

Freeman News

January 2007



We Made It! Peter did great on the 800 mile trip and we are starting to get settled in here at New Life Ranch after a few crazy months of transition and change. As we were in Ohio two years ago, we were welcomed to Oklahoma with a nice ice storm that knocked out our power! Luckily we have a wood burning stove in our new home and were able to keep nice and toasty! So much for leaving the nasty winters behind!

We are thrilled to be here though! I (Luke) am really enjoying my new job. I love being able to focus on just a few aspects of camp, rather than running an entire camp! I am excited to do more work outdoors on the challenge course and with school groups as the weather warms up. These are areas that I am passionate about and have had to put on the backburner for a couple of years, so it feels great to be able to give all of my attention to them.

Marla is looking forward to new opportunities here also. She really enjoyed working with the ministry to local kids when we lived in Siloam Springs and can't wait to get started with that again. There is a program that brings kids from the area out to camp and gives them a chance to ride horses. After the riding lesson there is a learning time where a speaker uses metaphors of how God relates to us like a horse relates to his master. There is also a new program for teenage mothers that Marla hopes to help with. Delaware County is one of the most impoverished in Oklahoma. There are many kids in the area that have very rough home lives and New Life Ranch introduces them to hope that is only found in Christ.

Peter is growing and changing every day. He is such a happy baby! He loves to smile when we talk to him. He follows us and the dogs with his eyes as we move around the room. Peter had his first visit to the doctor in Oklahoma at the one month mark and he had already gained almost 3 pounds and grown 2 ½ inches in length! Peter loves all of the attention from family and friends. There are three families who live at New Life Ranch that are currently expecting little boys of their own! There will be quite a gang running around these woods in a few years.

The dogs are also getting used to life at our new house. The back yard is surrounded by horse pasture, so that is a big adjustment! The first day Nemo (our 1 year old male) jumped the fence and herded all of the horses into a corner! I had to rebuild the fence later that week. Maggie (our 5 year old female) is still not too fond of the horses, but Nemo has enjoyed playing with them. There is a horse named Drew who will hold a stick over the fence just out of reach and taunt Nemo with it. It is so fun to watch! I'm sure there will be many funny stories to come!



Support Team news



One stretching part of making the move to New Life Ranch is that we will be developing a team to support us with prayer and finances. This is new to us, and is both exciting and a little scary. We are looking forward to building a prayer team that will remember to regularly lift us up and ask for God's protection and blessing, and are excited to see how God will provide for us on this journey. God has blessed us in the past with jobs that have met and exceeded our financial needs, but we really feel the call to take this step of faith and come to a place where we raise part of our salary.

I'm sure you've probably noticed that we included a lot of information about New Life Ranch with this newsletter. There is a DVD that really shows the heart of ministry at NLR, a pamphlet explaining our missionary employee status at camp, and a response card if, after learning about our mission work, you feel called to become part of our team. If you are interested in learning more about joining our prayer or financial support team, or just want to know what is going on in the missionary area of our lives, you can check out a new website we've created to keep our support teams updated (www.freemansupportinfo.blogspot.com). This site will be updated regularly with information about the ministries of New Life Ranch, especially the work that I am doing with Outdoor Ministries. It also includes links to helpful information, explains my job in depth, and has an archive of past newsletters. The site also has a way for you to make donations to our project online using a credit card.

We don't want anyone to feel like we are pressuring you to support us financially. The primary goal of our newsletter is to stay in touch with family and friends. We would love to talk to any of you who have any questions about the work we are a part of here or about partnering with us in the ministry of New Life Ranch. Don't hesitate to give us a call or email with any questions you may have.

Freeman Family Prayer List:

That Peter would continue to be healthy & happy and that he would have a heart that is sensitive to God's voice

That we would be granted wisdom in parenting

Safety on the challenge course, and that God would use it to change hearts



NLR FUND RAISING POLICY:

It is the policy of New Life Ranch to honestly and accurately share with interested friends the challenges and situations we face in all areas of our ministry. We make known needs and potential solutions so friends can consider partnering with us through prayer and/or sharing financially as the Lord leads and enables. We believe motivation for all true giving comes as God moves the hearts of people. Our part is to inform and give opportunity without imposing undue obligation or pressure.

160 New Life Ranch Drive * Colcord * Oklahoma 74338