

WINTER 2010

THE CIMARRON TIMES



THE NEWSLETTER OF SONRISE MOUNTAIN RANCH



SONRISE MOUNTAIN RANCH

PO Box 220

Cimarron, CO 81220

YOUR GOLD MEDAL

by Matt and Chantal McGee

Watching the medal ceremony during the Olympics regularly brings people to tears. Why is this? Maybe we realize how much time and effort was necessary to win those medals. Maybe we recognize the sacrifices made to achieve that level of performance. Or maybe it's because the medal winner represents not just an individual, but millions of people. Regardless, when you look around the room at people watching one of their countrymen sing the national anthem with a gold medal on their chest, you can expect to see some emotion.

While very few will receive the Olympic gold here on earth, we are all invited to an even more meaningful medal ceremony – one where the prize remains forever. Paul raises the curtain on this ceremony in his message to the believers in Thessalonica:

*For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown
in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes?
Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.* (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

Through Paul, God allows us to see what the gold medals will be handed out for at the end of our lives.

Notice what **will not be** our crown and our joy in the presence of the Lord. We see no mention of first-place ribbons, a beautiful house, making executive vice-president, or exotic vacations. These are not evil; they just won't matter in the end. What **will be** our crown and our joy, our hope and our glory before the Lord? PEOPLE - the lives we have invested in with God's love and truth. It begins with our spouses and children, and extends to co-workers, friends and family, and others with whom God provides opportunities to spend time. These are the medals that will last forever. May God give us the vision, discipline, and courage to pursue the things that will be our crown and joy for all eternity. May we run after gold medals that last.



We really benefited from the retreat and have refocused on the important stuff.

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING AHEAD

2009 was a special year at SMR and marked our fifth year in Cimarron. God has continued to graciously provide wonderful opportunities to spend time with Christ-following families from around the country. In 2009, we had the privilege of hosting more families on retreat here than ever before. Our cup overflows. Once again, the Lord assembled a perfect team to work along our permanent staff. Ramie Wakefield teamed up with Mike Goddard as our kitchen staff and they were terrific. Kati Taylor, Sarah Ryan, Kari Nelson, Kaitlin VanWingerden, and Noah Moore faithfully served as our summer interns. Cozette Crites joined the full time staff in May and the Lord added a future staff member, Annabelle Johnson (born October 30). It was inspiring to watch so many families, couples, and moms and dads drawing near to God, seeking to live each day for Him and for others. Throughout the year, it was sobering to see how many families and couples encountered strong challenges to their commitment to follow Christ together as one. We have learned much by watching families "run with perseverance the race marked out" for them (Hebrews 12:2).

As we look ahead to 2010, we are especially excited to begin offering family mission trips. For the past two years, we have been looking for a mission trip opportunity that would serve as a natural "next step" for those who have attended a family retreat at SMR. In the last year, we have developed a relationship with Greater Europe Mission (GEM) and one of their missionary families that serves in Romania. Last August, we had the chance to visit them, serve, and explore family missions opportunities there. This April, we will travel to Romania with a team of five families on our first family mission trip. This trip is designed to provide an opportunity for each family to grow to be more like Christ as we go, love, and serve those in Romania. Our team has been invited to lead a family conference and we have plans to work with two ministries that serve underprivileged children and participate in evangelism efforts. We are encouraged that God has opened these doors and hope that this is the first of many such trips.



Thanks to our Volunteers

This past year we were very blessed by the helping hands in various areas of the ministry!

Mike and Ginger McGee

Eric and Kecia Replogle

Tim Wakefield

Greta Murray

Chris Austin

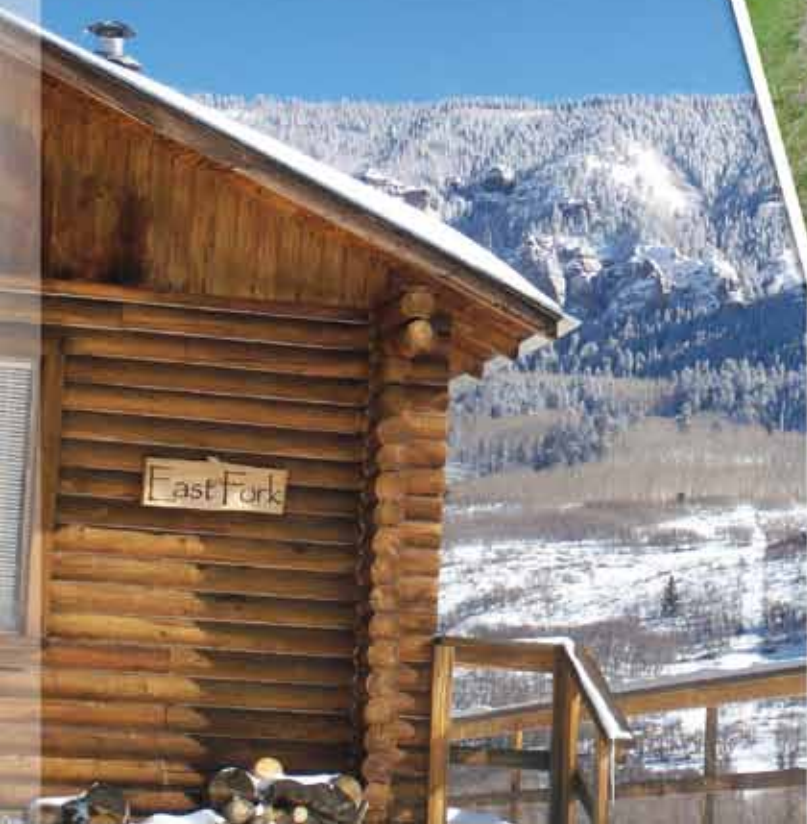
Mike Crites

Allen and Rebecca Harris

Bill and Donna LaChapelle

Bill and Betty Watson

Peter and Amanda Ullman



ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC. *I'm so thankful to have been a part of this retreat week. It has changed the course for our family and it will impact our choices for years to come.*
WE CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK.



JOIN THE SMR TEAM

Want to invest your summer in something that matters forever? Impact the lives of others and invest in the Kingdom of God by serving as part of Sonrise Mountain Ranch staff. **Here are some opportunities to join the team this summer.**

Summer Internship

We offer a three-month internship (May 22nd – August 17th). Interns have a key role in youth and children's programming and serve in other areas of the ministry. Interns and permanent staff will spend time together each week with the goal of becoming more like Christ.

Cook

We will hire two cooks to serve on our kitchen staff through the summer. The cooks will prepare between one and three meals a day during retreats for guests and staff. Must be available to start on or before May 22nd. End date can range from September 15th to October 12th.

For more information, visit our website for detailed job descriptions.



www.sonrisemountainranch.org



FROM THE **KITCHEN** OF SONRISE MOUNTAIN RANCH

Micker's Pumpkin Bars (Serves 20)

3 eggs
2 c. pumpkin
2 c. flour
1 t. baking soda
½ t. cinnamon

2 c. sugar
¾ c. butter
2 t. baking powder
½ t. salt

*Mix all together and spread on large cookie sheet (w/ sides).
Bake on 325 degrees for 20 minutes.*

Frosting:

1 8 oz pkg cream cheese
½ c. butter
1 t. vanilla
3 c. powdered sugar
Enough milk to spread

Beat well. Frost.

We hope you will enjoy one of our tasty recipes.



2010 *Upcoming Retreat Schedule*

Family Retreat (4 night)	May 28 - June 01
Family Retreat (6 night)	June 06 - June 12
Pastor-Missionary Retreat (4 night)	June 14 - June 18
Family Retreat (6 night)	June 20 - June 26
Family Retreat (5 night)	June 30 - July 05
Family Retreat (6 night)	July 11 - July 17
Family Retreat (6 night)	July 21 - July 27
Family Retreat (6 night)	August 01 - August 07
Family Retreat (4 night)	August 11 - August 15
Family Retreat (4 night)	September 02 - September 06
Men's Retreat (2 night)	September 10 - September 12
Marriage Retreat (2 night)	September 24 - September 26
Weekend Retreat (rental)	October 01 - October 03
Weekend Retreat (rental)	October 08 - October 10



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