

# HOOF BEATS

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## News and Notes

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "Plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

*-Jeremiah 29:11*

These words have become more than just a theme for the ranch. What started out as inspiration and confirmation that we were heading in the direction God had in mind for our lives, has become our verse to live by. God continually shows us that He is in this dream with us.

Many folks would listen to us chatting about our life on the ranch and get the mistaken idea that all is bliss. Well, we hate to burst any bubbles, but there are challenges, large and small, that remind us that we are not going to be able to do this alone.

Take the winter, for instance. It snowed and it was beautiful, and then it snowed again, and again, and again. What a blessing! Each morning we looked into the paddock and it was covered with a blanket. It hid all that was unpleasant about having a herd of horses and each day we started fresh. A gift from God, a new beginning. And then the thaw came and we had to face the truth that the blanket had only covered the unpleasantness, had made it seem fresh and new, but the reality was that we still had to deal with it. Sometime.

God deals with us that way as well. We can cover and hide the unpleasantness in our lives, but sooner or later, the blanket will melt away leaving us with unfinished business. Sin that we must confess and give over to God so that we can clean up our lives and start again.

We will be cleaning up around here this spring. The melting snow is uncovering much that we will need to deal with. But that's the nature of living on the ranch. We have come to embrace the seasons and the changes, and challenges, that

they bring. Spring cleaning will do us good.

The horses are ready for their spring tune up. Some are closer to being trail ready, but will need a refresher course. Others are waiting to be ridden on a more consistent basis. And as we ride the trails in the woods, we will bear witness to the renewal of life. After the thaw that is! And, we'll watch the river flood and the blossoms and buds explode. The wildlife that has been in hiding all winter will reappear. Perhaps this will be the year we actually see the bear!

It has been a long winter. The wind blew fiercely, the snow fell abundantly. Horses, cats, dogs, and children frolicked in the crisp air and soft snow. And now, all are ready for a bit of warmth, for those soft spring breezes, for the sound of new life knowing full well that those breezes could turn to tornadoes, and the warmth will become the heat of summer. And the cycle of the seasons will turn once again.

We hope you'll come out to visit us this year. We love to have company. You'll find us tending to the animals and fowl, or weeding the garden, or fixing that fence...again! Or, perhaps it will be the perfect day for a ride. Join us.

When you ask how things are going on the ranch, we'll be happy to share with you all of the ways in which God has prospered Jeremiah's Crossing, and all the ways He has shown us that we have hope for the future.

Blessings.

*Kathleen*

*for Roger and the crew at Jeremiah's Crossing*