



Morning Star Youth Ranch

Spring 2008 MSYR Newsletter

From the Director By Diane Odell

As I sit down to begin writing and look back at our last newsletter, I am amazed and overwhelmed. Was it really just 12 months ago that we had our first open house, and received both Indy and Hannah to the ranch? So much has been packed into the last 6 months that it feels as if another whole year has gone by!

In late October, Arcy Linn, Carl's wife and co-founder of MSYR needed to be hospitalized. Then in early November, Hannah our little red filly took a fall while playing and sustained a painful injury. Throughout the months of November, December and January much time was spent visiting Arcy and doctoring Hannah. During that time we were still able to move ahead with projects at the ranch. Fence lines were moved to widen the road to be in compliance with CDF requirements. Temporary hot wire fences were put up to confine our curious horses so our arenas could be graded. Sides were built on our horse shelter in preparation for winter storms, and clean up and demolition of the old chicken coops were completed. We had a great time attending the

7th Annual Horse Owners Expo in San Luis Obispo, setting up a booth for the evening and sharing our vision and mission with other horse owners in our county. We also kept a conservative schedule speaking to The Chevron Oil Corp., The Atascadero Horsemen and The Almond Country Quilters. Thank you to these organizations for your generous support. Then on January 22nd, to our great sadness, our beloved Arcy Linn passed away. She will be greatly missed. Read more about her legacy on page 2.

February and March brought much needed rain to our area and although we thought we were prepared for our first winter storm our little shelter filled with water. We worked hard to give our horses a dry, wind free place to be before the next storm hit and laughed at ourselves when the mud attempted to suck off our boots. The much-needed rain gave us hope for a good barley harvest this year and enabled us to see where a drainage system was needed. We were able to place a few culverts for road drainage and to locate future areas where culverts will be needed. Mentor training continued in spite of the weather with a workshop designed to bring into focus our core values, enhance team working skills and help our volunteers determine their calling. Thanks to some generous dona-



tions we received fencing for our orchard and garden area, box stall panels, mats for our horse hospital and a 50ft trailer to serve as an office. His provision and miracles have no end! Thank you Ray and Pam. Hannah continued to heal and improve (thank you Dr. Szabo). After nearly 5 months of confinement Hannah's gymnastics began to let us know that her time of confinement would soon be coming to an end.



In April as the mud dried up tractors were again able to work the ground and we continued preparation for our arenas and drainage system (thank you Ray, Peter, George and Haydn). Dirt and sand have been donated and are being stored for our arena footing. Long awaited fencing of our alley way and pasture were started thanks in part to generous donations from the Speh Foundation and the Black Family. Another workshop on personal safety (thank you Marsha) was offered to our mentors as training continued in preparation for the ranch to open. We also attended "The Equine Experience", a 3-day expo on all things horses and the San Miguel Business Forum, an inaugural event to showcase businesses in San Miguel. We met some wonderful people and enjoyed sharing our vision for Morning Star. Our used tack shop at the San Miguel Flouring Mill has continued to be a blessing to us and we now also have saddles for sale at Santa Margarita Feed and Farm Supply, 22423 El Camino Real as well. (see our website for more details). Toward the end of April we were wonderfully surprised by three new additions to the ranch. Be sure to see their pictures and read about them on page 3.

We are continuing to give tours to those interested in this exciting ministry and we are building a waiting list of children anxiously hoping to come to the ranch.

With the arrival of May came our first warm days. Our focus has turned again to preparing for the heat that will surely come our way. Thankfully our horses will have shade this summer. We are very close to the time of moving our remaining two horses to the ranch with arenas and pastures safely set up so children can come to the ranch. God's mighty hand has been so evident as He unfolds His plan for Morning Star. Please keep us in your prayers as summer vacation is upon us and we would love to be open, even if on a limited basis.

In honor and loving memory of our dear Arcy Linn



Since Arcy, Carl's wife of 44 years journeyed home to be with her Lord Jesus in January of this year (see her obituary on our website) we have both celebrated her life and mourned her loss. We have missed her sparkling eyes, quick smile and no-nonsense approach to life's problems. We have been reminded of her perseverance to press on when things don't seem to unfold as they should and hear her hearty laugh as we find ourselves in predicaments we should have seen coming. Yes, Morning Star Youth Ranch will surely miss our Arcy.

To ensure the wisdom and wit of our beloved Arcy will live on at the ranch several treasures have been received and will be embedded in the everyday scenery and life at the ranch. Of course the barn will always be known as "Arcy's barn" stemming

from her desire for a new roof on the barn rather than a remodeled kitchen. A rose bush bearing her favorite rose "Love" has been planted up close to the house and is already producing beautiful flowers. A peach tree was planted in the family orchard and you can bet stories of Arcy will pour forth as we enjoy the shade and sweet delicious fruit it will produce. A beautiful handmade quilt will hang in our office just inviting questions to be asked and answered and plans are under way to



include a restful bench underneath a magnolia tree (her favorite) near the entrance to the barnyard.

Arcy and Carl shared a love of children and animals and envisioned their home on the ranch to be a place of peace and rest, where children and animals could experience the love of Christ. Their son and daughter-in-law, Matt and Amy Linn, who also live on the family ranch, share this vision. From the rescue of dogs and horses to the invitation extended to Morning Star to have a permanent home on the ranch, Arcy's loving heart and open arms have been apparent. We will miss you Arcy and endeavor to make you proud of the ministry you helped give birth to. What a legacy you have left us; you will truly reach into the future and touch many for Christ.

FENCING- FINALLY FENCING! You have heard us talk about it for over a year now. We have shared our vision and our need for safe fencing both for our horses and for the safety of the youth that will work with our horses. You have generously donated to our fencing fund and

prayed for God to meet this need. You have helped fold sponsor letters and picked up sacks of donated cement, you have researched suppliers of pipe and wire. Thank you to all of you who have faithfully prayed and worked on our behalf to bring fencing to Morning Star. As of May we are approximately 75% fenced. We now have two of our three pastures enclosed with safe gates and shelters for this summer. Praise be to our Lord! Thank you Russ for working with us to accomplish this first phase. And thank you to Saulo and Saul Jr. for your hard work in making our fencing look like what we envisioned. Our next and last phase will include dividing the now existing east pasture in two, adding a gate and more shelter before this winter. Please continue to pray with us about finishing this project.



New arrivals



We receive calls regularly from folks who have special horses in need of a special home but because of our need to bring our two remaining horses home to the ranch and our need for fencing we have been unable to take in any more horses. However, when Mary (our blacksmith) would come to trim our horses she would bring tales of a precious miniature donkey named "Billy". Billy suffered regularly with

foot problems and caring for him was becoming increasingly difficult for his “parents”, Dean and Betty. Together they had raised Billy from the time he was 10 months old and loved him too much to see him suffer. After months of searching unsuccessfully for a suitable home where Billy's foot care needs would be met, hope was dwindling and humanely ending his suffering was being considered. Upon hearing about this dilemma, we began searching for a solution. A small co-op was formed to take care of Billy's expenses and a cattle pen was made ready for a temporary home. Within days we took off to bring Billy home to Morning Star. Picking up Billy from the loving home he had known for most of his life was bittersweet. Billy was going to miss his human and four legged friends. We were thrilled to have Billy but concerned that he would be lonely.

At the same time in Arroyo Grande another story was unfolding for a 19 year old miniature horse named “Teaspoon”. Teaspoon had been spending her life at “Fort Hope” a living History Museum for children, which replicated life in the 1850's. Due to a temporary closure all the animals at the fort needed to find new homes, and all had been adopted except Teaspoon. Knowing that Billy would do better with a friend, and hearing a similar story from Mary that Teaspoon had foot problems and needed a home, we set off to bring her home to Morning Star. Upon arrival we were greeted by Teaspoon, Leigh Ann her owner, a large German Shepard dog and a cute pygmy goat. After introductions and a short time to chat we were ready to head home. Upon opening the trailer, who should decide immediately that he was coming along - Yep, you guessed it. Midnight the goat announced with great delight that Teaspoon was his best friend and he was going where she was going. Leigh Ann confirmed Midnight's story, they were indeed inseparable, so Teaspoon jumped in after Midnight and we all headed back to the ranch.

Upon arrival at the ranch it was time

for introductions. The usual sniffing, squealing and who's the boss show commenced. Midnight bowed out immediately and let Billy, who had been king of his castle, and Teaspoon, who was the queen with her court, decide who would rule the new cow pen castle. Within a few minutes all was decided. Billy would act like the king but defer to Teaspoon when issues of importance like, where he should eat and who would eat first needed to be decided. By the following day they had become the 3 amigos, inseparable friends, complete with hilarious antics and telling the entire world they needed to get out and go for a walk RIGHT NOW!!



Meet the board

(We will highlight one member of our board in each newsletter)

How Bill Hawk our president was led to be a part of Morning Star. Sometimes people say that God's not really involved in the little decisions of our day to day lives, that He has bigger and more important things to deal with...but little things lead to bigger things... For example, who would have ever thought that 30 years ago going to get some eggs from a neighbor for breakfast would have ended me up on the board of MSYR? One Saturday morning I realized that we were out of eggs and then remembered this woman's house up the road that had an “eggs for sale” sign hanging on the porch. This “woman” turned out to be Diane Odell with whom my wife and I developed a close friendship. Our daughters were the same age and went through 12 years of school together. Diane

had just moved up from Southern California and was training horses. I was busy starting a new church and preschool. Diane and her family became members of the church and through many years of conversations and struggles with me and with others, formulated a vision for the kind of ministry that we have at Morning Star. This has been my dream for Diane since the early days of our friendship and I'm happy to be a part of helping to make it happen.

Bill is founding pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Paso Robles. He and his wife Joyce have four children and two grandchildren and still live down the road from the chicken coop in Templeton.

How you can be a part of Morning Star

Volunteering is a great way to get to know us and experience MSYR and the tremendous value it will have for our youth. As we continue to develop our facilities, opportunities to be involved will multiply. Why not fill out a volunteer application from our website and mail it to our office and join us.

Prayer-All of us involved in bringing

Morning Star into existence are in need of constant prayer. Drop by our web site and check out our praise and petition update or join us the first Friday of each month (6:30pm to 7:30pm) as we walk the ranch property full of thankfulness for His blessings and seeking His wisdom, guidance and direction for the future.

Do you know a group or service organization that would like to hear more about Morning Star Youth Ranch? We have a power point presentation that shares our vision of one child, one horse, one mentor and the empowering possibilities we see for the future. Give us a call. We'd love to come and share with your group or organization.

Used tack donation. We are so grateful to all of you who have been donating tack - both for our use on the ranch and to be sold at our tack store. Please call the office (226-2859) to make arrangements for your donated tack to be picked up or dropped off .

Tours-We love sharing our vision - call the office (226-2859) and let us give you a delightful time filled with whinnies, brays and bleats.

Please check out our web site for pictures and updates of all the happenings at the ranch. www.morningstaryouthranch.org

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Yes, I would like to be a part of Morning Star Youth by contributing financially. All donations are tax deductible. (Please make your check payable to Morning Star Youth Ranch)

- One time gift of \$ _____
- Monthly support of \$ _____

Please use my donation for:

- Where it is needed the most
- Specific project _____
- For the children
- For the horses
- Ranch equipment
- Volunteer program

Please send donations to:
Morning Star Youth Ranch,
862 Exline Rd.
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Our current wish list is also available on our website: www.morningstaryouthranch.org

Name _____
Address _____
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**Sharing the love of Christ
by building bridges to hope, healing
and trust in a ranch setting.**