

## Tim's Tablet

This fall we have kicked off our mentorship program. Last off season we hired two local college age staff with the intent that they would mentor six local campers, being a spiritual discipler, leader in life and helping them get plugged into positive things like church, youth group and Bible studies. Both the positive and negative outcomes of this trial run helped us to see our need to assist and coordinate one-on-one mentor relationships for many of our local Four Corners area campers.

The campers involved in the mentoring program are kids that live single-parent homes, are part of foster care families or desire encouragement and discipleship in their walk with the Lord. Every summer, we take joy when our campers learn and grow but reluctantly send them home with hope that someone there will pick up what God started at camp and help them. We are hoping to facilitate this growth with the mentorship program.

Currently we are looking for only 8-10 mentors to connect with our campers. This may seem a small number, but in reality it is asking for God to provide in big ways. Initially, we have only a few volunteers. Perhaps it is the time commitment or commitment to a child in general, but whatever it is, people are hesitant to join us in this ministry.

Recently, God has shown us the power a mentor can have in the life of a child. This summer, we had a camper come to our boys high school camp. He had come as a small boy through a mentorship program in Phoenix, AZ. But, since coming the first time, his mentor had left him, and he had gotten into drug use, gang activity, had even recently been put in jail and fathered a child. One couldn't think of a much worse situation for a 17 year old young man to be in. Despite all of this, God had crossed his path with us again, when he was connected with a new mentor and sent to camp. At camp he asked me two very insightful things, "How can I be a good father, when I have no idea what that even looks like? How can I live a life for Christ when everyone around me is

wanting me to live in sin?" I talked to him for hours just a day before he was going to go home, but honestly didn't know if it would help him at all.

Recently, by God's grace, we went to Phoenix for a Mentor Kid USA retreat. Much to my surprise and great joy the same camper was there with his mentor. Since leaving camp, the mentor has encouraged and disciplined this young man. He's been going to church regularly. He stepped forward for baptism, and he has been seeking out a relationship with his child! In this is not only the grace of God, but also the love and support of a mentor that saw the vision we have at Cross Bar X and has stepped out in faith to do the work of God! ●



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# RANCH REPORT

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



## Nick's Notes - Building Relationships

In front of Eagle Lodge there is a blue spruce that is about 15 years old. I planted that tree when it was about 18 inches tall. I put a fence around it to keep the deer from eating the buds and keep campers from trampling it. I watered and 'babied' it for three years. It only grew about one inch per year, but I didn't give up on it. Finally it began to grow about six to twelve inches per year. I made the protective fence larger. It began to develop the beautiful blue-green shade I love. Then came the day when I decided the tree could stand alone, and I removed the fence. It stood about six foot, with a nice Christmas tree look; I felt proud.

The next summer, during one of our boys camp I found a broken limb. Upon investigation I found out that a group of boys had been messing around and broke it. In my most serious tone, I spoke to the boys and explained how long it takes a tree to grow. Then I made the mistake of saying it was my favorite tree. One of the boys, little Kenny, got a big smile on his face and said, "So this is your favorite tree." From that point on we developed a relationship that has lasted throughout the years. Each summer he has come back with that little twinkle in his eye and lets me know that he is going to have to break another branch, and so begins the battle over my beloved spruce.

This past summer may have been Kenny's last year at camp, as he is now 18 years old. During the Red Hawk Boys camp, I led the backpack trip on which Kenny and I may

have had our last challenge. As I led the group back from camping, he was right there with me at the front of the group. Every 10 minutes I would hear him saying, "I am not going to let an old man beat me back to the trail head." (I don't want to give away my age, but it is well over 50). As we approached the trail head, he was about two strides in front of me. All of a sudden, I couldn't take it any longer and took off running. My backpack, water bottle and sleeping bag flying every which way, I flew past him and reached the trail head first. Sometimes it feels great to be a kid again. I have not heard the end of it; he has told me that he will be back, and he will win.

If my precious spruce tree had never been broken, we would probably never have developed a 'dad - son' type of relationship. I still don't quite approve of his screaming style rock band, which is showing signs of success, but I do pray that he would remember the things that he has learned about God throughout the years at Cross Bar X.

Building relationships has always been an important part of Cross Bar X. We have a high staff to camper ratio in order to accomplish this. We are continuing this emphasis with the development of our mentoring program.

From all of us, Nick and Tracy, Tim and Marci, and Joy, we wish to thank all of you who have allowed us the privilege to give hope to so many youth. ●

## Fall Retreats



Even though summer is over, we have continued to stay in contact and minister to many of our campers and their friends through our retreats this fall. In October and November, we hosted three retreats filled with pumpkin carving, carmel apples, crazy games, and of course Biblical teaching.

For the first time ever, Cross Bar X partnered with Mentor Kids USA and hosted a one day retreat in Phoenix. It was great to be able to reconnect with our Phoenix campers and meet their mentors.

A special thanks to the volunteers from All Saints Anglican Church in Durango for cooking for our high school retreat and all the staff and volunteers who helped make our retreats a success.



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## 2010 Camp Dates

- Counselor Training  
May 31 – June 12
- Local Falcon  
June 14 – June 19
- Pheonix 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



## New Mower

Thanks to you, we have a new riding lawn mower! In our last newsletter, we requested donations to replace our broken down lawn mower. We received \$1,500 to purchase a mower that had only been used a couple of times. It also came with a snow blower and blade for the front. It has lots of power and should do a great job of mowing all the grass around the camp. We praise God for this needed piece of equipment. A special thanks to all of you who gave to this project!

## Supporter Spotlight Leif and Margaret Feinberg/Oines

Cross Bar X would cease to exist without the hundreds of people who support our ministry through prayer, financial giving and volunteer labor. In the next few newsletters, we are planning to highlight some of our supporters who have made major contributions toward the ministry of CBX.

This newsletter we are shining the spotlight on Leif Oines and his wife Margaret Feinberg. The couple lives in Morrison, CO where Leif is the President of Transparent Faith Inc., and Margaret is a well-known Christian author and speaker. They both recently joined the Cross Bar X Board of Directors.

Leif first became involved in the ministry of Cross Bar X during the summer of 1997, when he served as a summer camp counselor. Not having much previous camp experience, Leif was amazed to see how profoundly campers' lives and faiths could be impacted during a week camp. Not only did he see campers lives changed, his own faith deepened and grew during his two and half summers of counseling at CBX. Leif was so impacted by his experiences at Cross Bar X and his respect for Nick Brothers, who spoke

words of truth and encouragement into his life, that he has spent the past 12 years supporting the ministry of Cross Bar X.

Each summer, Leif, Margaret and their dog Hershey spend at least one week at Cross Bar X helping with everything from teaching Bible lessons, to encouraging counselors, to fixing computers, to doing dishes. In fact, they are planning to spend all of next summer living at the camp as support staff.



Not only do they volunteer their time, they also support the ministry with their finances. Two years ago after the annual Spaghetti Supper in Denver, Leif was talking to

Tim about the need for transporting campers to camp from Denver, and through that conversation, the Bus Fund began. Now just two short years later, thanks to their contributions, we are able to bring more kids to camp on our new bus. In addition, they recently donated brand new computer system to help things run more smoothly and efficiently around the office.

All of us at Cross Bar X would like to say thank you to Leif and Margaret and our many other supporters who recognize how a week of encountering Christ at camp can change the lives of kids forever. ●

## Joy's Jots

Even though I am approaching the end of my first year at Cross Bar X, recently quite a few people have asked me what brought me to Cross Bar X and how I am adjusting to life in Durango. Since I've been getting so many questions, I figured I might as well share my story with everyone.

Two years ago, I was living in Tennessee working as the Program Director for Confrontation Point Ministries planning and coordinating mission trips and wilderness adventures for church youth groups. Little did I know that my life was about to change drastically.

In February of 2008, my husband of almost five years, Jason, passed away unexpectedly of a sudden heart attack, leaving me alone to care for our five month old daughter, Abigail. Although I was in shock, I continued to work for Confrontation Point until they could recruit and train some new leadership to take over for my husband and me. Then I decided that Abigail and I needed a change of pace and a fresh start.

Amazingly, I learned about Cross Bar X through my college friends Tim and Marci Miller. God opened the doors for me to begin working at CBX as the Office Administrator in February of 2009.

As I'm sure you can imagine, we've had a difficult transition this year, but I am excited to be a part of the ministry happening at CBX. I would appreciate your prayers as I continue to adjust to life in Durango, mourn the loss of Jason, build a financial support base, and survive the ups and downs of parenting a two year old. ●



## Mark Your Calendars

### Hope for Youth Dinner Denver, Colorado March 6, 2010

This annual event will be held at Waterstone Community Church, 5890 South Alikre Street, Littleton, Colorado. It will start at 5:00 p.m. and there is no charge for the dinner. All the funds that are raised will go towards the camp scholarship fund for this summer. We are looking for people who would sponsor a table of eight people. Please RSVP to either Delores Harrell at 303-798-3128, call the camp at 970-259-2716 or e-mail theranch@crossbarx.org. This is an important event as it helps provide many needed scholarships.

### Denver Retreat for Campers/ Outreach March 27, 2010

### Easter Sunrise Service Cross Bar X April 4, 2010

We will have our traditional sunrise service and pancake breakfast here at the camp at 6:00 am.

### Work Week Cross Bar X May 16 - 22, 2010

Please note that this is one week later than last year. We would love to have you come and join us. It is a great time of fellowship, and we do get some important projects done around the camp. You are welcome to stay here at the camp or come out for the day. For more information please contact the camp.

### Bike It For A Camper Durango, Colorado May 29, 2010

If you like to ride a road bike, why not consider riding for Cross Bar X and helping provide camp scholarships for disadvantaged youth? We will again put together a group of riders to ride in the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic here in Durango. Last year we had 17 riders raise over \$15,000. For more information, please contact the camp.

## Memorial Gifts

A memorial gift was given in memory of Paul Bacon by the Life Application Sunday School Class.

A gift was given in memory of Jean Stevens by Bud and Barbara Miller.

## Staff Needed For Next Summer

**Counselors** - Ministering to children 8 to 18 years of age from May 31 to August 14 .

**Volunteer Cooks** - We are looking for cooks to come for a one week camp.

**Volunteer RV Workers** - We need help doing all the odds and ends that keep the camp running.

**Wrangler/Ranch Work** - Teaching horse classes, fixing fence, and irrigating from May 31 to August 14.

## The Cross Bar X Board Members

Jim Hugins - Certified Public Accountant and Chairman of the Board. Ken Bates - Authorized agent for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. Nick Brothers - Executive Director of Cross Bar X. Leif Oines - President of Transparent Faith. Margaret Oines/Feinberg - Author and communicator. Curt Powers-Ackley - Certified Public Accountant. Louise Powers-Ackley - Teacher at Grace Preparatory Academy. Steve Thweat - Retired school counselor.

## We Need Your Help!

We are extremely excited about the impact our new mentoring program will have on the lives of youth in the four corners area. However, we need your help to make the program a reality. We are still looking for several local Christian adults willing to serve as mentors. We also need to raise \$1,460 before the end of the year to financially support the program. Will you help us?



### Retreat Fun



### RV Needed

We need an RV to house a volunteer couple next summer. If you know of someone who would like to loan or donate a nice one bedroom RV to Cross Bar X, please contact the camp.

### Albertsons Card

If you shop at Albertsons, please request a Cross Bar X card to hand to the checker each time you make a purchase. Last quarter we received \$66.60.

### Prayer Email

We are using a new system for sending out our prayer e-mails. If you have not received one and would like to, please e-mail us at the camp and request to receive the prayer e-mail.

### Ranch Report

To receive the Ranch Report by e-mail please contact the camp at theranch@crossbarx.org