



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

# BACK AT THE RANCH...

December 2014

No. 10, Volume 3

## *Merry Christmas from ZP Ranch!*

A month or so ago, Gracie came down with a mild case of colic. We found her on the ground not wanting to get up. Our vet told us to try to keep her up and walking and drinking water. But how do you get a thousand pound horse off the ground when she doesn't want to get up?

Gracie is our 3-year old filly who has never been trained, let alone haltered. It's not as if we haven't tried to work with her. She follows us around, lets us brush her, takes apples and carrots from our hands, and even lets the kids who visit the ranch approach her. But get a halter or even a rope near her and she's on the other side of the pasture before you can get within a few feet. As much as this behavior is very frustrating for us, it came in handy the day she was ill. At first we thought this would be the perfect opportunity to get her haltered! But as soon as she saw us coming with the halter she would get up off the ground. Of course, this also meant we were with her all day and most of the night. At some point in the very early morning, she looked like she would stay on her feet so we trusted that she would be ok and went to get some sleep. The next day after some coaxing, we finally noticed her at the water trough drinking. There was a vibrant rainbow in the background and we took it as a sign that she would be ok.



The whole situation got me wondering how many times God has stayed up all night with me, keeping me up and walking, and helping me through hard times. The rainbow that day helped to remind me of God's promises. To never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). To never let us go through any trials that we cannot overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13). And a promise that if we remain steadfast through our trials, the crown of life awaits (James 1:12).

To all who have supported or expressed an interest in Zephaniah's Promise Ranch this past year, our Christmas wish is for you to remember the promises of God and celebrate the gift he gave us a little over 2000 years ago. A child who came to save the world. Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

ZP

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

Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true. E.Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen

ZP<sub>2</sub>

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

**ZAC TAILS** Hi all. Ever since my people took a "vacation" a couple of months ago, I've been wanting to try it out for myself. So, guess what? I'm taking a vacation this month! Merry Christmas, and rest assured, all is well on the Ranch! See you next year!!

ZP<sub>2</sub>

**.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.**

ZP<sub>2</sub>

**SADDLE STORIES:** Hello there! My name is Rebekah Murray. I am a 15 and ½ year old girl who has a particular fondness for cats and horses. I enjoy reading, sketching with pencils, riding horses, and playing video games. I haven't had as much experience with riding horses as I would like to, but the Zephaniah's Promise Ranch has helped me get more practice.

My time at the Zephaniah's Promise Ranch was a wonderful one, despite the tasks that were assigned to my brother and I during the winter winds. We have been going to ZP ranch since October last year and continued on through the winter. Mr. and Mrs. Mock would offer hot cocoa to us to help fight for the survival of warmth.

It wasn't too bad at all though. Andrew and I were the starter kids for their program, so I have had the pleasure of watching the ZPR grow into what it is today. There was only Mac the horse at the time, so we didn't do much except help feed and clean him up. To be honest, I don't mind the horse clean up duty too much. It's nice to see a horse pen free from manure.

One of my favorite things to do at the ZPR is to ride Mac in the round pen. Mac happens to be my favorite horse for multiple reasons, mainly because we were able to do more experienced riding on him. I find that Mac is charming, despite one or two bad habits. Not as charming as Shawna is, but he's still my favorite.

There were work projects to do at the ZPR, but the vast majority were done by Mr. & Mrs. Mock. Now, understand that I'm not saying that me and my bro are lazy, I'm saying that the Mocks work very hard. They rarely leave a job not done. I admire that. The only times that I have 'suffered' hard labor was when we raised up the garden beds. But, even then it wasn't too bad. Mrs. Mock, my Mom, and my bro were all helping to get it done

I'm not quite sure how to end this, but, I do want to thank Mr. & Mrs. Mock for letting me experience riding. I liked seeing the results of hard work. It was wonderful to take care of the horses, and I enjoyed it immensely.

May God bless you and your ranch! ~Rebekah Murray

*Note from Editor: Thank you Rebekah!! We hope to see you up at the ranch again soon!!!*

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

**OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS:** We have a couple of potential ideas for Gracie at this point. We met with a trainer last week and he is helping us explore the possibility of getting her trained up either for re-homing purposes or possibly for her to remain on the ranch. Many more things coming to the ranch in 2015. I am sensing that some amazing and miraculous things will be happening here next year--we invite you to be part of it!

**Financial update:** ♦ Training for Gracie will be \$400 per month for 3 months. ♦ We have purchased 2/3 of the hay we need for the year. Since our hay shed construction is ongoing, our supplier has graciously allowed us to keep the rest of the hay in his storage for us until we are ready to pick it up next March. One ton of hay is \$225. ♦ The vet and farrier were out last month to vaccinate and trim hooves. A hoof trim for one horse was \$30. One set of vaccinations was \$80.

If you would like to help, please send donations to ZP Ranch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620. ZP Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



**LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND GET THE WORD OUT!!**

Email us at: [robin@zpranch.org](mailto:robin@zpranch.org) or [steve@zpranch.org](mailto:steve@zpranch.org)

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