

RE: Shekinah Ranch 19:11 Discipleship Project:

Dear Shekinah Ranch Family & Friends,

Last winter, the Shekinah Ranch Leadership began to pray, dream and discuss how we might more effectively support families by spiritually equipping their children that come to Shekinah Ranch. In the summer of 2012 we launched the Ranch Hand Discipleship program which hosted over 30 youth throughout the summer. They participated in everything from barn chores, animal care, Bible studies, discipleship lessons, prayer walks, campfires and youth group meetings. They practiced what they learned by sharing their skills and love with the overnight and day campers throughout the summer camp season. We have been very encouraged by the success of the first stage of development of the Ranch Hand Discipleship program, as well as the feedback we've received from parents who sent their sons and daughters.

Beginning In June 2013 we plan to expand the Ranch Hand Discipleship program again into the **19:11 Discipleship Project** with two 5 week options from which to choose. We will continue with the successful balance of recreation, rotation of camp skills training and discipleship during the 5 week sessions while increasing the amount of spiritual and horse related lessons. Our desire is that your youth can more confidently live the Christian life and gain a greater understanding of horsemanship.

God cares too and He doesn't hesitate to help. Our heavenly Father sees where the youth are going more than He sees where they are. As I write this letter to you I am reminded of this one thing God has done. It is what He brought Shekinah Ranch into existence for. *The youth.*

The men and women who have the greatest influence on children today are their parents. *God intended it that way!* Parents today have more challenges, harsher critics, and ungodly competitors all teamed up and lined up for their share of the children's time. It is deeply disturbing too that cultural Christians not biblical Christians are validating Christian youth to participate in many ungodly activities. The spirit of the new project is to support parents, never to replace them.

I recognize that that this transition will bring with it both opportunities and challenges. To help you understand the process I enclosed the 19:11 Discipleship Project description. I encourage you to read it and please feel free to contact me (tomrvas@yahoo.com), if you have questions or would like to discuss it.

We know that this is a new idea for some of you and we want to help you make the transition. Because so many of you are already great at investing in your youth and their friends, we have full confidence that this will go well

Please prayerfully consider the 19:11 Discipleship Project for your son or daughter as we would love to have them experience it and be greatly impacted from it. We can only register 15 youth per session so please don't delay your application. God to www.shekinahranch.com and follow the 19:11 Discipleship project link on the website. May God bless and prosper you!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Tom

