the weather?! What a gift!!"

– Josie Gwin

"The biggest part of it for me is simply the faithfulness of our God shown by the new property. Crystal Peaks' ministry has been running and growing POWERFULLY for the last 18+ years. The Lord has consistently provided the hay (or funds for hay: currently 120 tons/year), covered all the costs of running the ranch, and shown that He is the Provider for this ministry; allowing us to provide this program for free and to run well on donations and the generosity of others. This new property is like an Old Testament monument, put in place to recognize and symbolize God's provision over us. Sharing this fact is the ministry opportunity I am most looking forward to."

– Jeff Woodford

"I am very excited about the prospect of community gardens. I love the idea that we would provide a place for people to work



together to provide food for their families and neighbors. I see the property as being a vibrant, life-giving community center where we operate in and begin to fulfill God's covenantal design for "Shalom." I am also really excited about what I sense is going to be amazing creativity—I know that God is going to use this property in incredible ways. I am so very grateful to be even a small part of God's plans for the "West Ranch." – Nora Seale



"When I first heard about the addition, all I wanted to do is to jump and run around! I still feel that way because of the thousands of ways that God can and will work." – Daniel Sprando

"I look forward to how the activities and added space of the new facility will allow us to further support and empower our Similar Ministries." – Rachel Shultz

"I'm excited about so much—including having a bigger barn for Fellowship and an indoor arena for games and winter mentor sessions. There is also great potential for new shop areas such as a garage shop and metal shop for kids, as well as opportunity to create a trail system for riders on the larger property. And I love that we'll have increased ability to rescue new horses." – Jeff Gorham

"I'm very much looking forward to sharing with the Crystal Peaks Community the planting, growing and reaping of the bounty from a very large garden and orchard!" – Georgia Lovell

"I stand amazed in witness to this property being the fulfillment of fervent prayer, dreams, visions and prophetic words. God has shown Himself glorious in all of it! I am excited to see this property be an extension of the 'life-giving hope' that is the foundation of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch. My heart is all about the potential use of the land to produce food which in turn feeds souls for Christ. There is a future and a hope for this land, and we're all eager to move forward in obedience in its use for His glory! Thank you, Lord, for your provision!" – Judy Jeffery



Empowering the Ministry

2013 Similar Ministry Update

BY RACHEL SHULTZ



Photos: Benjamin Edwards Photography

Time and again we are astounded at the Lord's work within Similar Ministries all over the world. We wanted to keep you abreast of the latest updates and news regarding what is happening on our site and around the globe.

Since January 1, 2013, *fifteen* new ranches have applied and been added to Crystal Peaks' growing list of over 160 **Similar Ministries**. Thirteen of these ranches were prompted to open their doors after attending one of our Information Clinics. The other two have actively served their communities for some time and simply sought training and resources from CPYR to enhance their existing ministry. We continue to shoulder with each of them in prayer and support as they move

forward in serving children and families.

Another blessing we've witnessed this year is the Lord equipping Similar Ministries to host their own regional fellowships in support of each other. For the second year, Refuge Ranch in Illinois hosted their Midwest Ranch Fellowship. Kelsie Woodford, our Director of Operations, attended this Fellowship and assisted in teaching many of the classes on sessions, volunteers, leadership and fundraising.

There were 12 ministries represented at the Midwest conference, including ranches from Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Oregon. Highlights of the time included opportunity for participants to brainstorm and to ask questions regarding how to further and

refine ministry, make connections for grant opportunities, as well as time to unite in meaningful worship and fellowship. Many leaders have remained in close contact, supporting each other via e-mail and phone calls. Refuge Ranch plans to host another Midwest Ranch Fellowship in the spring of 2014.

CPYR's 2013 Information Clinic was attended by 104 people from 26 states and three international countries. The Second Annual Leadership Conference was attended by 56 core leaders from 23 Similar Ministries spanning 14 states.

Empowering the Ministry is an integral part of Crystal Peaks' core mission, and it's incredible to witness firsthand the impact being made all over the world.



Yes! I would like to shoulder with Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch to support children, horses and families in need.

Please use my donation for:

- Where it is needed most
- Rescue the Equine
- Mentor the Child
- Hope for the Family
- Empower the Ministry

Payment Method:

A check payable to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch or CPYR for \$ _____

Send donations to: Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch, 19344 Innes Market Road, Bend OR 97701.

You can also make your donation at www.crystalpeakseyouthranch.org with your credit card or PayPal account.

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CPYR currently empowers ministries in 39 states & 8 other countries including Canada, Mexico, England, Romania, Slovakia, India, Australia & New Zealand.

★ **2014 Clinics** ★

The 2014 Information Clinic will be held June 4 - 7. Registration will open online on January 15, 2014.

The 2014 Leadership Conference will be held May 21-24 and is open by invitation only to those who have completed our application process and are active Similar Ministries.





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CPYR CALENDAR

The 2014 Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch Calendar will be available for order on December 1st through our website. It is with great joy that we once again offer this free gift to you. We know you'll love the photos and quotes capturing the essence of the ranch ministry. With great intention, we've put together this calendar with hopes that it will be an encouragement to all who view it.

To order go to:
<http://www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org/ranch-life/2014-cpyr-calendar-order-form/>
(note: the link won't be active until December 1, 2013).

