



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

BACK AT THE RANCH...

December 11, 2012

No. 5, Volume 1



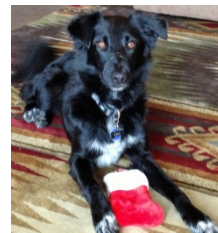
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE RANCH! We're moving in!

As of October 10, we were granted occupancy to our house in Goldendale! We received the keys and began the process of packing and slowly making the transition to our new home. Over the weeks we have been taking truckloads of furniture, clothing, and other items out to the ranch. Our garage is full of boxes. Fortunately we have a huge loft in our barn that will act as a temporary storage space while we sort out the years of "stuff" and make tough decisions on what to keep and what not to keep. December 15th is our transition date to be full time out here. It is with a sense of awe and humility that we make this move--while it is not necessarily the life we might have chosen for ourselves at this point in our lives, we know it is where we are supposed to be and we look forward with great anticipation to what is ahead. We recognize the work and challenges that lie ahead (or we like to think we do, anyway), and we are grateful for the prayers and support of people like you as we continue to follow the road that lies before us. Merry Christmas and God bless!!



ZAC TAILS: Not too long ago we arrived on the property just as the sun was going down.

I leaped out of the truck, thrilled to finally have the freedom to roam and run unimpaired again when I looked up and saw a giant white ball coming up out of the ground at the edge of the property. Like the wind I was off, barking excitedly and trying to chase it down. Behind me I heard the calls of my owners, but I couldn't resist the urge to chase down and herd this wayward ball into a more manageable place. I take great pride in my herding skills and liken myself to a shepherd keeping my "flock" (be it chickens, tumble weeds, wayward pieces of trash, or kittens) safe and under control. I have to admit though, the kittens remain a bit of a mystery to me--they always seem to be able to jump out of the way or hiss at me like I'm something scary. Sheesh. Anyway, the farther I ran toward that ball, the farther away it seemed to be and I finally stopped and decided to heed the calls and whistles and turn homeward.



Being shepherded is a gift, really. It keeps you going in the right direction. It protects you. Some don't like to be shepherded--like that ball (which later that evening I realized was the moon), or the kittens, but sometimes it is the very thing one needs to get them through a situation they don't know how to handle. There is definitely a balance between the Shepherd and those that are shepherded--it is a

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matter of faith and trust that both will do their part. I hope this Christmas you recognize who the ultimate Shepherd is in your life and will allow yourself to be taken care of.



Give this Christmas away, and your life will be changed
By the gifts you receive when you give this Christmas away
For God so loved the world That He gave His only Son
So we could be His hands, His feet, His love

Matthew West, Christian Singer and Songwriter



He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:11

"I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11



Our mission/vision: To provide free equine experiences for youth in a safe, loving, and encouraging environment that is fun for both children and horses.



OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS: So, now the real adventure begins. With our first Christmas at the Ranch about to be celebrated, and a New Year upon us, we are prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction on what we need to accomplish during the long, dark, snowy winter ahead. We hope to have our 501(c)3 finalized early in January and plan to start getting the word out to the community about what we feel we have been led to do. We are excited to have you participating with us and look forward to sharing our experiences with you in the months to come.

In the meantime, tell your loved ones you love them, spend time with your neighbors, and take a moment to "give Christmas away" to someone who needs it most!!

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him."

1 John 3:18-19 (NKJV)



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robin@zephaniahspromise.org
steve@zephaniahspromise.org

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