

Safe Haven

By Jenny Wielenga

Breakaway Youth Ranch

Summer 2020

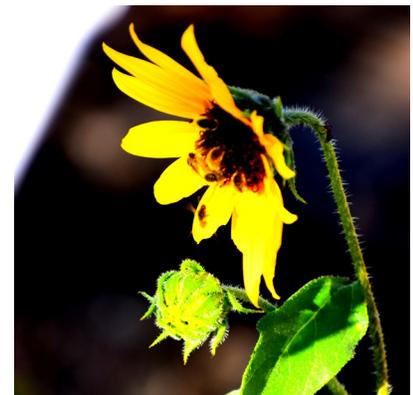
Remember back in 2019 when there were fundraising campaign slogans and other various advertisements that referenced 2020—the year of perfect vision, of completion, or of meeting goals for expansion? Instead, we have found ourselves in a year full of much change and uncertainty. It is not uncommon to hear that friends and family are uncertain about work, school, housing, vacations, etc. It is all too easy to focus on the negative aspects of change that are happening around us, and some days it can be downright overwhelming.

Fortunately, God's word is a fountain of wisdom and encouragement. This summer we have been studying Psalm 107 with the SR MINTs. One section in particular stood out to me in relation to current events. It is this: "They [the merchants, sailors and fishermen] mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" Those first verses (26-27) pretty nearly describe what is happening around me. Everything is up and down, people are reeling, some are at their wits' end, and many souls are melting because of troubles. Because of all this turmoil and trouble, I love what the later verses say—that God is ready to save these people "out of their distresses," to calm the storm, and to bring quiet, gladness, and a safe haven.

This is the nature of the God we serve and love here at the ranch—one who saves, guides, and preserves (among many other things). In Psalm 31 the writer says, "In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake lead me and guide me, for You are my strength."

There are so many things that God could be trying to say to each of us through this time of struggle, uncertainty, and trouble. Quite possibly, if I had the opportunity to ask each of you what struggles, victories, troubles, and joys you've experienced in the last months, I would get almost as many unique answers. But I hope that in and through and under them all we will hear God saying, "Trust Me, walk with Me, let Me be the One to direct your life and to care for you." It doesn't take a degree in history to know that hard times and good times ebb and flow like changing tides. How absolutely wonderful, nay, *necessary* to know and trust the God who made us all!

God claims, even just in these few short verses that I shared, to be a fortress, a rock, a deliverer, good, our strength, and our guide. He is powerful enough to calm storms. He is listening for our cries. He is doing "wonderful works" for the children of men. He brings quiet. Do you trust Him? Do you live in the quiet, protective strength that He offers? Do you cry out to Him for help, and can you see and praise Him for His wonderful works? Oh friends, never rest until you do!



Donations have been made to honor these special people:

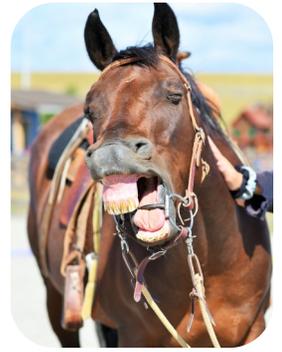
MEMORIALS: Lois Richardson

BIRTHDAYS: Joe Richardson, Kylee Reichman, John & Tricia Richardson, Lois Richardson

Mike Richardson, Sloan Richardson, Karen Richardson, Susan Richardson, Brenda & Jack Sparlin, Fidelia Lucero



Horse of the Quarter: Lola is a beautiful bay mare who came to live at the ranch in the summer of 2019 through the generosity of one of our former mentors. She has done barrels, had steers roped off her, ridden in the country, moved cows, helped at brandings, been a momma, taught other horses a thing or two, and is now one of the best horses at the ranch. She is sweet, steady, willing to go, and willing to put in long hours in a dusty, hot arena with beginner riders doing all sorts of interesting things up on her back. She has been so well trained that she is now a good teacher. Interestingly, her nickname means "sorrows," and she has been responsible for helping to lighten several riders' burdens of sorrow since she has been here. **Fun Facts:** Lola is a registered Quarter Horse. Her grandfather on one side is a famous cutting horse who even has his own videos up on You Tube!



**Unfortunately, we will NOT be having our Fall Fun Day this year.
We will really miss celebrating with you all!**



Race to the Finish Line Fundraiser

This year we raised nearly \$3,000 dollars through the silent auction and our ice cream / drink stand at Tim and Mary O'Donnell's Race to the Finish Line. This fundraising opportunity is always a tremendous blessing and a fun opportunity to spend time with some of the teenagers. This year the atmosphere was especially encouraging and everyone was really generous with their donations and their bids. In addition, Imerys Talc America Inc. donated \$2,000 to provide hotel rooms and food for our crews throughout the weekend. We are so grateful that God continues to provide us with this opportunity!



Wheelbarrow Fundraiser — NATIONS —



Despite not being able to have a completely normal wheelbarrow fundraiser this year, we will still be able to donate \$1,000 to the CRU ministry, Nations. Nations is "a campus movement of Native American students and faculty who embrace and honor First Nations people while recognizing that there is one true Creator who desires to restore what has been lost by placing his Son Jesus Christ at the center of American Indian life and culture." We heard about this ministry through Scott and Sherri Morningstar who work alongside a few other couples on campus at Montana State University with college students from many different tribes and reservations.

We were intending to give them a check at our Fall Fun Day, but since we won't be gathering all of you together we will be sending the donation to them at the end of September. There is still a little time left to donate! Or, if you would like, checks can be made out to directly to **Cru** and sent to Mike Kelly (the director) at: 410 Sheridan Ave. Bozeman, MT 59718.

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