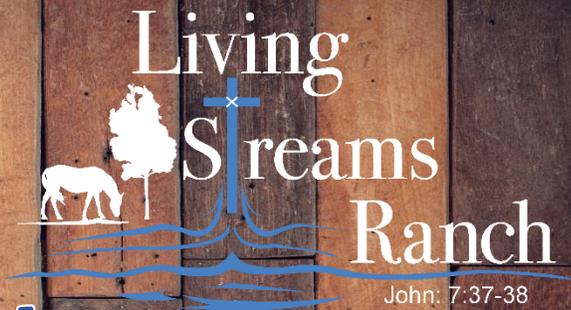


Ranch Roundup



On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them." John 7:37-38

TRUSTING IN THE POWER OF EPHESIANS 3:20-21

"Now to Him who is able to do **immeasurably** more than we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..."

Wow, what a promise from the Lord! I have personally seen this promise come alive as Living Streams Ranch has unfolded during the 2017-2018 season. The Lord took me to a whole new level of learning to surrender more of my will, my desires, and my fears to Him, only to see His perfect will and timing unfold in miraculous ways. I have seen God as provider, patient, powerful, faithful, holy, sovereign, defender, kind, healer, shepherd, loving, tender, merciful, gracious, and the list goes on. He has orchestrated every last detail of the administrative end of the ministry including schedules, bringing the right people to participate and volunteer, providing horses, devotional material, ministry donations, and much more. I have watched Him in passionate pursuit of His precious women and children attending the Ranch; how He met each one in a deep and personal way, with just what they needed each day. I have seen the Lord perform miracles in the lives of the participants as they lay down their burdens at the foot of the cross, where Jesus then gives them rest for their souls (Matthew 11:28). I have witnessed the Holy Spirit's amazing peace fall afresh on those who choose to come thirsty to Him; to "Be still and know that He is God." I have seen Jesus transform others' lives by speaking His truth to them and demolishing the lies they believe. I have witnessed those bound in chains of fear, guilt, shame and depression, be transformed by the truth of the Gospel, and leave walking in freedom, freedom in Christ. I have personally witnessed physical, emotional and spiritual miracles of healing at the cross, as the women and children who came to the Ranch chose to put their trust in an all-powerful God. He has shown me again and again, that He can do immeasurably, abundantly more than I could have asked or imagined!!! I stand in awe of God and what He is doing at Living Streams Ranch. He has brought a little slice of heaven down to earth, right here in Quakertown. We thank You, God, for being our Hope and mighty Healer. We give you honor and praise; all glory goes to you Lord!!!

May His streams of living water continue to flow through your hearts and minds as you come thirsty to Him and believe in Him.

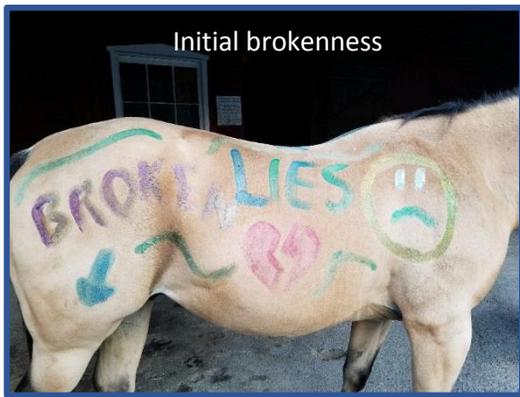
Blessings,

Deb Rotelle
Executive Director
Living Streams Ranch



To hear how this ministry got started go to our website www.livingstreamsranh.org and click on the live podcast by Tyler Hunsberger.





LIVING HOPE
Written by Tricia Escalante

Living with physical pain and emotional burdens isn't living, it's surviving. It's pushing through, day after day, carrying a weight we weren't meant to bear on our own. I'm NOT here to tell you the reason why some people receive healing in this world and why others don't. I AM here to tell you that healing IS possible, but there was a time, that I didn't believe it was possible for me.

Seated high on a saddle, in the middle of peace-filled woods, I was totally unaware of the transformation about to take place in my life, but God knew. This was my very first-time riding Monty through the trails behind the barn at Living Streams Ranch. As Deb, my session leader, led Monty through the woods, I began to open up about my struggles with fear; fear that had gripped me for much of my life. Fear that prevented me from trying new things. Fear that held me back in too many ways to count; fear of what others think, fear of failure, fear of.....

The conversation then shifted to talking about my back pain, pain I had been carrying off and on for the last 27 years. Deb asked me if I would be willing to listen to the pain, to allow it to have a voice, to hear what it was saying. As I sat there, on Monty's saddle, in that sacred space, I heard so many "lies" bubble up to the surface, things like; "You aren't good enough," and "You'll never amount to anything in this world."

As more "lies" came to my mind, Deb asked me if I would be willing to let God speak into this situation, to listen to what He had to say. As I listened, I began to hear the lyrics of a familiar song, "But the voice of truth tells me a different story, And the voice of truth says, "Do not be afraid!" And the voice of truth says, "This is for My glory," Out of all the voices calling out to me, I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth."

As I shared with Deb what I was hearing, she asked me to repeat those words out loud several times. When I got to the part that said, "Out of all the voices calling out to me, I will choose to listen and believe the Voice of Truth," she asked me if I was willing to repeat that last part again. And, as I did, something broke, and God broke through.

With a tear-stained face, I continued to repeat those words over myself. Slowly, my pain began to leave, and I began to experience true freedom. Deb then asked me if I still had pain. I told her it was almost all was gone, except for a small "wedge" of pain in my lower back. So, we went through another series of exercises with deep breathing and listening. This time, I had a picture of a safety net, like the high wire acts in the circus. I felt like that "wedge" represented that I couldn't fully "trust God". Deb had a similar picture of God's hands under my hands – holding me and asking me to trust Him. I went through a time of prayer and repentance, allowing God to heal this division in our relationship. Then, the "wedge of pain" left!

When I rode out of the woods that day, I not only left with abundant peace, but also

Living Hope continued on page 3.



Living Hope continued from page 2.

with a new way to fight the lies of the enemy; lies that had been trying to bring me down. True freedom, is freedom in Christ. It is a gift from God in which no man can boast for He has given it of His own accord – freely and willingly to His children. “Whatever is good – whatever is excellent – whatever is praiseworthy – think on these things – and the God of peace will be with you!” **Live in that HOPE.**



Turning Tricia's lies...



into God's truth.

HASHTAG

Written by Carol Hoover

On a sunny Saturday, with the help of Deb and Kathy, we went to see a horse in Maryland who would end up fulfilling Hannah's biggest dream—to have a horse of her very own! The horse's name was Hashtag. He was a beautiful black color and very sweet. We loved him from the start.

We purchased Hannah's horse, Hashtag, on Saturday but he was delivered to the barn on Sunday, right after we attended church and heard a sermon on remaining steadfast and calm in the face of adversity. Our pastor used the example of Jackie Robinson, #42, who would be the world's first ball player to break the color barrier in major league baseball. Keith, Hannah, and I saw that sermon fleshed out through the arrival of Hashtag at the Rotelle's barn.

As Hashtag was unloaded into the arena area, he was adjacent to another fenced in pasture containing two light brown horses. Hashtag walked over to the fence and attempted to introduce himself. In turn, he was met with a fierce and unfriendly snort, horrible screeching, and raised hooves which crashed down on the fence between them. This was not exactly a warm welcome.

Hashtag didn't flinch. He calmly walked away, sniffed around, and returned for a second try. This went on several times with Hashtag unphased. He remained steadfast and cool. In the space of one day, he made friends with one of the light brown horses, and I saw them together shortly after.

I discussed what I saw with Keith and Hannah. Hannah replied, "Maybe I should have named my horse Jackie Robinson!" So we joke sometimes and call him Hashtag #42!

How encouraging to see our sermon fleshed out before our eyes, and what a great reminder to remain steadfast and calm in the face of adversity. God goes before us and will make a way!



THE FIRING OF JUDGE GWEN

Written by Gwen Landes

It was a long and not so glamorous career. Some years there were no vacation or sick days or even rest. The pay stunk too, in fact there was no money involved at all, just pieces chipped away of my confidence, freedom and real joy. I didn't even know she was there until one day when our family's rug got pulled out from underneath us and we found ourselves spinning in mid-air not really sure where we would land.

I didn't know what to expect when I started my 10-week sessions at Living Streams Ranch. However, I did know that God had led me to my good friend Deb and once I started there it didn't take long to discover who Judge Gwen was and that she needed to be fired – for good!

Let me introduce you to her. Judge Gwen is full of lies, behind her large wooden desk, a gavel in her hand with a bunch of little Gwen's around her with stones in their hands ready to condemn me at any time. In one of my sessions, God revealed three words she would constantly tell me, "be", "do" and "say" and if I am perfect at all three of those things then I will be accepted. She also told me that what I was doing was good, but it could be better.

The worst thing Judge Gwen told me was that self-care is selfish. Deb helped me to understand that not only is self-care a necessity for my wellbeing (see Philippians 2:4) – it's a necessity for me in helping others.

My fourth session was firing day! It was a cloudy day and Deb told me she was taking me to the cross in the woods. Great! I couldn't wait to see it! When we got there she showed me around and told me how this place came to be. We had our devotional titled "Jesus forgives me". It was the story of the adulterous woman. As I watched the video, I just kept thinking of how much God knows this woman's heart, how much He knows my heart. The word freedom kept swirling around my head too. The part that struck me the most was the crowd with stones in their hands waiting to stone her for her crime. I just pictured all the little Gwen's ready to condemn me for all the stuff I was making up in my head just ready to cast those stones straight at me.

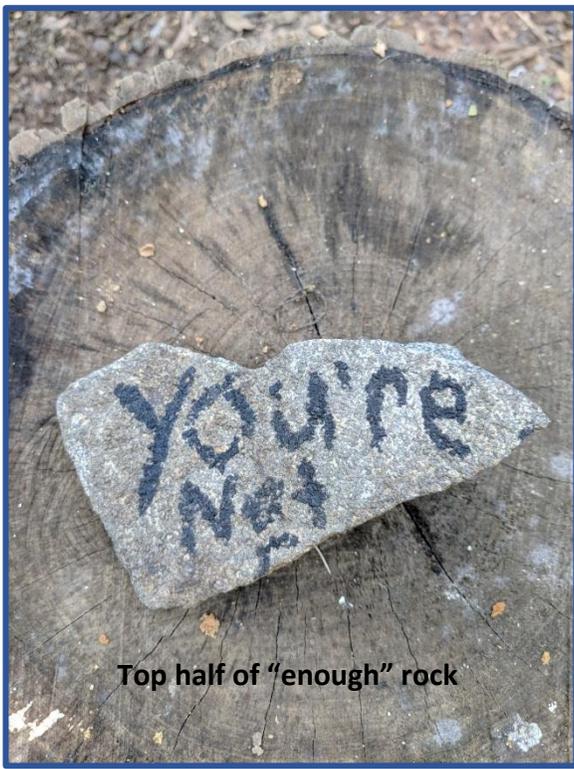
Deb then had me choose a rock from the pile. I knew I was going to have to put it in the backpack and carry it around for a little. I so wanted to choose a tiny one but my eyes went to a fairly large one. "Ok, God, I know it has to symbolize the weight of Judge Gwen". On that rock I drew Judge Gwen behind a large desk and a gavel in her hand and then all the little Gwen's ready with stones in their hands. Do you notice that I wasn't putting other people's faces on those bodies with the stones? It was all ME? I was the one condemning me, I was the one telling the lies – to myself!?!

I put the heavy stone in the backpack and put it on my back. Good grief this was heavy! With the backpack on, we walked back to the barn and got the horse, Monty and walked him around the ring for about 45 minutes. Then we walked back to the cross. I was tired and so ready to get rid of the oh so heavy backpack. As I slipped it off my back, relief overtook my shoulders, back and legs. Ah! Can you imagine what relief my soul would feel if I would take off the burden of Judge Gwen?!

Deb then gave me an option to lay the rock at the cross or throw it into the woods. I choose to throw it. I wanted it to be a complete firing of Judge Gwen, never to see her again. I took a little time and prayed with the rock in my hands that I would never let Judge Gwen back in. I knew all the visual exercises Deb and I had been doing would be a huge help with this. I chucked that big rock behind a fallen tree, more insurance I wouldn't have to see it again.

Freedom! Yup, there it is FREEDOM. I could stand with confidence knowing the judge was OFF the case and God was in her place. I am thankful that God isn't behind some big desk with a gavel in His hands. He sits with arms outstretched asking me to come onto His lap and rest because He has already taken care of it and He NEVER lies!





Top half of "enough" rock



ENOUGH

Written by Emily Mellinger

One day during my lesson at Living Springs Ranch, my mentor, Carmella, suggested that we do an activity with rocks. We gathered rocks, and on them wrote the various lies that we believe. We then threw them, one by one, into the woods. As we did so, we yelled words of truth in place of the lies. For instance, one of my rocks had the word *stupid* written on it. This is something I had believed about myself. As I threw the rock into the woods, I shouted, "I have wisdom!" Several turns later, I picked up a solid rock with the words *you're not enough*. I threw it and yelled "God has made me enough!" I heard the rock hit a tree. The tree was narrow and only a few years old. I was surprised to see that the rock had split in half! When I went to retrieve the rock, I noticed one half of the rock. It had the word *enough* on it. God had really made me enough! It was true!

Be encouraged: God still works miracles! Have hope! He loves you and says that you are enough. Do not let your peers or anyone tell you otherwise. God makes you enough! I hope my story encourages you as it did me!



Narrow tree that broke the rock.



"I am enough in Christ!"

Living Streams Ranch ministered to close to 100 individuals in 2018. Throughout the spring, summer and fall terms a total of 296 Sessions were provided. Each one on one, 2-hour Session consisted of horse activities, Bible study and healing prayer.



Ministry





Moments



We are so thankful for each and every volunteer that helped make Living Streams Ranch a huge success this year. We appreciate you for the countless ways you have blessed us with over **1000** volunteer hours in 2018!!



Volunteers...





our barn angels



Testimonials

Dear Miss Debbie, Thank you for showing me that God is loving and caring and that he loves me as I am." (11 yrs old)

"I learned so much. I have gained freedom and confidence in the Lord.(50 yrs old)

"I have seen the Lord working in more ways than one. I've gotten into my Bible more and have been able to forgive myself for a lot." (27 yrs old)

"I have learned how important it is to change my thoughts to God's truth"(52 yrs old)

"I learned I need to trust God more instead of worrying about stuff"(10 yrs old)

"My time at the Ranch has transformed my life beyond anything I thought possible. I have moments now, where I feel total peace and contentment"(42 yrs old)

"My time at the Ranch made me feel closer to God and God moved my heart"(10 yrs old)

"I rode on a horse,yay,yay,yay. I did it! I am so proud of myself. I love it"(10 yrs old)

"The experience at Living Streams Ranch helped me to see God will carry my burdens if I give them to him. I have also learned it is easier to believe in Satan's lies than it is to believe God's truth, but believing in God's truth will lead to freedom"(14 yrs old)

WORDS USED TO DESCRIBE THE RANCH:

CALMING, COOL, MEANINGFUL, SURRENDER, WELCOMING, TRUST, DEPENDENCE, FREEDOM, VALUED, EXCITING, SPIRIT-FILLED, GOD-CENTERED, FUN, REFRESHMENT, FUN, IMPACTFUL, STRESS RELIEVING, DIVINELY APPOINTED, BUILT UP, PEACEFUL, STRENGTH,AWARENESS, ENGAGING, UPLIFTING, TRANSFORMATIVE, CHALLENGING, PATIENCE, PRECIOUS, HELPFUL, WONDERFUL, AWESOME, REST, MOVING, COURAGE, BLESSING, PERFECT, TOUCHING



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From left to right

Back

Wayne Rotelle - President

Deb Rotelle – Executive Director

Front

Cindy Moyer – Secretary

Tricia Escalante – Dictation

Joel Derstine – Treasurer



Our Mission

Living Streams Ranch is a Christian Non-Profit Organization founded on the love of Jesus Christ. In faith we open our hearts and our ranch to children and women so that they might find hope and healing through equine related activities in God's creation.

Our Vision

Living Streams Ranch seeks to see every person have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, healed from the past, equipped to begin a new life and given hope for the future. Our goals are to share the truth of the gospel, while providing a place where all people feel safe and accepted just as they are. We pray the Ranch will be a place where individuals who come hurting will feel supported through life's difficulties, and leave each week seeing their true identity, beauty and value as a loved child created by God.

Our Core Values

FAITH: Jesus Christ is our Savior, Redeemer, Hope and Healer

COMPASSION: Accepting people where they are while supporting their growth in wholeness

VALUE: Honoring the intrinsic value of each person created by God in a grace filled environment

SERVANTHOOD: Serving people and doing all things with excellence to the Glory of God

SAFETY: Maintaining a place of physical, emotional and spiritual safety

Support

Living Streams Ranch is a Christian 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies solely on the generosity of volunteers and donors. The donations enable us to offer free services for all who attend the Ranch. Would you consider becoming a volunteer or making a donation? Volunteer applications are available on our website and we accept online donations at our secure giving site at: www.livingstreamsranh.org. Checks made payable to Living Streams Ranch are also welcomed. Please mail them to: 2375 Schukraft Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

A very special THANK YOU to Richter Office Supply in Souderton PA for printing this newsletter.



2375 Schukraft Road
Quakertown, PA 18951



Merry Christmas from Living Streams Ranch!

*May your Christmas be Holy and bright, filled with the love of Jesus and His marvelous light!
"To God be the glory great things He has done!"*