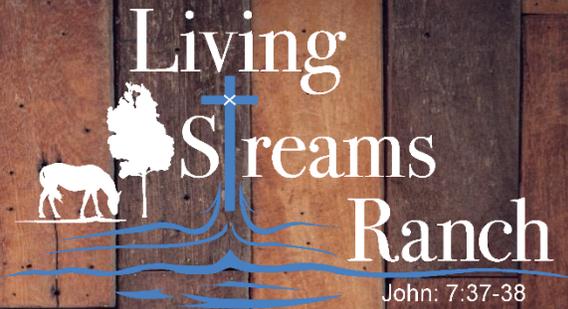


Ranch Roundup



★ Jesus ★ Hope ★ Horses ★ Healing ★

Spring 2020

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

Happy spring everyone! It is refreshing to see new life growing around us. The baby birds have hatched on the Ranch, and the flowers are in full bloom. The horses are shedding their winter coats, while the leaves are budding from the trees. New life has sprung. It is a daily reminder that our mighty God is sovereign, and in complete control of our lives. Everything has a season and time. The Coronavirus has shifted our lives around. It is a time for God to prune us as we become aware of the things we can let go of, that keep us from a deeper relationship with Him. He is inviting us to fully surrender our hearts and lives to Him each day.

Over 5 years ago, God gave me a vision in my sleep for the Ministry. In this vision, a woman was sitting on the back of a horse, carrying a heavy backpack of burdens. Jesus was sitting

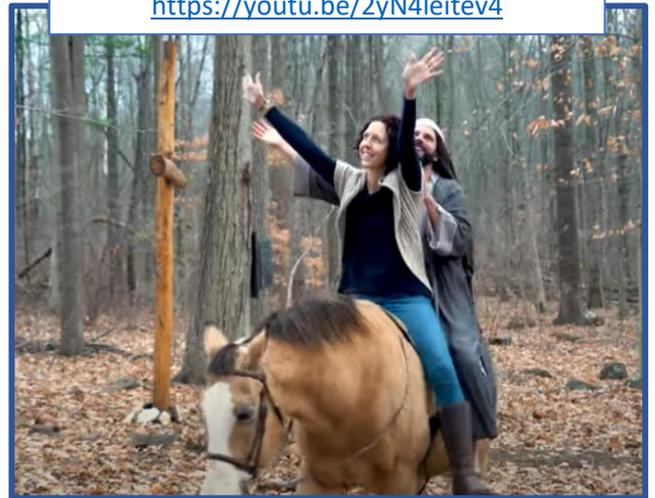
behind her, but the burdens kept her from living in freedom with Jesus. As they entered the woods, I heard the word "release" and then, the burdens were gone. In that moment, she had freedom and a restored relationship with Jesus. Then they walked out of the woods together, while Jesus was fully embracing her.

Four years ago, this vision came true with Tricia, the woman you see in the video pictured above. This is not only her story of finding freedom in Christ, its God's story of redemption for anyone who is willing to release their burdens to Jesus! Since that time, many others who have come to Living Streams Ranch have found this same freedom Jesus offers, as they release their burdens to the Lord. This is the heart and vision of Living Streams Ranch.



Blessings,
Debbie Rotelle
Executive Director
Living Streams Ranch

May you be blessed by this YouTube video:
Living Streams Ranch-Finding Freedom
<https://youtu.be/2yN4leitev4>



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



Jesus Does Bring Heart Healing

Written by Steph Martin

If I have learned anything over the last couple years, it is that I am a broken person in more ways than I even realized. Jesus has proven Himself again and again. He is always ready, willing, and able to heal my broken pieces. Growing up, I had many frustrating thoughts that would send me into obsessive cycles and I would compulsively do things like count and ask other people questions to try to logic with me about what was going on in my mind. Diagnosed with OCD in fourth grade, it gave some insight that these frustrating mind patterns were experienced by plenty of other people. Satan has used this area of weakness far too many years in many different ways and turning these thoughts against me and turning them into shame was one of his favorite strategies. Another strategy of his was invoking fear that would present in many different ways. Fast forward to when our first daughter Kinsey was born and my anxiety ramped up to another level. I struggled to sleep and my body started also reacting in weird ways to my stress level. It was during this time that I started to lean in on Jesus and I started moving into more of a deep relationship with Him. It was this developing relationship that was so key in lessening the anxiety when our son Asher came along. Then when we were pregnant again, we suffered a miscarriage that was a little more complex. It was a time when I learned that Jesus was a comforter. During this time, I really started knowing that I wanted to experience more breakthroughs from my mind patterns as well as to heal the broken places in my heart.



Deb Rotelle was a friend of my mom and over the years became my dear friend as well. Hearing from her about how God was moving at Living Streams Ranch and knowing the woman of God that she is and how she is always listening to the Holy Spirit, I reached out to begin sessions. Heavy on my heart when I came to Living Streams were all those shameful thoughts along with memories that have plagued my mind. I was worried about sharing them but wanted a breakthrough all the same. Friends...we have a merciful God. Before I came that first day, as she always does-Deb was praying which horse to use and what to do. My first session was painting a horse.... And the horse God kept putting on her mind was a horse named Trigger. God used that horse with a name of Trigger to be the word to focus on in my painting....paint all the triggers that bring out the most anxiety. While I painted those things that were dark in my mind, the sky went dark and it even started to drizzle. It was somber in that ring, but it felt so freeing to put it all out there and then talk to such a loving, compassionate and non-judgmental friend like Deb. She then



prayed over each picture I painted and when she was praying and claiming Christ's righteousness for me, I kid you not...Trigger started nodding. God used a horse to bring about confirmation for words that would be a part of soothing my heart. Then as I got to rinse the paint off, the sun was out, bright as could be. God used His creation to speak volumes to my heart. Friends, He is ready to do that for all of you. Jesus met me in each of my subsequent sessions. What a blessing Living Streams Ranch is to each woman or child who is able to come. It is a horrible lie to think that someone who confesses Christ doesn't have brokenness that needs healing from Jesus. We are freer to share Jesus with others when we ourselves are experiencing our own freedom in Him. My prayer is that each person reading this experiences many personal encounters with Jesus Christ that brings healing to their brokenness, courage to fear and breakthrough of what is currently hindering a deeper freedom.



A Story of Hope

Written by Maddison Landis

Spring of my junior year of nursing school was a time where I forgot who I was, and it rocked me to my core. I'm not sure what began my downward spiral, though I've mulled it over in my mind many times. Perhaps it was the increasing demands of nursing. Or the multiple boy situations in which I felt disappointed or let down. All I know is that I began to fall apart. A constant, nagging sense of worry settled over me, like a dismal fog. I couldn't shake it. I tried praying, pleading with God to take away the scary

feelings I had. Anxiety clouded my mind, making it hard to focus on studies and friendships. Eventually, this anxiety turned into emotional numbness. I lost the ability to feel any sort of pleasure in things I used to love, like running or spending time with friends. I wasn't able to feel genuine love or care for people like before. My identity as the kind, caring, joyful, always-there-when-you-need-her, always-giving friend began to crumble. Without this part of my personality functioning, I forgot who I was, and hated who I'd become. The worst part, by far, was that my depression/anxiety caused me to feel useless even to God. Accusatory thoughts swirled in my head, like: "You call yourself a Christ-follower? You can't even feel love for people anymore, so what would God ever want to do with you? How can you claim to be a Christian when you aren't even performing His #1 commandment of loving Him and others?" Hear that word? *Perform*. I defined myself by my ability to *perform* for God, and when I lost that capability due to depression, I felt utterly desolate and worthless. I ended up quitting my summer job at Lehigh Valley Hospital after 1 week, and I felt so lost. My mom had been suggesting I try taking medication. I was reluctant, because I thought God would eventually just heal me if I sought Him out faithfully enough. I figured I wasn't praying enough or having enough faith in Him, which only made me feel worse about myself. That day, however, sitting in my car, I reached a breaking point. I cried, "Lord, if it's okay for me to try medication, please tell me. I don't know what else to do." I opened up Facebook right after being discouraged because I didn't hear an audible answer from God. The very first post I laid eyes on was a girl I knew who had typed out her testimony with Panic disorder. She said: "If anyone out there is struggling mentally, do not be afraid to seek help from medication. It doesn't make you any less of a Christian! God gave people the talents and abilities to create medications to help others." I was stunned. I praised God for hearing me and responding so clearly. For the first time in a long while, I felt a glimmer of hope. Maybe things would get better. I began sertraline, an SSRI. It took 4-6 weeks to begin to take effect, so I had to be patient. But God wasn't done working on my heart, He had more He needed to teach me.

In the meantime, my mom had told Deb Rotelle, a family friend, about the struggles I had been going through. Deb had been praying for me, and she offered to spend time with me at Living Streams Ranch. I said yes, and that decision changed my life. Every day before I came, Deb would pray and ask the Lord what He wanted to show me and what we should do. And without fail, every day, my Father knew exactly what I needed to heal. In the beginning, when I was still apathetic and low, He would tell Deb specific things to have me do, like painting on the horse, or writing a lie I believed about myself on a rock and then laying it down at the foot of the cross. When I didn't have enough willpower to make decisions, He decided for me. I remember one of the later sessions, after I

A Story of Hope (cont.)

was feeling a lot more confident, I actually came that day with a strong desire of what I wanted to do that day: Ride the trails on horseback. Deb greeted me that day and told me, “Today, the Lord said He wanted to let you decide what you want to do!” My heart leaped at the fact that my Father knew what I desired before I even spoke it out loud. (*Psalm 139:4 says, “Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.”*) During my time at Living Streams Ranch, Jesus continued to tenderly speak to me and shower me with His immense and powerful love for me. He told me that He loved me not because of how well I could perform and carry out His commands, but simply because I was His child and He created me. I was finally released from the burden I’d been dragging around my whole life – the heavy lie that my worth was defined by how well I could “love” others and do nice things for them.

I had always struggled with yearning to be in a relationship, but I never allowed myself to get my hopes up enough that anyone would truly find me/my personality desirable. However, God was at work in my heart, healing my once-broken self-perception that summer at the Ranch. Around the same time, He also presented the opportunity to begin a romantic relationship. This person wanted to get to know me! I hadn’t even done anything to try and win over his attention. In fact, I wasn’t even thinking about boys for a past couple months since I’d been in a low point. I realized that God was using this situation to reinforce a point He wanted to get across to me: *I needed to stop trying so hard to “win over” other people, and even “win over” God.* My worth was not based on my works. I was overjoyed at the opportunity to start a relationship, and yet wrestled with doubt and fear. We went on our first date and it turned out wonderfully. As our relationship progressed, however, I realized I was afraid that *he would eventually get bored of me.* I wrote this lie down on a rock to carry on my back in a backpack. As I painted on the horse, Deb prayed for me. She said that the Lord had also told her I should write the word “FEAR” on the rock. Then we walked over to the cross in the woods. The rock I was carrying in my backpack was feeling heavy. She said the song “You Make Me Brave” by Bethel Music came to mind from the Spirit while I was painting, so we played the song at the cross. I knew why the Lord had picked that song for me immediately, when I heard the lyrics: “You make me brave, you call me out beyond the shore into the waves... *no fear can hinder now the promises you make.*” I knew God was singing a song of love over me, and He has promised great things are in store for me (*1 Corinthians 2:9*) He has plans to give me a hope and a future (*Jeremiah 29:11*). The only thing to do was to release my fear and not let it hinder the promises of abundant life that God had made for me (*John 10:10*). I decided this time, I wasn’t just going to lay my rock down at the cross. I was going to throw it down on a bigger rock and smash it to smithereens. So I did. And my “FEAR” rock shattered into a million tiny pieces when it hit the larger rock on the ground. I realized later that Jesus symbolized the larger rock. When my fear collides with His powerful love, fear simply doesn’t stand a chance. He literally shatters my fear (*1 John 4:18*). I left Living Streams Ranch with the assurance that even when I was going through a time where I felt like I was drowning, and I had separated myself from Jesus’ love, His love had never left me. His love relentlessly pursued me. *His love crashes over me, wave after wave.* Then, and now, and every day going forwards.



Volunteer Spotlight

I Was a Broken Woman **Written by Deretha Garrett**

First off, as I was growing up all I ever wanted to be was a wife and mother. I adored that position. I married my high school sweetheart, and by the age of 25 had four precious, beautiful daughters!

Secondly, I have always adored horses. My grandfather got us grandchildren Shetlands to ride. Wherever I lived over the years I kept my ears perked to hear of horses for my daughters and me to ride.

I met Jesus as my Savior when I was 21 years old, truly a day that changed my life. God, then led my husband to attend Faith Baptist Bible college in Ankeny, Iowa. As we moved from Kansas to Ankeny I was always on the lookout for horses to ride. We became missionary candidates and in 1994 we moved to Perkasio, Pennsylvania for my husband to do an internship.

In 1996, my husband, four daughters, and I moved to Papua New Guinea (PNG) as missionaries. We intended to be there for life, but suddenly my life crashed. We needed to leave PNG and return to Pennsylvania 3 years later.

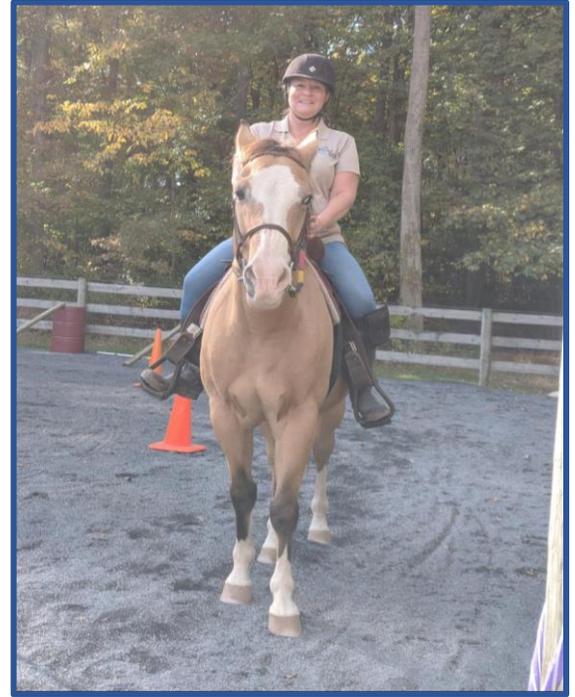
We had always had marriage issues. We received much counseling over the years before and after PNG. We met with several pastors/counselors who tried to help us save our marriage. My husband in the end was not willing to listen to their council.

He had stopped communicating with me the day we left PA for PNG. When we arrived back to PA the situation became worse. Our four daughters were deeply depressed, it was not a healthy home situation. My oldest daughter wrote a revealing letter to our pastor and counselor, which was not in favor of her dad. Shortly after, she moved to Kansas and out of my life. She made me promise to call 911 if I was ever afraid of him. Several months later I did have to call 911 because I felt threatened.

Weeks later he had collected all my belongings and household things he didn't want and told me to come get them. Literally he moved me out. I was 48 years old, lost my ministry in PNG, my husband moved me out, and I was estranged from my daughters. My husband then filed for divorce, which our church told him he did not have grounds for. At this point I do not know how I got out of bed, put one foot in front of the other and made it to my job.

In 2018, two friends encouraged me to apply for sessions at Living Streams Ranch. I was accepted. I went with trepidation, not wanting to once again face the emotions that were holding me back from living the life God intended for me. For nine weeks, I was bathed in prayer, drawn out of my shell, encouraged to forgive, constantly loved, led to repent, never judged and constantly given scripture to meditate on. I learned again in a new way who I was in Christ. Christ put worth on me by loving me so much He died for my sins. He adopted me into His family. He gave me a new ministry.

God blessed me beyond what I ever thought I would experience in my life again. LSR uses horses, the beautiful creatures of God's creation that I have always felt a bond with. Through caring and interacting with the horses I learned how much God cares for me and desires a personal relationship with me. We use a process as we work with the horses and at the end of it, we connect with the horse. It reveals how God wants us to connect with him. I praise God that now I am able to volunteer at LSR. The opportunities I have been given at LSR have truly given me purpose, and a ministry again. Thank you, Debbie, and LSR, for all you do to minister to hurting women.



Ranch Happenings



Praise God for Our New Barn Manager!

Hello! My name is Kathleen "Kat" Cerruti. In February I had the incredible privilege and honor of being hired on by Deb Rotelle as the new barn manager at Living Streams Ranch. It was through a friend at church, Deretha Garrett, that I learned of the opportunity. (Deretha is a former client and current faithful volunteer at the Ranch.) I'm so thankful that she thought enough of me to recommend me for the job. I am also thankful that Deb trusted me in this important position of equine caretaker and volunteer leader at this ministry. I have a lifetime of experience working with horses, and God has been growing and stretching me in the



area of loving people with compassion and grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. I truly see His hand in all the twists and turns in my life that has led me to this place. I am in awe of His love and mercy as I look back at all that He has brought me through in order to prepare me for this appointed responsibility.

In just this short time I've gotten to know some of the strengths - and wonderful quirks - of both my new equine and human friends! And I'm already deeply in love with all of them 😊 I'm looking forward to where the Lord will lead this ministry in the coming years, and I am SO excited to be a part of that vision and to be serving here at Living Streams Ranch! To God be the Glory!

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

Do you want to help our ministry?

We are on our way to meeting our 2020 financial goal of \$70,000. **Will you consider helping us stack our haybales so that our operating expenses will be covered and our services can remain free?** Each bale below represents \$5,000 and as you can see, we are \$21,000 into our goal. Every dollar makes a difference at the Ranch. Will you consider donating \$20, \$50, \$100, or whatever amount God is laying on your heart? Please see page 7 of this Newsletter for how to donate.



\$70,000 goal



Do you shop on Amazon?
Go to smile.amazon.com and select Living Streams Ranch as your charity. Amazon will then donate a portion of your purchase dollars to the Ranch.

\$21,000 raised so far!
Thank you for your generosity!



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, Bible study and healing prayer.

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**



Board of Directors

From left to right

Back

Wayne Rotelle - President

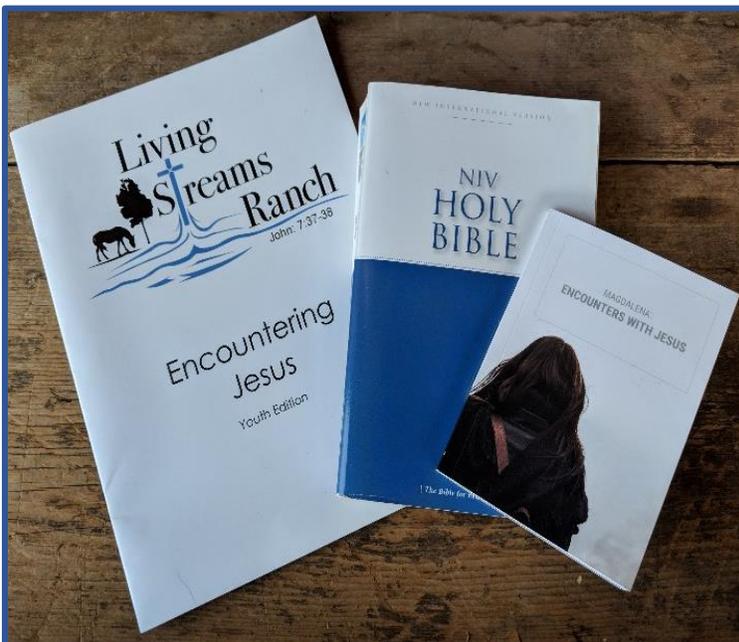
Deb Rotelle – Executive Director

Front

Cindy Moyer – Secretary

Tricia Escalante – Dictation

Joel Derstine – Treasurer



Devotionals used at the Ranch

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



2375 Schukraft Road
Quakertown, PA 18951



*May the Lord keep you safe and fill you
with His peace!*