

AROUND the FIRE

RESCUE THE EQUINE

Summer 2020

RESCUE the Equine ★ MENTOR the Child ★ HOPE for the Family ★ EMPOWER the Ministry

NEW TREASURES AS WELL AS OLD

Twenty-Five Years of Rescuing the Equine

By Sarah Robinett

"... Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (Matthew 13:52, NIV)

"It's amazing, dear Jesus, how You grow each tiny step of faith," I whisper in prayer. Overcome by gratitude, I sit before the Lord and try to comprehend the gift given to us in this little Ranch. Twenty-five years ago, our King planted a vision in the hearts of Kim and Troy Meeder. They saw a horse in need . . . and followed what they knew to be right.

God honored that step of faith, a single tiny step that began a journey of trust and obedience.

To date, Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch has assisted with the rescue of over 300 horses. I smile at the thought that the first rescued horse—Ele—arrived while I was still in diapers. Miraculously, a quarter of a century later, she is still alive and well. At 29 years of age, this beloved mare continues to serve as the matriarch of our herd.

Looking over the grazing horses, my eyes scan our aging friends, happy and peaceful in rest. Mingled among them are our playful newcomers—the more recent rescues and youngsters. I see the undeveloped horses as warriors in-training, observing and learning from our wise and nurturing veterans.

And then I think of you. Yes, the one reading this message.

Perhaps without ever meeting face-to-face, you're a part of this incredible gift. Without the Lord weaving together each person intrinsically into His beautiful tapestry, Crystal Peaks wouldn't be what it is today. The prayer, support, service, sacrifice and love extended to us through His body drops us to our knees. Thank you so much friends for playing a unique part in the mysterious wonder of Christ in this place.

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Photo by Red Owl Photography

Each giving individual glory to our King, below are introductions to several newer—and older—members of our current herd. Our Lord's faithfulness is displayed in so many unexpected ways. To us, the treasure of—and provision for—these precious horses continues to remain a firm pillar of this ministry.

OUR NEW TREASURES

This group of horses represent the “new treasures” the Lord has added to our herd. We are always amazed to see how the story of each horse's life and redemption impacts the children who meet them. Often through the horse, the Lord holds up a unique mirror. When we see God's faithfulness heal and restore the hearts of our four-legged friends, this truth reflects His love back into the hearts of those looking for hope. A theme that resonates is, “If God can heal this horse, maybe He can heal me as well.” Details as specific as losing a parent to cancer, suffering separation and starvation and reunion and redemption—have been experienced by our horses—and by the children. It would take a novel to describe even a portion of all the ways our King has revealed Himself to these little ones through His creation . . . but here are a few examples.

Esther - Arrival April 2019

Twenty-two year old Tennessee Walker Mare

Fun Fact: Esther means “Queenly.”

A quote from Carla, age 12—“Esther is my favorite horse . . . because we're a lot alike. We both lost our moms to cancer. And we both have red hair and freckles!” Almost upon arrival, the Lord started using Esther to support and comfort children. Esther came to us as a gift from a dear friend in the final stages of lung cancer. Through Esther's re-homing process, this beloved woman came to know Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. In service to the One who made her, this chosen horse has been a tool of redeeming hope and love for many in her midst.



ESTHER

Photos by Sarah Robinett

Nakia - Arrival June 2019

Three year-old Arabian Paint Cross Mare

Fun Fact: Nakia is Arabic for “pure and faithful.”

Rescued from slaughter, Nakia's gaunt frame bore witness to her lack of nourishment during vital growing stages in her young life. Once at the Ranch, Nakia joyously reunited with her mother, Bethlehem, our grey Arabian who arrived a year prior. The new filly made an immediate connection to one little girl in particular. This child had endured homelessness and hunger. She lived two weeks on the streets without food. And, she suffered through devastating separation from her mother. Parallel to Nakia's recovery, this beloved daughter is also currently experiencing the hope and redemption of Jesus Christ in her own life and family.



**NAKIA
(AND BETHLEHEM)**



TAL

Tal - Arrival June 2019

Twenty-two year old Arabian Gelding

Fun Fact: Tal was named in honor of the family that provided financially for his rescue.

Tal, a slender bay Arab, originally arrived at Crystal Peaks as a two year-old with Zephyr and three other rescues. As he recovered and grew into a lovely gelding, the Ranch placed him with a young girl and her family who adored him. Last summer, we received a call from Tal's adopted family. They were in the process of a large move and were unable to take their cherished gelding with them. With eager anticipation, we welcomed Tal back into our program. He continues to be a people lover. His kind, sensitive nature is a joy to all who interact with him.

Tess - Arrival September 2019

Eight year-old Quarab Mare

Fun Fact: Tess means "harvester."

One of our session kids notified us of a horse in need. SAGE, our young girls group, had gathered at the Ranch. From this assembly, a girl volunteered to pray over the day. After several moments of awkward silence, the little volunteer finally confided she didn't know how to pray. Bravely, she simply asked Jesus to please help us rescue this special horse. Later that afternoon, our team headed out to the local property and found "Tess," an Arabian/Quarter Horse cross. We were grateful to discover she was well-fed, but noted that in isolation from other horses, her living conditions were not ideal. Tess's owner acknowledged the mare's need for a horse companion and her potential to be loved by children. He gladly donated the nearly black bay into our program. A few short weeks later, our new little prayer warrior met God's answer to her request in person. God is already using Tess to draw children to Himself and to see Him as our Rescuer and Provider—the One who answers prayers.

TESS



Photo by Katie Guerrero

JONAS

Jonas - April 2020

Ten year-old Arab/POA Gelding

Fun Fact: His name reflects a Biblical prophet that brought revival from hopelessness.

This gorgeous seal-point gelding came to our attention through a local ad. The owner was a single mom interested in down-sizing her herd. She welcomed our inquiry. Upon our arrival, we could clearly see this gelding was by no means a rescue. Jonas had been lovingly cared for and he perfectly fit the description of the horse we had been asking God to add to our session herd. Rideable, healthy, and displaying an inquisitive kindness toward people, Jonas immediately captured our hearts. As only God can arrange, the young family whom we purchased him from is now in the process of becoming connected to the love of God through the Ranch.



Photos by Sarah Robinett

OLDER TREASURES - OUR VETERANS

With joy, we stand amazed at God’s faithfulness to preserve our elderly foundation horses. While rescuing horses in need is one of the four pillars of our ministry, it’s our priority in this season to care for the horses who have given their lives to serve in this place. We know our time with these beloved friends is coming to a close. With this understanding anchoring our perspective, we acknowledge that each day the Lord allows these warriors to remain with us is a beautiful gift.

Ele - Arrival 1995

Twenty-nine year old Arabian/Thoroughbred Mare

Fun Fact: Ele loves to swim . . . once while carrying tack, packs, lunch and Kim’s camera.

Ele started it all. After seeing the previous owner beat this mare so severely that a vet was called to sew up her face, Kim prayed, gathered friends and pooled resources to secure her freedom. Twenty-five years ago, without even a trailer to haul her, Kim carefully led this battered horse away from her former abuse and down the road into her new home, her new life and her new freedom. Through the following years, Ele fully recovered and became an inseparable friend to Kim, an endurance racing champion and the figure-head of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch. On the Ranch, Ele has served as a loving role model to the younger rescues and is quick to “adopt” the babies into their new herd family. Ele still serves as the lead mare of our herd today.

ELE



Photos by Katie Guerrero



PHOEBE

Phoenix, “Phoebe” - Arrival 2003

Nineteen year old Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse Mare

Fun Fact: The name “Phoenix” portrays rising through pain into beautiful strength.

As part of the Millican horse recovery, one of the largest rescues in Oregon history, Phoebe miraculously survived incomprehensible carnage. While tripping over the bones of her herd mates, Kim and Troy chose the most fragile filly of the survivors. Skin previously frozen on her back hung in rotting flaps of stinking flesh from her skeletal frame. Overcoming unimaginable odds and through the mercy of God, Phoebe made a full recovery. She became a favorite loyal mount for many staff and children. In her later years, although blind in one eye and beyond the ability to carry a rider, Phoebe enjoys the affection and attention from children on the ground. To this day, many who interact with this beloved mare are deeply and profoundly moved by her life’s testimony of God’s redemption and restoration of those who seek it.

ZEPHYR



Photos by Judy Jeffery

Zephyr - Arrival September 2011

Twenty-four year old National Show Horse Gelding

Fun Fact: Zephyr’s name means “gentle wind.”

Zephyr originally arrived with Tal and 3 other neglected geldings in 1998. As Zephyr recovered and grew with youthful exuberance, he was placed within a loving family. In 2011, we learned his owners could no longer care for him and the Ranch received Zephyr with elation. Our beloved boy had come home—with the fun maneuvers and reliable confidence of an experienced show horse. He quickly became a favorite among our skilled young riders and served as a lead horse on our pack trips into the wilderness. Although retired because of arthritis, he still loves playing in the pasture with the young horses and he receives frequent grooming from his smaller two-legged friends.



TAYLOR

Taylor - Arrival December 2010

Twenty year old Arabian Mare

Fun Fact: Taylor means “clothed with salvation.”

Taylor ranks among the most kind-hearted, faithful mares in our horse family. Her story is also one of rescue and redemption. In 2010, Taylor arrived approximately 200 pounds underweight with feet warped and broken from neglect. In the months that followed, the bay mare made a remarkable recovery and became part of our children’s riding program. When an arthritic knee ended her riding years, Taylor found great purpose in nurturing more elderly members of the herd. She has served as the keen and caring eyes for several of our aged blind horses. Ever faithful, Taylor has never left their sides, guiding each through the final years of their lives. As an equine nurse and caretaker, Taylor shows us what it looks like to choose joy and purpose over our pain, and to find a loving mission in helping others in need.

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Yes! I would like to shoulder with
Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch to support children, horses
and families in need.

Please use my donation for:

- ☐ Where it is needed most
- ☐ Rescue the Equine
- ☐ Mentor the Child
- ☐ Hope for the Family
- ☐ Empower the Ministry

Payment Method:

A check payable to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch or CPYR for
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Send donations to: Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch, 19344 Innes Market
Road, Bend OR 97703.

You can also make your donation at
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All stories written in “Around the Fire” newsletter are true. Some of the names have been changed to protect individual privacy.
“Around the Fire” newsletter stands on the Word of God. All translations of the Holy Bible are used to assure clarity for our readership.
Each author is afforded the right to choose the translation that best suits their submission.

Cassidy - Arrival July 2005

Twenty-nine year old Arabian Mare

Fun Fact: To date, Cassidy remains one of the most solid horses the Ranch has ever known.

The tiny bay mare shook uncontrollably in the trailer. Her owner had driven unannounced up the Ranch driveway and into the yard with a horse trailer in tow. After looking in on the terrified mare, Kim was so moved by compassion that she accepted the owner's hasty relinquishment of the "spooky" horse. The cause of such paralyzing fear in this young horse's life was unknown—but not unconquerable. Surrounded by the love of her new family, Cassidy settled into one of our finest children's horses. Calm and confident, at 29 years of age, this sweet mare still carries riders in gentle laps around the arena. Cassidy's life story testifies to this Biblical truth: "Perfect love drives out fear." (1 John 4:18, NIV)

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Photo by Sarah Robinett

Forever Grateful

The miraculous provision for the rescue of these horses, their on going care and for the children who come—free of charge—is unexplainable.

Only Jesus could do this . . . for 25 years.

The Lord's faithfulness far surpasses our understanding, our logic, or what seems impossible in the human realm. To witness the Holy Spirit trace direct lines from the life-stories of these horses— straight into the hearts of the children who love them—is simply astounding.

These gentle, four-footed warriors daily declare the Good News of Jesus' redemption to all who are listening.

With profound gratitude, I invite you to join us in praising the Lord for His immeasurable love. It is His love that has sustained us through every moment of this journey. It is His love that has bestowed the priceless treasures of horses and children into our care. And it is His love that calls us, step for trusting step, forward.

I smile at the thought of our chorus of praise and thanks reaching God's throne—may our gratitude for His faithfulness reverberate within the walls of Heaven.

Yes, Jesus, we praise You for bringing out of Your storeroom new treasures as well as old. Thank You for blessing this little Ranch of rescue . . . called "Crystal Peaks."



25TH
ANNIVERSARY!

Photo by Troy Meeder

PROFOUND GRATITUDE

By Kim Meeder

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.”
(Psalm 37:23-25, NLT)

Our nation’s independence day—July 4th, 2020—will also herald the 25th anniversary of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch. For a quarter of a century our God has miraculously covered us with His freedom, direction, provision, purpose and love.

When we look back and see His compassionate grasp on this ministry, it’s with profound gratitude that we understand how He has delighted in every detail of the last 25 years of this Ranch. Indeed, we *have* stumbled many times. And yet, we have never fallen into oblivion because the One who loves us most—is the One who holds us up by the hand. For clarity, we have not fallen because *we* are great—but because we cling to the One who IS great—our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Throughout all history, He has never shaken, shifted or split . . . and He has never ever fallen. And when we hold on to Him with *all* our heart, soul, mind and strength . . . we won’t either.

It’s a true statement, after 25 years Troy and I are now closer to old than young. Our backs are not as straight and our arms are not as strong. Step for step, each week, month, year and decade has been a battle—but the joy *far* outweighs the job—and it’s this joy that continues to call us forward (Heb. 12:1-3).

For half our lives, we have been witness to the presence of God providing for *all* who come to this Ranch. Indeed, for parents, children, volunteers and staff who have called on His name, He has met them in beautiful and astounding ways. We have watched Him freely give redemption, hope, peace, joy and most of all—His love—to all who genuinely seek it.

By the transformative power of His love, we have seen cinder pits restored, horses revived, children redeemed, broken souls renewed, families reunited and multiple ministries reborn. With hands and hearts lifted high, we worship Him for this 25 year milestone of hope, this tangible covenant of His enduring love.

No one travels this life alone. In the journey that is Crystal Peaks, we wish to thank you—YOU—for all the steps you have chosen to walk at our side. Your unique encouragement through volunteerism, financial support, counsel and prayer has helped to steady us, fill us, heal us and at times, carry us.

Strengthened by this truth, it’s with profound gratitude and eager expectation that we look forward to journeying together for the next 25 years. Why? Because we cannot wait to see what HE is going to do next!

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”
(1 Cor. 2:9, NLT)

Photo by Katie Guerrero





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Introducing . . . *refuge* real

We are constantly faced with unreliable news, uncertainty and fear. All this begs us to ask a few questions: What IS real in our ever-changing world? What can we depend on when all foundations around us crumble?

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8, NIV)

When the world is undependable you . . . can depend on Jesus.

Refuge Real is an expression of Jesus' truth in love.

With the help of many, the team has created powerful video segments that include worship and short messages from God's Word shared through Troy Meeder and others.

Recorded in our newly transformed barn, Refuge Real is our loving encouragement to worship God through every circumstance. This gift is sent to you through your Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch family.

Refuge Real is available on the Crystal Peaks Facebook page or through our YouTube channel.



Photo by Katie Guerrero