

Christmas 2007

"...they saw the Child...; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him...."

Matthew 2:11

As we celebrate this holiday season, I am reminded that when we truly see Jesus we cannot help but be humbled and worship Him, even as the wise-men did at His birth. This has been a wonderful year! What stands out the most to me is that we have had the opportunity to see Jesus as we have served and ministered to the guests the Lord brought to Trail West. What a blessing! As I pause to reflect on the year I am overwhelmed by and grateful for your continued faithfulness and generosity.

This past summer started out with our kitchen and dining room remodel coming right up to the last minute for completion before our Family Camp guests arrived. The Lord was good, the construction crew worked hard and we served the first night of Family Camp in our new dining room! We served over 300 families this summer including three weeks of military families. What a joy to work with our Assigned Team and volunteer Work Crew and Summer Staff as well as our Summer Interns and to see the hand of the Lord on this ministry.

We are now at the time of the year when we begin receiving Work Crew and Summer Staff applications, so to all of you who were here in those roles last summer; we sure do hope you are prayerfully considering coming back...we would love to have you!

Last year I told you of our opportunity to embark on a capital campaign to remodel the lodge. The first phase, renovation of

the kitchen and dining room is 90% complete. We also upgraded the Rayburn club room décor to resemble an old-time western opera house. Both of these improvements made a huge difference in our summer program! The next campaign phase is to build a separate Work Crew and Summer Staff dorm and revise the current dorm area no longer needed for their housing as well as adding on a new wing to the lodge. Please pray for us as this continues to be a challenging and exciting time for Trail West and the mission of Young Life.



A snow covered lodge!

Our seasonal intern program continues to thrive and I am thrilled and amazed at the quality of folks who continue to apply for these positions. We have said good-bye to our fall interns and are looking forward to welcoming our spring interns in mid-January.

We have had some staff changes this year. Mike Sanderlin from Buena Vista took the position of Site & Facilities Coordinator in January. Stacie Murray and John Balmer saw us through the summer before departing to pursue different paths

in their lives. In September, Casey Fortune from Houston, Texas transferred from Frontier Ranch to Trail West as Food Service Manager and Julie Brandenberger from Dallas, Texas joined us from Windy Gap as chef. We said goodbye to Cora Best at the end of October. She and her husband, Ryan, are moving to where he can pursue a medical degree. In mid-October Melonie McElravy of Buena Vista joined our staff in the Reservations Coordinator position. Ron Reese has resigned after nine years service to Trail West to pursue other employment options, and we are in the

process of filling that position. We said farewell to Will Wright our Maintenance Intern in November as he has moved to Vail, Colorado and welcomed Drew Mercer from Dallas, Texas as 6-month intern in that position. Katy Jackson, also from Dallas, has joined our Administrative department as a 9-month intern. It seems that the Lord continues to bring folks

in and out of our staff for periods of time and I am grateful for His guidance, leadership and provision for our team.

As I continue to be drawn into the season of worship for God's great gift in His Son I am thankful for you being a part of Trail West. I pray that the Lord's richest blessings are yours and your family's this Christmas and New Year.

In Jesus' Name,
Skeet