

IRON HORSE CLASSIC - THE RACE GOES ON!

The official event is canceled, but CBX will still hold a shorter ride!

While the official 2020 Iron Horse Bicycle Classic has been canceled for 2020, CBX will still hold a ride from Durango to The Purgatory Resort on June 13th. Many of the CBX riders have trained hard and faithfully for this year's ride and several of our race sponsors have continued to support CBX through the pandemic's closures. It is our hope that this shorter ride will be a celebration of the special unity "Team CBX" has as their ride is for a purpose far beyond that of the personal gains of finishing the ride to Silverton.

The Bike It For A Camper event is CBX's largest fundraiser. Each year, 10-25 riders train long and hard all year for the opportunity to ride over the passes into Silverton. At the same time, these riders raise funds to sponsor campers to attend CBX. Even with the official race canceled this year, our riders are still training and raising funds towards their goal of riding for "Team CBX".

Would you consider joining with these riders and making a pledge on behalf of their ride to Purgatory on June 13th?

Or maybe you would like to join this shorter ride. The ride will begin at 8:30 and will be followed by a small social distancing luncheon at CBX. Just give us a call or email if this sounds of interest to you!

TEAM CBX 2020 RIDERS

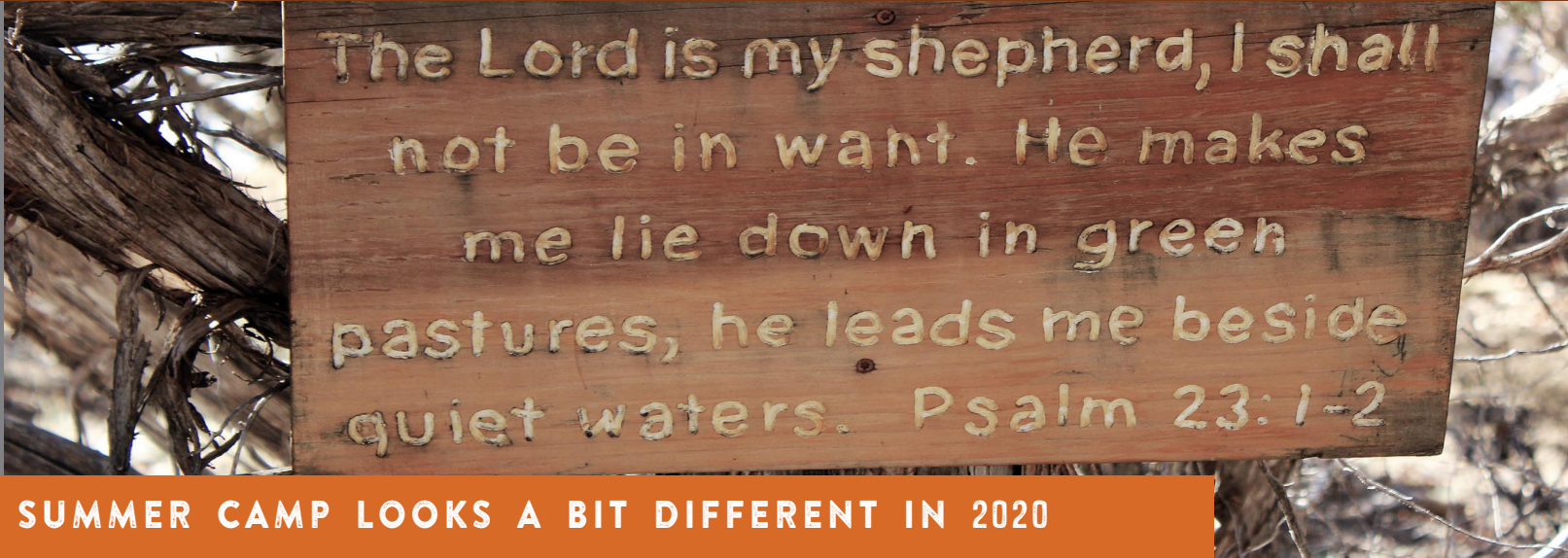
Dean Walker
Matt Gray
Nick Brothers
Laura Brothers
John Scarboro
Angele Vasquez
Ken Bates
Sarah Sadillo
Wes Nitzcne
Shannon Cox
Jim Huggins
Gerry Geraghty



RANCH REPORT

Summer 2020

Bringing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth



SUMMER CAMP LOOKS A BIT DIFFERENT IN 2020

By Tim Miller

If I had a nickel for everytime I have heard the term "strange times these are" over the past couple of months, I think we could fund CBX well into the future! Ok, well maybe that is a bit of an exaggeration, but these are indeed strange times. I have worked at a residential summer camp every summer since I was 18. For the past 22 years, each spring we ramp up for a full and busy season of God's work.

In this 44th summer of CBX providing camp to socially and economically disadvantaged youth, we find ourselves in a place where we are not able to do so for the first time. The state of Colorado and our local health department have closed overnight camps until the end of June. This action prevents us from hiring staff from outside of Durango, hosting youth overnight, and running day camps that exceed 10 youth. We have been told that at some point in July we will have guidance if camps can resume in late July or August.

As we anticipated this action some time ago, we had

already begun work on an alternative plan for summer 2020. Three primary areas of ministry will be focused on that allow us to work within the rules set in place.



1) Day mentoring for targeted local youth.

Three days a week, young people will attend CBX and get matched up 1 on 1 with a CBX staff for a day of mentoring. These youth will attend CBX weekly and have the opportunity for long term discipleship. This opportunity for us will provide CBX the chance to work deeply with 15-20 youth this summer at a time when most other camps are being forced to close for the summer. With practicing social distancing and utilizing proper PPE, we can operate this program safely. It is our belief that this could leave a lasting impact on these targeted youth!



2) Virtual Camp

We are working on a series of camp videos that will get published weekly. These videos will include fun camp content as well as Bible teaching and encouragement. All the CBX campers, staff, and supporters will have access to these videos, so be on the look out!

3) Hybrid Late Summer Camp

It is our intent to host two late summer camps for ages 12-16. Each of these camps will be 9 days long and include backpacking, fun at CBX, and our traditional Bible teaching and content.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward with these plans to tell of the great hope of Jesus Christ!

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FOLLOW-UP AND OUTREACH

By Wes Nitzshe

At Cross Bar X we not only love to see the kids come for the summer and share Jesus with them, we also like to stay in contact with them, and reach out to them as much as possible in the offseason. This involves sending letters, meeting with campers in person, having fall/winter retreats at the camp, and having after school hangouts. This past fall and winter we put on retreats in which many of our summer campers were able to come to Cross Bar X, have a lot of fun with each other and with our staff, and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's amazing to see God working in these kids over the years as well as at these events. At our fall retreat, one our campers brought a friend who had never really been around church and didn't own a Bible, and their small group time kept going long because she had questions about God, and about the Bible. Our staff were able to share the Gospel with her and send her home with a ible.



A new outreach that we started this spring was an after school program on Mondays for some of our male campers in which we would spend time with them either at camp or in town, as well as pair this time with a bible lesson. Also, throughout the offseason, myself, Scar (our program director), and a few of our former counselors have been getting together with some of our campers in a 1 on 1 setting. This is a great opportunity to provide discipleship, mentoring, build lasting relationships with the kids, and share God's love and His Gospel with them on a consistent basis.



Due to COVID 19, our in-person activities and get togethers with the campers this spring were cancelled or postponed, however, we have found other creative ways to stay connected and provide outreach to the kids. I have heard from many of our former counselors who are writing letters to their campers, calling them on the phone, and reaching out to them in other ways during this time. There has also been an amazing response from people willing to help out with YouTube videos that we have been making for the kids, as well as asking to volunteer for camper outreach events once we get those up and running again. Cross Bar X has been blessed with a long history of God fearing men and women who put aside themselves in order to serve the mission of the camp and love these kids with everything they have, and 2020 is no exception. The people who

volunteer their time are amazing, and the outreach that we do here at Cross Bar X would not be possible without them.

NEW CAMP ENTRANCE

Even without work week this year, we have been fast at work improving CBX!

Last year, we were blessed to have a generous donation to construct and realign the camp entrance. This had been a project that was in the works for several years to make the entrance safer, more functional, and estetically pleasing. We are happy to announce the realignment and grading work is complete and the new access to the camp is fully functional. Next up and currently in construction is a new entrance sign. We hope to complete the fabrication on this in the next few weeks, with an installation by mid summer. The final piece will be landscaping. Our hope is to raise the funds this winter(\$3000) and complete the installation in the spring of 2021.



ALPINE LODGE DECK PROJECT UPDATE

Our two work teams that were scheduled to come and build the deck on Alpine were unable to come to CBX this spring as a result of the COVID shutdown. We were still able to complete the dirt work, footers, piers, re-routing of utilities, and grading in house. This is where the project currently sits. With several of our fundraisers canceled or postponed, we are short the remaining funds to purchase lumber and other materials for construction. As of mid May, we are still needing \$6,000 to purchase all of the supplies to build out the deck in it's entirety. We have elected to hold off any additional work until the remaining funds are in place so that we can make one big push to build the deck.



If you would like to support either of the above projects, you can make a donation with a designation of "camp entrance" or "Alpine Deck".

STAFFING IN A SEASON OF UNCERTAINTY

By Jacob Posey

Though this season is shaping up to be a bit different, all of us here at Cross Bar X are still excited about the ministry opportunities that God has put before us for this summer of 2020! In mid April, we made the decision to hold off on hiring seasonal staff until we had a better idea of what our summer looked like. We wanted to be able to honor our commitment to staff regardless of what summer operations would have for us.

As of April, we had hired 2 awesome men and 3 wonderful ladies who had comitted to a season of sharing God's truth and love with campers this summer. Ben has been serving at CBX since the fall of 2018, and we are excited to have him back for one final summer. Chris began to intern after serving in our fall program last year and is looking forward to his first summer of counseling. Angele Vasquez is back for her 27th (ok, maybe her 5th) summer as a CBX counselor, and we couldn't be more excited about it! Her growth in faith, knowledge, and hunger for God's word in the past several years shows that God not only works in the lives of campers here at CBX - God works in the lives of everyone who serves here as well. Unfortunately, our two final female staff will not be able to join us this summer as a result of the complications associated with COVID 19. We are excited however, that these two ladies have expressed interest in serving at CBX in 2021!



Our final addition to the seasonal staff right now comes as a tandem. Daniel and Sarah were married shortly after Sarah served at COLS last fall, and they have stuck around the Durango area. Daniel is a chef at a local restaurant. He and his wife are going to be joining us in a fluid role this summer. Sarah is going to serve as a female program lead and step in as a counselor when needed. Daniel is going to put his skills to work in our kitchen to help serve delicious and nutritious food to our campers, but what he is really excited about is also stepping in as a counselor when needed. We are pumped to have not only them, but our entire team for 2020! While ministry at CBX this summer will look a bit different, God does not and we will serve Him however we can!

CBX could use your finacial support during these times. With our two largest fundraisers canceled and the prospects of our fall Outdoor Education Program this year not likely, we are tightening the belt as best we can. Still, to keep the operations going and the lights on takes a great deal of resources. Would you consider a special gift to CBX in the season ahead? You can make pledges online or by mail. Thanks for your consideration!

INTERN CORNER



Ben
Hello everyone! I'm Ben Davis, I finished my intern season at the end of the year and have been helping with camp operations since then. During the offseason

and especially with the pandemic going on, we've been able to dedicate much of our time to some much needed projects around camp. I'm also taking Bible Institute classes through Gospel Church Durango, and continuing to grow in my understanding of the Bible.

Working as a councilor last summer really helped me gain a deeper passion for the work of camp ministry. Through being surrounded with a Christ centered community, I can feel my faith growing in ways that it hasn't ever before. I look forward to getting the opportunity to pour into the campers this summer, and I can't wait for the adventures that go along with it. Thank you for your continued support of CBX! Stay healthy out there!

Chris
Cross Bar X has been a huge blessing to me. Right from the beginning I got exposed to joyful Christian families like I've never seen before. The families of Tim Miller and Jacob Posey. I've been mentored by Jacob who takes the time to initiate times to get together and talk about life and faith. And I've been encouraged and thankful for the amazing example Tim makes for his church family, home family, and work family. I've learned a lot about God and his deeper truths through the Bible institute that was provided during my time here.



I've had plenty of time to spend time with God in word and prayer and deepen my relationship with Christ. God has stretched my faith in evangelizing up at the Fort Lewis college, and has deepened my conviction for selfless living. The internship here at CBX has influenced my walk with Christ more than I can explain in this short article. God is working in everyone I know here, and is using them for the success of His Kingdom and His Glory. This has been a wonderful stepping stone in my journey to become a mature Christian.