

Frazier Ministry Monthly

Mic's Thoughts

The child was small and I could tell he felt it. He stood next to the fence with a tentative hand on the rail and eyes on his shoes. He had a helmet on his head and stood apart from the group of giggly girls bouncing around like excited puppies. I could feel his nervousness from across the arena. As I approached him, I made sure to use caution so as not to startle the boy. He heard me and quickly took his hand off the rail and clasped it with his other hand, his eyes never looking up. I stood quietly nearby, waiting for him to be brave. His leader led him into the arena and towards me, reassuring him that there was nothing to be afraid of. All the while I continued to watch him and could tell he wasn't buying the leader's words. But there was something in him, I could sense, that was pushing him through the fear. As he came up to me, I let out a big, slow breath, encouraging him to relax and let go. His leader got him settled and off we started around the arena. The adult walked by our side attempting to get the child to say something. I could tell he was in his own fear-filled world and was not hearing anything the leader had to say. Taking control of the situation, I let out a big cough, which resulted in a loud flatulence! The boy and adult gasped, shock written on their faces and the boy holding tightly to the saddle horn. I stood quietly and waited. The wrangler leading me explained to them that when I cough, I fart and that it is nothing to be afraid of. The boy started giggling as he processed what she said. As he giggled, I could feel him let go of the tension in his little body. We began walking again and he tensed back up, so I coughed again, sending the boy into another fit of giggles. We continued around the arena for the remainder of the session with the child relaxing more and more as he shared laughter with the two adults. By the end of our time together he was talking a mile a minute about his family, his school and how much fun he was having at camp. After he clambered off, he gave me a soft pet on the neck and whispered "thank you" then walked out of the arena with his leader, chatting all the while. I stood patiently by the fence, waiting for my next child to love. Signed, *Jesse James*

Connection leads to conversation which leads to commitment. I (Micaila) got to share my vision for camp's horse ministry at our fundraiser last weekend. I shared with people how much God has blessed the horse ministry through donated services from local businesses and professionals, knowledgeable volunteers who personally invest in the herd's training and health, and the horses themselves – 5 more high-caliber horses were donated/purchased in the last year, doubling our herd and increasing our ability to offer more equine opportunities that reach kids for Jesus! The purpose of the horses at camp is to open doors to hearts and allow for shared experiences with leaders that carries through the rest of the camp or event. These shared experiences begin to build relationships that lead to deeper conversations about life (Family, friends, school, God) = **evangelism**. Those relationships built at camp continue after kids go home = **discipleship**. Every activity and event at camp is designed with this in mind. The **connection** those horses create with their riders begins a **conversation** that carries through to their leaders, which hopefully leads to deeper conversations resulting in a **commitment** to believe in and follow Christ. These horses are special tools God has given to camp and entrusted Mike and I to care for year around and steward to the best of our ability, I want to continue to oversee growth and expansion with the horse herd ministry in the coming year through new events, more small group activities, continuing education and more!

Mike's Thoughts

This last weekend at our fundraiser banquet, Micaila and I had an opportunity to share our heart and vision for the coming year. I would like to pass along a couple highlights so you too can see what we are aiming for in the future. This coming year I want to be a better steward of the things that God has given to us. A steward is someone who simply takes care of things that belong to another. That is what we all do. We take care of things for a time and then in many cases it is passed along to the next person. I want to capitalize on my time with the volunteer staff and work crews. I want to show and tell them about God's love, provision and how He has been working at Camp Machasay lately. God is truly the great physician, He is a heart doctor. Listen to what Ezekiel 36:26 says "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you, I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. When I was a boy going to camp myself there were two people that stand out in my memory. My camp counselor Henry who showed me God's Love and the camp speaker Marleen who encouraged us to keep following God. Summer camp makes a difference in the lives of these young people, it leaves lasting memories and plants seed in their heart for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Serving Christ together,

The Fraziers

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