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Posey's Prose

Summer, Baby, and Fundraising

Summer of 2016 was a very interesting one for the Posey family at Cross Bar X. It began with a foot injury for Jacob the weekend before our first camp started. I have had one corrective surgery already and am scheduled for another in December. All summer on crutches with Jenny in her 3rd trimester of pregnancy meant that we were less involved first-hand with campers than we have ever been. Even still, we were blessed to be able to co-teach lessons to our middle school campers the last week of camp.



Jenny teaching Bible to middle school girls

Jenny still managed to run the kitchen all summer long and made sure that ev-

eryone was well fed. It was an amazing summer of ministry from our behind-the-scenes perspective.

At summer's end, Jenny worked hard to set the menu in place for our outdoor education season as baby #2 was due to arrive at its beginning. Clara June was born at home and joined our family on September 4. We feel blessed to live and work in a place where family and work lift one another up.

From a fundraising standpoint, our Denver and Durango Hope For Youth Dinners were very successful despite lower attendance this year. We nearly met our lofty combined goal for the two of them. Thank you to all of our table hosts and to those of you who donated to the ministry.

Several local churches including First Baptist Durango, First United Methodist Church, First Baptist Bayfield, and churches in Denver also fully sponsored specific low-income campers to attend camp. Thank you to these churches as well.

The Bike It 4 A Camper event as a part of the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic was also our most profitable to date. Thank you to



The Bike It team in Silverton after the ride

everyone who rode, raised funds, and sponsored our team.

COLS is running smoothly, and even though we cannot explicitly share the Gospel, Truth through nature and godly staff is still being poured into the lives of the kids that are here. Please pray for this program as it runs into the beginning of November. Also please join us in thanking God for the way He has provided for Cross Bar X through this program and how He has been faithful to provide for the needs of Cross Bar X throughout the years.

God bless you and thank you for your faithful support.

- Jacob

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Fall Update 2016

RANCH REPORT



Tim's Tablet

Thoughts on Fatherlessness

This has been a tough week. Last friday, Oct. 7th, The Lord took my father home. While I reflect on his life, I am reminded of how fortunate I was to have a father that both loved me, but also cared enough for my soul to show me Jesus.

Recently, I had the opportunity to chat with one of the chaperones that attended The Colorado Outdoor Learning School program with his child's school. Our conversation centered around societal issues as a whole and the struggles that young people are facing being raised today. His perspective was that the answers lie in population control, more government intervention/regulation, and a heavier handed approach from social services. As I shared that I have specifically worked with this population for over 15 years (Remember, COLS is not CBX. This man knew little of the program or focus of Cross Bar X), he inquired what I thought the problem was. My answer was short and to the point. That the most dire problem America faces is not drugs, incompetent leaders, hunger, terrorism, or border control. The greatest threat we face is generations of young people being increasingly raised without caring and loving fathers.

Let me drop some statistics on you.

- 85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average.
- 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes – 10 times the average.

- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average. (National Principals Association Report)

- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average.

- 43% of US children live without their father.*

I can think of no other issue our society faces that causes such widespread hurt. We see this in the kids that come to CBX. There is such hunger for healthy, male role models. It is our hope as a ministry that we can provide both a picture of what a loving and caring father is in the flesh as men and fathers leading this ministry and our families, but also and more importantly, in the Spirit through the message of the Gospel and the revelation of the Word of God.

I was one of the few that had both pictures displayed and modeled by my father. My dad valued time with me, sacrificed deeply to care for me, never missed a game or activity I was involved in, displayed com-

passion gracefully, but also exemplified what it meant to work hard and provide for your family. My father was a man of simple, yet deep faith. He did not hesitate to tell others that they needed Jesus. He prayed simply and consistently his entire life. In his last days, his one fear and regret was that he had not done enough to tell his family of the hope of Jesus Christ and lamented that they did not all know Him.

My father loved Cross Bar X. As a young man that was raised at a boys home, he had a deeper connection with the work at CBX than most. He would gladly tell any random stranger of the work God was doing at the camp. I will never forget two years ago, less than a day after he had a major stroke, walking into his hospital room and hearing him tell a nurse in vivid detail about how God was changing lives at CBX.

I am honored to call Carl R. Miller my father. There is no amount of education, experience, or training that could replace the role he played in making me the man I am today. As we continue to strive to impact the lives of fatherless youth, my prayer is that the example of his life continues to live on for many future generations.

- Tim

*Statistics courtesy of www.fatherlessgeneration.com





Zac's Zone High School Camper Story

Greetings friends of CBX! Summer 2016 was a fantastic season of ministry here at camp. Erin and I both had a great time serving alongside all of our staff this summer. Erin managed the horse program this summer, while I directed the rest of the camp program with a lot of help from Mary Beth and the other full-time staff. Our summer staff were also a huge highlight of the summer season! We were blessed to see God work in amazing ways in many of our camper's lives. There's one story in particular that I'm reminded of that took place during our boy's high school camp. In this camp, there was a young man, "Jim", whose father had recently left their family. Jim lives with his mom and his younger brothers, one of whom is severely disabled. Jim struggled throughout camp with having a bad attitude and disrespecting the other guys in his cabin. There were a few times when he almost pushed his cabin mates far enough to start fighting. By the end of the week though, we could all notice a significant change in Jim's attitude and bearing. He even signed up to come on our Condor Expedition trip the next week after camp! Sam got to lead that trip this year, and he had a great time

of mentoring Jim and speaking truth into his life. Please pray for Jim and the rest of our campers who come from some heart-breaking situations. Pray that throughout the year, we would be able to reach them through camper follow-up, and encourage them in their walk with Christ.

Erin and I have also been enjoying nearly seven months of parenthood! Peter is doing very well, growing like a weed, and trying very hard to crawl. Please pray for our family as we continue to learn and grow together, as we work at the ministry of our family, as well as the ministry at CBX.

Thank you all for your prayers and support! God bless!

- Zac



Zac hanging out with a group of Falcon campers

Thank You!!!

Thank you to all of our summer volunteers! These include everyone who came to work week, our RV couple for the summer, George and Karen Foster, all of our cooks: Bonnie, Kathy Sue Bobbit, Carl and Denise Shelburn, Rob and Sammi Dean, Carli Posey, Beth Treadway, and Amy Walker; all of our Bible teachers: Jack Klumpenhower, Nick Brothers, Hillary Walker, Jonathan Helvoigt, Erin Olinger, and Chris Talleri. You made such an impact in the lives of our campers this summer. Thank you for being an integral part of the ministry here at CBX!



Mr. Johnson at work week

Memorial Gifts

A generous donation was made by Dwight and Peggy Briggs in honor of John D. Briggs. Thank you Dwight and Peggy. We are sorry for your loss and thank you for honoring John in this way.

A generous donation was also made by Keg and Dee Harrell in honor of Rollin E. Johnson. Rollin went to be with the Lord this month. Mr. Johnson was a dear volunteer and supporter of Cross Bar X over the years through his involvement in our annual work week and the Hope for Youth Dinner. We are very thankful for his years of faithful service and extend our condolences to the friends and family that love him so much.

These gifts go towards sponsoring our low-income campers.

"Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing..."

Proverbs 28:27



Sam's Scripts Ministering in the Outdoors

My father worked for the United States Forest Service as a Soils Scientist for many years. Consequently I spent a considerable amount of my childhood in the outdoors. Whether or not I wanted to I gained a knowledge of plants and animals firsthand. Of course today I am grateful because that time instilled in me a love and respect for nature. The vastness of a forest, the musty, earthy smell of duff (that mixture of pine needles and sticks and leaves on the forest floor), the surprising strength of a hooked trout, the quiet, the miniature daily struggle for life and death in an ant colony, an ice cold swim in a mountain stream; these things shape who I am today and how I view the world around me. Not so much as "outside" where there are no couches or TV or HVAC, more like an extension of the living room that also happens to not have those things. This is (I think) what we are trying to accomplish in a small way in Outdoor Education. To give kids an experience that will shape how they view the

world around them in a positive way.

In our fall program, we also strive to make the experience for the students and accompanying adults as fun and informative as possible and so we all spent a good bit of time over the past year reviewing and sharpening our lessons to make sure our information is as up to date and accurate as possible. At Zac's request, I took some time over the off-season to go over our Forest Ecology material and work on incorporating some different elements in to the lesson for the coming fall. Something that we feel is important for all kids to learn are the concepts of conservation and sustainability and how they apply to our natural resources and in general the world we live in. Having obtained my Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Agriculture this is a topic very close to me and I enjoyed spending some time incorporating conservation practices into the study of forest ecosystems. While we believe it is important for kids to have head knowledge of the world around them we also want to instill in them a sense of ownership and the idea that it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the things we



Sam leading Condor Expedition

have been given. To explain them how a plant makes food or what makes a cloud form but more so to give them an experience with nature that will help them feel part of it. Outdoor Education is a wonderful tool that we can use to teach children. It allows us to do what cannot be done in a classroom setting. What better way to put them in the middle of that environment and see firsthand the roles that different organisms play and how we as humans have direct and indirect (and often substantial) impacts as well. To know that they are as much a part of their environment as the deer or the trees or the insects. That their decisions shape the world around them for good or for bad. And to know sage by smell or a red winged blackbird by its call and see real stars in the sky at night and know that we are but a small part of a larger picture. These experiences will shape them and how they think. I know because it worked for me.

- Sam

Mary Beth's Musings Camper Follow-Up

Hello! I hope this letter finds you well. These past months the Lord has been so faithful to CBX and in my personal life. He really made His presence known at camp this summer in so many ways. I felt so privileged to be able to watch as kids grew in the Word and as counselors patiently, and even sometimes painfully invested in their campers. The Lord broke down walls in both

our campers and counselors, and He used Cross Bar to bring more kids into His kingdom. What a victory!

This summer and fall He blessed camp with great staff and He has been so constant to provide peace and energy to us as we ended the summer season and jumped straight into COLS. As far as follow up goes, I am very excited to share that this summer we were able to do events and Bible studies the week after almost every camp ended! It has been so helpful

to be able to connect with kids as soon as they leave camp. Making contact quickly when they get home has made a huge difference in our ability to stay in touch with them. As we are heading into fall, I have been planning coffee houses and Bible studies. What I am most excited about is taking kids to youth group during the week. Campers are getting connected with new friends and mentors through youth groups, and I am praying that through this connection churches will be able to reach out to their whole families. Please continue to pray that the Lord will continue to open doors to get more kids connected to church and also that they would have a passion and desire to grow closer to Him! Thank you for all your prayers and support!

- Mary Beth



Sam and Rachel with the SALTies

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31