



January 2021 | Vol. 3

PRAISE & NEIGHS

Risen Ridge Ministry

2020 was a great year! Great changes, great challenges, and great blessings. We were unable to open when we had hoped, however, during that time, we were able to complete several large projects on the farm, create a new website, get to know our horses well, and begin to have a clearer understanding of the ministry God has called us to. We held a series of small tours at the farm to introduce the ministry to the community and to share with our supporters what their seeds have sown. The greatest blessing came on September 1st, when we began ministry sessions. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our Lord in this way! We are looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2021.

We're Open!



September 1st saw the first, official guest at Risen Ridge Ministry! We are offering two programs, healing prayer and horsemanship. The healing prayer program saw 2-3 guests each week while the horsemanship program was able to work with four families each week for about 9 weeks. Our regular ministry season will begin in April and end in mid-November. To become a guest, go to our website to the BE OUR GUEST tab and fill out the contact form. We will reach out to you and schedule a visit where we can meet you and discern how Risen Ridge may be able to help you. If you'd like to volunteer, stay tuned! We will have a volunteer orientation early in 2021. It will be posted on the UPCOMING EVENTS tab on our website.

The Porch

2020 brought with it so many blessings for the preparation of the Risen Ridge farm. The completion of the round pen, the completion of the tack room makeover, one of the two needed run-in sheds was constructed, an office was built where there once was a stall, a utility/feed stall was organized, and probably most notably, a porch was added to the barn. The porch is a place to rest, to pray, to get out of the sun, and to connect with God. It was an effort brought about by the Risen Ridge community and it is amazing! A supporter even donated a Keurig machine for the barn. Now you can come, sit on the porch, and enjoy a cup of coffee while you talk with God.



Closer to God from the back of a horse

A volunteer's perspective

“Do you give the horse its strength or clothe its neck with a flowing mane? Do you make it leap like a locust, striking terror with its proud snorting? It paws fiercely, rejoicing in its strength, and charges into the fray. It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; it does not shy away from the sword. The quiver rattles against its side, along with the flashing spear and lance. In frenzied excitement it eats up the ground; it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds. At the blast of the trumpet it snorts, ‘Aha!’ It catches the scent of battle from afar, the shout of commanders and the battle cry.”

Job 39:19-25 NIV



I haven't worked with Risen Ridge Ministry long or witnessed many sessions, but I have seen the call of God, the sacrifice, and the Christ-like passion for love, and hope and deliverance that is Risen Ridge. I see their pure love for the children they work with as well as the adults, but for this specifically I'm taking the child's prospective.

I am 20 years old and have worked with horses for around 13 years. Let me tell you something about horses; they were created for beauty but also for battle. Since there has been war on earth horses have been utilized as vessels and weapons. Today our wars look different in a lot of ways, but God still built the horse for battle. As you know, our enemy is not of flesh and blood but of the rulers and authorities of darkness. I have been the child who is scared of the world, who feels small and weak and powerless. I have been the child facing battles bigger than myself and feeling defeat. I learned to fight my battles from the back of a horse. And as cliché as that may sound, it's true. To stand in the presence of this creature of power and grace and remarkable beauty is incredible. To place your hand on its velvet nose or arched neck and feel its strength and know you've been entrusted with its care, you've been given strength to borrow. To go from cowering in the corner with your eyes on the floor to seated tall above the world, above your fears, on a back that carried Kings. There is surrender from both parties in order to join in the fight; both are letting go of fears and both are finding freedom. Both horse and rider are equally protector and protected. Both are wanted, both are needed, and both are loved. I've learned, when your head is relieved of fear your heart begins to heal, and when the walls come down you find freedom. And there in the thick of battle, in the breath of relief when the



dust settles and when you step into freedom, there is God. I've seen crippling anxiety lock a child inside herself, only to discover a boisterous personality. I've seen pain masked behind hyper-insensitive humor, but in one equine touch reveal a caring, oh so gentle heart, empathetic to the needs of all living things. All are wanted, all are valued, all are loved. This is a unique ministry using horses to fight internal battles, reveal God, give hope, and find freedom. I am blessed to be a part of what God is doing through Risen Ridge.

~ McKenna Wood



ENLISTED AUCTIONS



Online Benefit Auction

February 15th - 26th

Risen Ridge Ministry is teaming up with Enlisted Auctions to host an online benefit auction! The auction will be held for 12 days at the end of February. Due to COVID, we were unable to hold our 2nd annual Risen Ridge Roundup in September. This auction will make a huge impact for this growing ministry! We are currently looking for items to auction. Antiques, new or like new small appliances, collectibles, art, gift cards/certificates, experiences (like a private chef for an evening or a painting party), tools and more. We are unable to accept clothing. If you have any questions about what we can auction, please reach out to us. (540)849-5718. Complete details are available on our website on the [UPCOMING EVENTS](#) page and you are always welcome to ask us.

Welcome Chester!

In mid-October, Risen Ridge was presented with an opportunity to add a very special horse to our herd. After a time of prayer and discernment, we went to meet Chester in person. Something about the gentle demeanor coupled with the large size of a draft horse gives them a unique place in ministry. Having a draft horse was something that had been on our hearts for quite a while and we knew as soon as we met him that Chester was the right horse for Risen Ridge. He is a 17 year old, 17 hand, Percheron cross.

He is well trained in natural horsemanship and his owner primarily rode him on trails. You can read his whole story on our website. We are beyond blessed to welcome him as a ministry partner and we can't wait to share him with you!



Reflecting on 2020, we have been so, so blessed! Although it has been full of changes, it has reminded us that God is in control and we can rest in that. We have been abundantly blessed by the hearts that have been touched by Risen Ridge. The relationships that have grown have been life-giving and sown in His love.

As we excitedly look forward to 2021,
we know that what God has in store for us is going to be incredible!

JANUARY – Board of Directors leadership retreat

FEBRUARY – first volunteer orientation of 2021

MARCH – begin consistently working with the horses and training new volunteers

APRIL – ministry sessions begin

We are always happy to share the story and vision of Risen Ridge Ministry. Revelation 12:11 teaches us that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. God has given us a powerful testimony! We know that His goodness is real and it is a blessing to us and an encouragement to others to share the journey He is taking us on.

Thank you for all of the hearts and hands that have joined us on this journey. We pray that 2021 will touch even more lives for His Kingdom!

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