

Beauty Ablaze

The Newsletter of
 ★ **BLAZING HOPE RANCH** ★

Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; No shadow of shame will darken their faces.

Psalm 34:5

OUR MISSION

Blazing Hope Ranch exists to restore wholeness to female survivors of human trafficking and weaken the sex trade through the power of Christ.

ASPHALT AND A PRAYER

My heart was pounding. My breathing labored. I was hot and my clothes were soaked with sweat. I was doing something I had never done before and yet something I had done hundreds of times. It seemed crazy yet exhilarating all at once. It was routine yet placed me completely outside of my comfort zone. When I first started I honestly wondered if it would make any difference at all. Part of me was scared that others would know I was doing it and, should it lead to a dead end, I would be discouraged and others might question the strategy all together.

As I continued to run along the asphalt known as Turner Road and pour my heart out to God,

something truly amazing was happening. I had come to pray over a piece of land and ask God to miraculously provide it for the ranch, change the owners hearts, give us the resources needed to buy it or some combination thereof. But **through it all He was actually at work changing me.** I had run countless times before but I had never done a prayer walk or run. I would not have described myself as a prayer warrior, although I wanted to be. I just heard that still small voice one day telling me to

start pounding the asphalt. And much to my surprise I listened. It was no extraordinary act of faith. Just a small



step, perhaps of desperation, to feel like I was doing something.

I had some amazing moments of prayer during those loops around that property. Like beads of sweat down my forehead, I slowly opened myself up to the possibility that God would not give us this land. **But more profoundly I was gaining a deeper trust and faith that He was at work in this whole process and that I could audaciously believe that God was going to provide a place for Blazing Hope that was better than I could...** *(continued on page 2)*

CLOSE TO HOME

Human trafficking is not just “a problem over there” and it does not involve only immigrants. Thousands of American children are exploited each year. Here are a few recent statistics:

- Over 3,500 new trafficking reports in the U.S. in 2014
- 13 years old is the average age that a girl enters the sex trade
- Only 700 beds available for effective aftercare nationwide
- 60-person waiting list at the closest facility in TN

ASPHALT (CONTINUED)

imagine. And, that He was going to do it in a way that unmistakably and undeniably would show it came from Him alone.

Those prayer runs resulted in an inner peace and gladness concerning my inadequacy. There was no way I was going to work and will a home for the ranch into existence and that was perfectly ok. I would simply need to wait and pray. It was that three mile journey that pushed my faith and

began to ever-so-slightly move me closer to becoming the prayer warrior God calls us each to be.



Despite my labor on the pavement, the Turner Road property was not meant to

be. Instead God was working His plan. Several weeks later He would lead a young woman to discover our ranch and it would ultimately compel her father, a pastor, to contact us about using a vast and **beautiful 100+ acre property to fulfill our mission.** The gracious offer will allow us use of the land to begin the process of restoration in the lives of sex trafficking survivors under a no-cost lease agreement. God is

on the move. He transformed my measly “exercise” of faith into a spectacular display of his power and provision. He is doing far more abundantly than all that we could ask or even imagine (Eph. 3:20).

When I see the plan God is unfolding for the ranch I stand in awe of him. We all should. It takes heart-pounding to a level that no mere running could ever match. -David

A HEART FOR MINISTRY

We are excited to have **Gwen Bollant** join the BHR board. She brings a passion for ministry in the name of Christ to those oppressed and discarded by the world. Her gifts and experience will help further the mission of the ranch.



Gwen then went to Bible School in Dallas where she met her husband Peter. The couple served together in the Philippines for 25 years, taught in 14 different Bible schools, planted and founded a church, a street children’s school, a computer

project for street children, an orphanage, and a mobile primary health care clinic.

Currently, she works as Director of Admissions and Operations at Oxford Graduate School in Dayton, TN and has recently completed her DPhil in social research with her dissertation on migrant organ theft of Filipinas in Muslim countries.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Eph. 3:20

NEXT STEPS FOR THE LAND



- Draft a land contract with the help of a lawyer
- Present our ministry proposal to the church deacons
- Put the land use proposal before the church congregation for a vote
- Construct fencing and facilities



MAPPING THE TRAIL TO HOPE

Before Blazing Hope Ranch is operational it is essential that we take deliberate steps to devise well thought-out plans and proven strategies for effective care and good stewardship. The following details provide a rough map of our path forward.

The Transitional Living Program will provide a family style home accommodating 5 to 6 female survivors that would ideally be open by fall of 2016. This home will be clean, comfortable and beautifully appointed. There will be one live-in “mentor” that will aid residents with essential daily living-skill acquisition including anything from menu planning to educational goal attainment. The home will have a large central living space for group gatherings in addition to appropriate personal spaces.

Each woman will have specific, uniquely identified goals that might include career development, educational growth, medical appointments for optimal health and equestrian care and training. The traumatic impact of sexual exploitation will be addressed with sensitivity using a proven resource, such as “Roadmap to Redemption” by trafficking survivor, Rebecca Bender. Our program will be

designed for women who have maintained sobriety for 3 months, often coming out of another program and are seeking assistance in career development and further stability.



The Community Outreach Program will begin by developing a Christ-centered summer day camp with a ranch theme that we anticipate opening for the first time in the summer of 2016. It has been proven that prevention efforts are among the most effective in the fight against human sex trafficking. The day camp, designed for underprivileged youth, will strive to show the love of Christ and purposefully teach empathy skills in an effort to reduce future traf-

fickers and build confidence and self-worth to reduce vulnerability to future trafficking. We will be serving breakfast and lunch, providing transportation, conducting daily Bible-based devotionals, teaching horsemanship, and offering a wide array of fun ranch themed activities.

The Equestrian Care Program will be filled with “project” horses that have been neglected and/or abandoned. Ranch Hands will utilize the Parelli Method of horsemanship that is a gentle form of equine training. “The [Parelli] program encourages students to develop creative problem-solving skills and think in a lateral manner, while taking the non-verbal feedback and expression of the horse into consideration.” Essentially, this program focuses on relationship and awareness of both horse and human emotion. As women and children work with the horse in this manner they will learn and build empathy, confidence, and self-worth as one of God’s most intuitive creatures pursues a relationship with them. The Ranch desires to be home to 10 to 15 horses, thus requiring at least 2 pasture areas, one round pen, and all the equipment necessary for proper equine care.

MIDWEST RANCH FELLOWSHIP



We enjoyed a weekend of encouragement, prayer and training with like-minded ranch ministries in Shelbyville, KY, August 28-29.



BLAZING HOPE RANCH

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WHERE HOPE RUNS FREE

HELP HOPE RUN FREE

Partner with us to Pray for:

- A Civil lawyer with the time and knowledge to offer legal counsel
- Fencing for pasture/arenas (\$4,000/pasture)
- Multipurpose building and kitchen (\$150,000)
- A large home for 5 to 6 women with a separate living space for the Mentor (\$350,000)
- Donations and grants to fund the ranch



Partner with us in Ministry:

- Donate your time, expertise and equipment
- Give a donation for the items of prayer

Give by mail (check made payable to):

Blazing Hope Ranch
745 4th Avenue
Dayton TN 37321

Give online: go to blazinghoperanch.org and click "Donate" to give via PayPal

Give when you shop: using smile.amazon.com you can select Blazing Hope Ranch and know that a portion of the proceeds benefits the ranch

www.blazinghoperanch.org