

Joy's Jots

About a month ago, I was walking home from the office feeling a bit discouraged and frustrated by mud season (the time of year filled with melting snow and endless amounts of mud). Summer seemed eons away and all of the hours spent in the office planning and preparing for summer camp somehow felt monotonous. Just as I was about to enter my house, I noticed something, and I had to take a closer look. Even though there was still about two feet of snow on the ground, under the eaves of my house I discovered daffodil leaves peaking through a tiny splotch of bare ground. I was so impacted and excited by the sight that I ran inside and grabbed my camera to document the moment.



Summer means that soon the camp will be filled with the excitement and laughter of children. Kids will be making crafts, fishing, memorizing Bible verses, splashing each other, exploring the property on horseback and challenging each other to games of foosball. Silly camps songs and worship will fill the air. Evenings spent around the campfire making s'mores will become the norm. Counselors will be praying together and sharing how God is working in their lives and the lives of their campers.

It also filled me with the hope that God will use all of our long, sometimes monotonous, hours of work to develop a program that will challenge youth to grow in their relationships with Christ. Hope that no child will leave camp without knowing that God loves them and Christ died for their sins.

Now, a month later, my blooming daffodils constantly encourage me to keep working and remind me to hope and pray that God will use this summer at Cross Bar X to dramatically impact and change lives forever. ●

For me, those sprouting daffodils filled me with hope. Hope that winter is almost over and summer is just around the corner.



You Can Make A Difference



2010 Gift Catalog



Have you ever wondered what items Cross Bar X needs most or how your monetary donation to CBX can make a difference?

Well, you no longer have to wonder. We recently created a gift catalog, which highlights over 20 things that we could use to improve the ministry of the camp. For example, a gift of \$2.50 can buy a chick, which will help kids learn to care for animals and provide eggs for the camp, or \$81 can buy a new table for the dining hall.

You can check out the 2010 Gift Catalog in the donor section of our website, or contact the camp and we will mail one to you.

May 2010

RANCH REPORT

Cross Bar X

Bringing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to urban and rural youth.



Tim's Tablet

The Summer at a Glance

I love the signs of spring! The sun is out, the grass is green, the flowers are blooming and the lake is full of hungry fish! All of these amazing signs of spring, while beautiful in their own right, signal a message in my brain; SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE!!! This is both an exciting and anxiety producing emotion. It seems that no matter how hard we work to prepare during the winter, come May, we are always scrambling to get things together for an amazing summer at camp.

Our theme this year is LOST AND FOUND. This focus will revolve around the parable of the prodigal son found in the book of Luke... or the two lost sons, as we have discovered. In looking at this section of scripture, I am blown away by the tremendous imagery we find when we look at the younger son, the older son and most significantly, the father. We believe that by examining each of these characters, we will be able to communicate the Gospel to the campers in a real and life changing way.

At camp, we are also striving to bring the Bible to life in real, non-contrived ways. Our challenge is always to make camp fun while constantly speaking the truth to kids consistently and genuinely.

This summer, we are approaching this by emphasizing a ton of hands-on learning. This will include dramas, skits and lessons that speak and model God's faithfulness and love for us. One specific lesson that we are excited about is "The Feast." This lesson will be a 2 hour drama that depicts the Prodigal Son returning to his father and the resulting events that stem out of this encounter. We will be allowing the campers to dress in period clothing, participate in a feast, celebrate the son's return and then interact with what they learn through some hands-on reflection. Needless to say, we are extremely excited for this theme!

Please be praying that God will bring kids to camp that need to hear this message and that God will make much of what we have to offer and use it mightily for His glory! ●



What Happened



Just because the camp was covered by three feet of snow most of the winter, it doesn't mean that things haven't been happening around here.

In January, we hosted our annual Snow Day. About 50 kids showed up to try out the tubing hill, build forts in the snow, attempt to play broom hockey on the basketball court since there was too much snow on the lake, enjoy a warm meal, and hear some Biblical teaching. A special thanks to Karen Leavitt for cooking and all the high school students who spent the night after coffee house and helped out.

In February, we headed to Denver to put on a one-day retreat to reconnect with about 40 of our Denver campers. It was a day filled with songs, games, Bible time and soda bottle rockets.

In April, we organized a yard sale at the camp to raise money to remodel the game room. Thank you to everyone who donated items. We had enough stuff to fill the entire basketball court. Thanks to you, we raised over \$1,500, and the game room makeover is almost complete.

Return Service Requested

www.crossbarx.org

(970) 259-2716

durango, co 81303

2111 county road 222

cross bar x youth ranch

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DURANGO, CO
PERMIT NO 271



Supporter Spotlight Tim & Gretchen Gonzales

In this newsletter, we are shining the spotlight on Tim and Gretchen Gonzales. The couple, their son Paul and soon to be second child currently live in Crawford, Colorado, and they focus most of their time and energy ministering to youth in the area through an organization they founded called Rocky Mountain Youth Ministries.

Cross Bar X has greatly impacted the lives of both Tim and Gretchen. They first met while counseling at Cross Bar X. One thing led to another and eventually they said their vows in the grassy area next to Alpine Lodge.

Over the last ten years, they have supported the camp off and on in a variety of different ways. They've done everything from serving as summer staff members to helping with odd maintenance projects around the camp. Gretchen served as the camp nurse one summer, and last summer, Tim came out for a week to lead the Boys Condor Backpacking Trip.

Tim and Gretchen have such a heart for reaching youth with the gospel of Christ that a couple of years ago they started



Rocky Mountain Youth Ministries to connect with youth, teach them about Jesus, and prepare them to have an impact for Christ wherever God may take them. Every Saturday night they host a dinner for about 25 youth from the Crawford area. They also plan Bible studies, wilderness adventure trips and service projects to help build relationships with the youth.

They claim a lot of their passion and philosophy for their current ministry stems from their time at Cross Bar X.

A few weeks ago, Tim and Gretchen brought 10 youth from their ministry to Cross Bar X to spend their spring break completing various work projects around the camp. The group worked so hard that even Nick Brothers was exhausted after trying to keep up with them for a few days.

We are so thankful for the Gonzales family and the many ways they have supported CBX. We are also thankful for the 10 youth who spent their spring break serving us, and we ask that you continue to pray for Tim and Gretchen and the youth they are impacting through Rocky Mountain Youth Ministries. ●

2010 Camp Dates

- Counselor Training**
May 31 – June 12
- S.A.L.T Program**
June 14 – June 26
- Local Falcon**
June 14 – June 19
- Phoenix Falcon**
June 21 – June 26
- Denver Falcon**
June 28 – July 3
- Girls Red Hawk**
July 6 – July 14
- Boys Red Hawk**
July 20 – July 28
- Girls Eagle (Boys Condor)**
August 1 (2) – August 7
- Boys Eagle (Girls Condor)**
August 8 (9) – August 14

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts were given in memory of Don Roth, Paul Bacon, Wilma Lafferty, and John Franz by Marilyn Brothers.

A gift was in honor of Millie Steele's 80th birthday by Gordon and Janice Steele.



Nick's Notes Hope for Youth

Hope for Youth was the theme for our annual dinner in Denver. Last summer, 218 campers attended Cross Bar X. Of those that attended, 26 put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Some of these campers were from the inner city of Denver and Phoenix. Others were from the Durango vicinity. Many of these kids came from difficult situations. Recently, a foster care program said that the children in their program were really excited about coming back this summer. They wanted to make sure their applications were in so that they had a spot reserved for them. This is the highlight of their summer. Everything that goes on at camp: the adventure course, horses, archery, specialty classes, night games, water slide, Bible lessons and farm animals, points towards giving youth hope. Our camp verse is Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." In Romans 12:12, Paul penned the words, "Rejoicing in Hope" as one of our duties. Ultimately, through all that we do, we want each camper to find true hope through Jesus Christ.



Thanks to many of you for enabling us to give hope to youth. We want to thank all of you who came to our Hope For Youth Dinner and helped give towards our camper scholarship fund. A special thanks to Rick Lawrence, editor of Group Magazine, who was our special speaker. We also want to thank E.W. Helmick Catering for a wonderful meal. The best part of the evening was a video of campers giving testimonies about their experiences at camp last summer. If you would like to receive a copy of this DVD, please contact the camp, and we would be excited to send you one.

On May 29, we will be having our annual Bike It For A Camper to raise money for campers to attend Cross Bar X this summer. The ride starts in Durango and climbs a total of 5,700 feet to the town of Silverton. Team Cross Bar X will have 17 riders participate in the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic. This has become a very popular event with over 2,500 riders coming to Durango for the weekend's events. Our jerseys will have the same theme written on them, Hope for Youth, along with Isaiah 40:31.



We are excited as we approach the summer. The best day of the summer for me is when the first campers arrive. Everything comes alive. There are smiles and excitement on the part of staff and campers. The staff at Cross Bar X put a lot of energy and work in preparing for the summer, and when it all comes together, there is a real sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. And of course, at the end of the summer, we are all ready for a rest before we begin the process all over again. ●

Can You Cook?

Do you want to impact youth for Jesus Christ this summer? Do you have at least one week free to come out to camp? Can you find your way around a kitchen? If you answered "yes" to these questions, you are exactly the type of person Cross Bar X is looking for to be a volunteer cook for a week of camp this summer! You don't need to be an expert because we provide menus, directions, all the food and staff members to do the dishes. We are still looking for volunteer cooks for two camps: June 28-July 3 and July 20-28. If you are interested, contact Joy (joy@crossbarx.org) as soon as possible.



Snow Day Adventures



You Can Help Make A Difference

You can help make a difference for us simply by shopping at your favorite Albertsons store and using one of our Community Partner key tags with each and every grocery purchase. Cross Bar X will earn 1% of the sale each time the barcode on our key tag is scanned with a grocery purchase. If you do not have a Cross Bar X key tag and you would like to receive one, please contact our office. In 2009, we received \$230.28 through the Albertsons Community Partners Program.

It's Not Too Late to Join Us

Help us get the camp ready for summer during our annual work week May 16-22. With projects ranging from cleaning, sewing, gardening and painting to landscaping, handy man projects, automotive repair and major construction, we have a place for everyone to serve. Whether you come for several hours, a day or the whole week, we would love to have you join us! For more information, please contact the camp.

Bless the Bus!



We are so thankful for our new bus, which allows us to transport kids from inner-city Denver and Phoenix to camp and helps us bring campers on offsite adventures like backpacking and rafting. However, this blessing does come with a price. We figure that between fuel, insurance, maintenance and other travel expenses it costs us about \$1 per mile to use the bus to transport kids to camp. Every dollar you donate to our Bless the Bus Fund helps our campers get one mile closer to a week filled with fun and learning about the hope offered through Jesus Christ.

Yes, I would like to help kids get 10 miles 25 miles 50 miles _____ miles closer to camp!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

(Please mark your donation "Bless the Bus")