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NEW LIFE RANCH

Greetings from Colcord, OK

It has been a whirlwind of a season! My last update was at the end of October and I'm now just catching my breath! Hold on tight to hear all that has been going on!

In November, I was able to go on an overnight camping/hiking trip with my friend, Audrey. We had a blast camping two nights along the Buffalo River, and hiking 16 miles one day and 4 the next. We saw waterfalls, caves, and elk! There was still some fall color left on the trees and we were both refreshed by the time spent outside!

I was able to spend Thanksgiving in Colorado. I spent a couple days with my friend Amy, her husband Kyle, and their new little guy who was born last spring. Thalen is such a happy baby and fun to be around. Then I spent a few days in Westcliffe and snowshoed four days in a row! It was magnificent! I was able to visit with several friends from Horn Creek and enjoyed services at First Baptist.





I spent the next week in Colorado Springs at the CCCA (Christian Camp and Conference Association) National Conference. It was held at the Broadmoor, which was such a neat place to stay. There were almost a thousand people attending from camps all over the US. The main sessions were insightful and I was able to attend workshops that included Understanding Millennials, Gen Z and Gen Alpha; a tour of several Broadmoor kitchens; 5-Star Service; and Camping Ministry life lessons. I saw many friends and even connected with a Horn Creek summer staffer from over a decade ago!

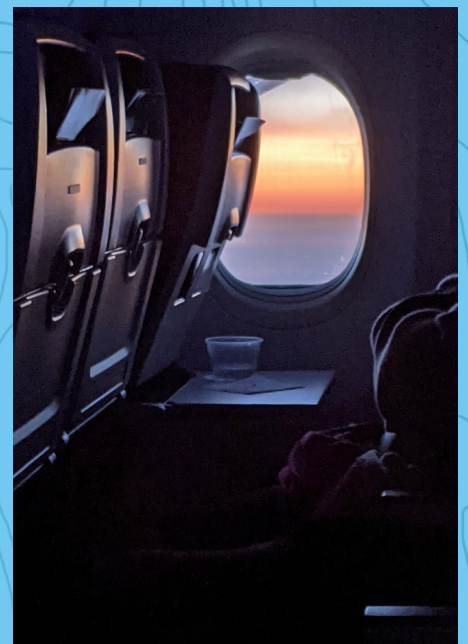
There was a long drive back to Oklahoma that involved a flat tire, an angel in disguise and a donut spare tire, but we made it safely, although several hours later than anticipated!



Once back, we had the 6th annual Flint & Steel Run at camp. Over 300 runners came to participate and all the funds go into our camper scholarship fund.

Before I flew north for Christmas, I sang in my church's Christmas concert. I love being a part of this ministry! After the performance, I went to camp to help put on the Staff Christmas Party with over 120 attending. The next week, we had a three day retreat as a New Life Ranch staff. It was great to be able to continue cultivating good relationships with my team and other departments. I had a friend come for the weekend with her parents to watch her sister graduate from JBU. It was great to spend time catching up, and we watched the Christmas Light show along the creek one evening.

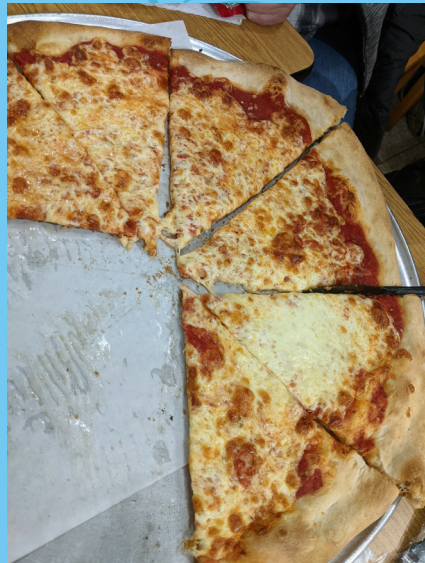
Throughout this busy season, I had been packing up my house so that I could move onto camp when I returned from Christmas break.





I spent my time over Christmas with my parents and my sister Becky and her family. I helped my mom with cooking, baking, and cleaning and enjoyed games and movies with both parents in the evenings. The day after Christmas I went into NYC with my sister, and her family. It was the first time for my niece and nephew. It was fun to experience the crowds, food and entertainment of Manhattan with them! Later that week we walked the beach to see the different themed trees people had decorated for Christmas.

When I returned, I was able to purchase some used appliances that I needed for my new house. I am very thankful for the financial gifts that made this possible!





After moving from Siloam Springs, AR to Colcord, OK on January 11th, we were hit with snow and low temps! But that's okay, because I love winter and it was just getting me excited for my upcoming ski trip!

But first! I didn't think it possible, but I was able to make a last minute trip to see my Grandma. It had been two years since I last saw her and my sister, Sarah, was coming from Romania to the US for several weeks to help my mom who was scheduled for major back surgery on Jan. 31st. (She had 4 vertebrae fused and rods put in. Please keep her in your paryers as she is experiencing a lot of nerve pain as it heals) So, my sisters and I met up at the Philly airport and we drove to WV to spend several days together. My Uncle was able to join as well and we even saw my cousin and her family! It was a special time, and I am so glad that it worked out.



I returned to camp and worked a week before heading to CO to ski. This was a great time enjoying snow and seeing more friends. It always goes too quickly, but I was able to ski over 80 miles and snowshoe 4 miles, breaking new trail! It is good for my soul to be outside in the winter!

I am done traveling for now. It is time to dig into camp and focus on upcoming retreat groups and summer programs. (And unpack my boxes from moving, and begin to settle in!) We continue to develop our department and make changes to serve our guests to the best of our ability. Please be in prayer for our summer camps. We are working hard to fill our weeks and be able to share the Gospel with hundreds of youth. Summer staff training starts mid May and there's a lot to do before then! God has been good, and we have about 80% of our summer staff hired! God continues to bless the ministry here at New Life Ranch, and I am so glad to be a part of it! Thank you for your support through prayer and finacial gifts. Your part is crucial to this ministry!

Blessings! Alice

New Address!!! 160 New Life Ranch Drive, Colcord, OK 74338

