

The Ranch Report



July 2010

StrongTowerRanch.org

Work day July 10th



We have a work day scheduled for Saturday, July 10th. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the pavilion and finish up at 3:30, but feel free to come at a time that fits your schedule. There will be a variety of projects and all are welcome. Contact [Don Kaiser](#) if you can come.

Current Work Projects

Horse Shelters



Poor weather made for a challenging winter, taking its toll on the property, horses, and staff. Cold, wet weather means more time in the stalls for the horses and the people who clean up after them. The addition of shelters in the pastures will bring comfort and warmth to the horses, and great relief for those who care

A Bit from the Barn



Beauty from Ashes

Have you ever had a day, a week, a year when you felt nothing was going right? When defeat becomes an all too common word? The search for new horses for the ranch has been a challenging one, to say the least. How hard can it be to replace a couple of horses? After putting many failed miles on our vehicles (and in the saddle!) to find new horses, our attempts seeming hopeless, hope was renewed in the "ashes".

The first week of Day Camp was upon us but a family illness caused me to be homebound with my son the first two days. We were very saddened and frustrated to be stuck at home, missing the fun. Despite my somber mood, I decided to take a glance at Craigslist for any new horse listings. As only God would have it, a new post was entered just that morning for two horses for sale in the area...so close...so promising...the call was made and a visit scheduled.

So many unsuccessful attempts at finding just the right horses for our precious kids caused me to have lingering doubt as we arrived on the property. I pushed the doubt aside and looked around with hope, but not too much. I waited in anticipation as the horses were brought up from the pasture.

The paint was not at all what I expected. Being the lowest in the pecking order he looked a little worse for wear and was not the most handsome of the breed - but there was something about this horse. He looked like the ashes of a fire, when the flames cease and all is gone but white ash and a few black, charred pieces of wood. I saw a light in this little gelding's eyes - a glimmer of hope for what he would become. At his new home, he will be a treasured friend to many, bringing smiles and laughter to fragile hearts afraid to hope again. And they will see past Ash's scars and imperfection to the beauty within.

for them. One shelter is under roof and at least two others are needed before winter hits. We have applied for a charitable grant to fund this project – please pray with us for the Lord to provide.

Food Service Counter



If you visit the ranch's lake/pavilion area, you'll notice our beautiful, new food service counter next to the kitchen (many thanks to Ken Foster and Don Kaiser). This masonry counter will provide ample room to serve meals to campers and guests, and will be enjoyed for many years, if not decades. We look forward to completing this project with a food service pavilion to replace the temporary canopy as soon as funds are available. Estimated cost to complete this project is \$1,800.



I believe that is what God sees when He looks at us...not our wounds, not our ugliness, not our ashes, but what we can become when we put our hope in Him through Jesus. Our new horse, Ash, will forever be a reminder that out of the ashes God will bring new life. God will comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve and bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair. Praise be to our Almighty Father who restores all things and makes them new!

Lori Brooks
Horsemanship Committee Lead

Visiting Work Groups



It's been hard to complete spring work projects due to all the rain, but this die-hard group from Calvary Church West re-scheduled and came out on weekdays to do the jobs they committed to. We're extremely thankful for people who won't give up!

A Western Adventure - Week 1

God's beautiful campgrounds, nestled among the wilderness and farm fields of Wright City, Missouri, rang out with the sounds of worship, laughter, splashes, songs, neighs, and squeals (of both campers and pigs) during our first week of A Western Adventure Day Camp held June 7-11. We were bursting at the seams with 85 campers and 36 volunteer staff during our first camp session. From one side of the ranch to the other were seen campers having fun, God being glorified, and hearts being touched by the love of Christ coming out of the hands and mouths of our amazing Strong Tower Ranch staff. Every child was individually presented with the gospel of Christ and given a one-on-one opportunity to pray to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. God smiled and angels rejoiced as many campers made salvation decisions or further committed themselves to a Christ-centered life.

During Bible time, campers learned the concept of spending time with their Heavenly Father, the importance of Bible reading, praying in faith, fellowshiping with believers, witnessing to the world, and ministering to others. Creation lessons taught and reinforced the truth of how God created our universe perfectly and completely through his spoken word.



Around 60 high school seniors and their sponsors came from Christian High School in O'Fallon for a senior work day and knocked out some big clean-up projects. Now we can focus on improvement projects the rest of the year, so contact [Don Kaiser](#) to line up your group. There's always more to do than you can shake a stick (or a hammer) at.

Promotional Video

WOW! A friend of the ministry gave us a wonderful gift by producing a promotional video for Strong Tower Ranch.



You can view here

Please feel free to share this video with your friends. You never know who will be blessed by STR. We are hearing more and more frequently from people who've been hoping, praying and searching for such a ministry and are thrilled to have finally found us! Thanks for helping us get the word out.

Calendar

July

Mon July 5 - Fri July 9
9am – 4pm
[Day Camp](#)



These themes were further reinforced during games, crafts, worship songs, hiking and all the other incredible activities the ranch has to offer. Swimming, trail rides, and the ever-exciting pig or chicken catch* were camper favorites. Campers learned lassoing and rope-making from guest experts in the techniques, and campfire cooking by some brave, experienced volunteers. A recent donation of fishing equipment enabled new as well as more experienced anglers to try their hand at catching a prize fish in our stocked lake. (All fish were grateful to be returned to their homes and families.) A camper's father amazed us all when he flew over the ranch doing maneuvers in a Black-Hawk helicopter. Our kitchen staff outdid themselves each day with super-delicious Western-themed lunches and snacks that rounded out five fun-packed, rootin', tootin' days.



This year our 12 to 14-year-old campers enjoyed separate teaching and activities planned especially for them. They had an exceptional team of counselors and helpers that have hearts to minister in the lives and hearts of this special age group. These campers were ready to be challenged to develop character and qualities of mature, responsible, Christian adults. We were blessed to have a theater coach that came each day to teach our older campers a mime which they performed to

Sat July 10

[Work Day](#)

Mon July 12 - Fri July 16

10am – 3pm

Level One [Horsemanship](#)
Camp

Mon July 19 - Fri July 23

9am – 4pm

[Day Camp](#)

Mon July 26 - Fri July 30

9am – 3pm

Level Two [Horsemanship](#)
Camp

August

Mon Aug 2 - Fri Aug 6

9am – 4pm

[Day Camp](#)

Please keep these activities in
your prayers.

a standing ovation during our closing program on Friday afternoon.

The Day-Camp committee wishes to give a hearty "thank-you and thumbs-up" to all sponsors, donors, volunteers, parents, and campers who helped to make our first week of camp a huge success!

*No livestock were injured or killed during this activity, but they did become master escape artists!

Rory Bergman
Day Camp Committee