



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

BACK AT THE RANCH...

April 2013

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Spring is finally here! The farmers have been plowing their lands in preparation for the new crops, the meadowlarks are in full chorus, and Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams are big and beautiful and seen more days than not as the days are clear and finally beginning to warm up. Goldendale is quietly awakening from the very cold but relatively mild winter and the last traces of snow are slowly melting away in the foothills. This is an important month for us at the ranch as we put the final touches on the barn for Mac's arrival and finish watching and reading the many videos and books we have collected on working with horses and maintaining a safe and inviting ranch--a task I suspect will be on going as we learn on the job and research things we have not yet even begun to think about. A big thank you to Chris and Steph for their help in adding Xs to the barn doors, finishing the stall doors, and setting up the paddock!!



The other day, Steve and I were hanging pictures and other items on various walls and I commented that something was crooked. Fix it, I practically demanded of him. When he declined, I said I would fix it myself. But he stopped me and said something very profound that stuck with me. "It's about loving the imperfection." Wow. That is so exactly what this ranch is about. Now when I notice something is crooked or slightly out of place, I remind myself that it's okay--nothing and no one in this world is perfect, but this ranch is here to show them that they are loved regardless of their situation. ZPR

ZAC TAILS: This month instead of a picture of me, I want you to meet some friends of mine. Friends are really good to have. They come in all different shapes and sizes. They can be young or old, playful or bashful, likely or unlikely. I'd like to introduce you to two of my unlikely friends! One you have met previously...Mr. Baggins. We have wonderful playtimes together and he is very tolerant of my pinning him down and prancing around him while I bark and gnaw on his neck or soft belly. He is a lot of fun and we enjoy our time together. Sometimes while I'm chasing after school busses or greeting the work crew on the property, I notice him out in the middle of the fields looking for mice and whatever else is out there. Mostly though, he hangs around the house and the barn and tries to find ways to get inside the house! Not too long ago Chris and Robin went for a walk and Jazzie (one of the kittens) decided to tag along. I was sort of along with them--I knew where they were but I was off looking for my newest friend, Angus. I was so excited when I finally found him, and we trotted alongside each other for awhile and soon we were approaching the road. We



The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

came up over the rise and were immediately spotted by the walkers and even from that distance I could see the panic in Robin's eyes as she and Chris tried to round up little Jazzie. I quickly herded Angus in a different direction and after a few parting sniffs Angus went on his way. His den is along the road, so I know where to find him the next time I wanted a play mate. That night I heard my people talking and they kept muttering "It looks like a badger! Yep, it's a badger." But that doesn't really matter to me-- what matters is that we are friends, as unlikely as that may sound, and I am not ashamed of any of my unlikely friendships. ZR



It's about loving the imperfection.
~Steve Mock

ZR

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you. ~ Ephesians 4:32

ZR

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.

ZR

OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS:

The barn has been inspected and approved! Our application has been received by the IRS and we can now start acting like a nonprofit and accepting donations. We held our first board meeting and Mac is arriving in a few short weeks! What do we do now? We have two relatively big projects on our list of things to do over the next month or so directly related to our preparation to be a horse rescue ranch and a place for kids to come and connect with the horses. The first project is to put fencing up so we can have an enclosed pasture area. Ultimately we will need lots of fencing but right now the first project includes 600 feet of fencing. We have researched many different types of fencing, but the one we think will be the best long-term choice will cost \$6/foot. The second project we see as a big need is a reserve/emergency fund for veterinarian bills. Horses that need rescuing invariably will need lots of medical care that the organization will need to pay for. If you would like to help purchase 1 foot, 100 feet or any number of feet of fencing, or want to make a donation towards the Veterinarian Emergency Fund you can donate tax deductible dollars to Zephaniah's Promise Ranch with a note in the memo section of your check and we will send you a thank you note and receipt. Send to: ZPRanch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested, and if you know someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at: robin@zephaniahspromise.org or steve@zephaniahspromise.org.

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