



Horsin' Around The Ranch



Heartland Youth Ranch

Spring 2018

Lesson Learned from a Beetle by Susan Schauer

I love to go to the ranch up north. It is so peaceful and quiet there, a quality I need and desire. I can spend the day there and maybe one car, which is the mailman, will drive by. Even though the house is not in condition to live in, the barn has caved in, and the granary is leaning and half the roof gone, I refer to the place as paradise. The rolling hills, little sand lizards, wild flowers, coyotes, two species of deer and the variety of grasses and plants all have a beauty of their very own.

It was on a warm summer day when I went to the ranch with Curt that God spoke to me through one of His small creatures. Curt had climbed the windmill and was doing some repair work so I wandered off over the hill. I walked up into one of the large sand blowouts in the pasture. As I explored and enjoyed the peace and quiet, I was noticing the various tracks in the sand: coyote, deer, raccoon, and of course cow. As I walked up into the middle of the blowout, I observed a large beetle down in the bottom of what seemed like Grand Canyon to the beetle but was only a cow track. I was soon fascinated by this beetle and sat down and watched it. It was desperately trying to get out of the hole. It would climb up and get almost to the top, and then grains of sand would give way and it would tumble back down to the bottom of the cow track. Undeterred, it would roll over and start all over again. Again and again it tried to crawl out, and again and again the sand gave way and it rolled back to the bottom. One time I thought it was going to make it out; as it neared the top, it grabbed a

blade of grass and was using it to help pull it out, but at the last moment the grass gave way and collapsed, and the beetle again tumbled to the bottom of the hole. I even filmed the beetle because it was so fascinating to watch. I sat there thirty minutes or more, watching this poor beetle unable to escape his prison. I decided I better finish my exploring and get back before Curt sent out a search party. I walked up around the corner and down through the other side of the blow out. All of a sudden, I stopped and started listening. I kept hearing this strange sound. What was making it and where was it coming from? When I started looking around, to my surprise I observed numerous beetles just like the one on the other side of the blow out. Some had even met the same fate they had fallen into cow tracks and were down in these holes. What I then observed about these beetles, the very same kind of beetle as the one on the other side of the blow out, was that they were getting out. The ones that were trapped down in the holes were cracking open their backs, spreading their wings and flying up and out of the holes landing folding their wings closing their backs and going on their way. Their flying was the sound I was hearing.

I do not know why the other beetle didn't use its wings and remained trapped and these opened their backs and used their wings and flew to freedom. Maybe he didn't know how or just preferred not to. Anyway the lesson God spoke to my heart that afternoon was this: so many times I am like that first

beetle. I am determined to get things done my way, on my own in my own strength. I can do this. I can handle this. I get trapped in my self-will, my self-pride. And so many times I get nowhere or mess things up and wonder what went wrong.

God promises us when we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord of our lives that His Spirit lives in us. We have the same power that raised Jesus from the grave.

Ephesians 1:18-20 says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms." We are to walk in His strength, not try to do things on our own. **Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."** I need to acknowledge I can do nothing without Him and recognize I get into trouble and fall when I do things my way, in my own strength instead of submitting to Him and walking in obedience and in His strength.

1 Peter 4:11 says this: "If anyone speaks they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever Amen."

Heartland Youth Ranch is a 501(c) 3 non-profit public ministry. We incorporated in December 2010 and received our non-profit status in 2011. We have been serving children and their families for the past seven years. Our mission statement: **Encouragement for the child, Healing for the Family, Empower the ministry and Care for the equine** are the four pillars we base our ministry works on.



We serve children and their families from our local communities and beyond. We do not charge anything for the services we provide because we know many would not be able to attend if we did. God has provided our needs as we faithfully serve Him. We are so thankful for all our donors who we refer to as champions as they are as much a part of the work at Heartland Youth Ranch as we are. With the generous hearts of all who give of their time, talents by serving as volunteers as well as those who donate monetary gifts and in kind gifts we are eternally grateful and know God will bless you.

We schedule riding sessions starting in April each spring and continue through the end of October. Each year the number of children and families we serve increases. God has allowed us to impact so many with the love of Jesus through the gift of a horse. You see, a horse looks past all our baggage and sees the real you, just as Jesus does. They accept these children unconditionally just as Jesus does. When these children experience the true horse human relationship there is healing that takes place. Healing of hearts as only Jesus can do. We have heard from so many parents and guardians that tell us they don't know what we do but their child is changed when they come to the Ranch. We can only give the glory to God as He does the work, we just obediently serve Him.

HYR Mission Statement
**Encouragement for the child,
Healing for the family,
Empower the ministry,
Care for the equine.**

The children are required to do 30 minutes of work to earn the privilege to be with a horse. During the work time we work along side the child getting to know them and build relationships and trust. We also believe in building a strong work ethic and teaching them to take pride in a job well done.

We hold several fun days for the children throughout the season and a summer camp in June. Also campfire worship times in the summer months.

The ranch has eight horses that have been donated or rescued so the donations received during the Big Give will help with the expenses of our horses and riding program.

We want to thank everyone for all your support and for the donations we will receive during the Big Give.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS AT HEARTLAND YOUTH RANCH

April 2: HYR Riding season begins

April 28: Spring work day at the Ranch

June 23: Annual Barbecue

June: Summer camp, date to be announced

Connect with Heartland Youth Ranch!

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