

A Place to Belong

The new spring air was warm and moved gently as the sun sank below Currahee Mountain. Our group gathered under Peace Pavilion for a beautiful Seekers and Sowers evening of worship, discussion, and a shared meal. The musicians led us in Matt Mayer's Hold Us Together and the lyrics rang true to the heart of the evening, "Love will hold us together, Make us a shelter to weather the storm. And I'll be my brother's keeper so the whole world will know that we're not alone." I was caught up in the incredible beauty of couples standing, holding hands as they worshiped. There were heads bowed and hands raised but together, we were family gathered together to hold each other up. Afterwards, children threw a football, stacked cups and colored out of horse activity books while the adults visited. One woman confided her struggle in maintaining her sobriety and the isolation she had experienced in that. But, by the end of the evening, she had become acquainted with leaders of a local Celebrate Recovery group. I smiled as I witnessed invitations being made and phone numbers exchanged so they wouldn't lose touch. This young woman came to Steadfast looking for community and support and that is just what God provided. There is nothing more lovely than watching our beautiful Steadfast family, gathered together and offering the gift of a place to belong.



Thank you for your Steadfast Support. Gifts can be sent through PayPal or mailed to:

**Steadfast Family Farm
556 N Broad River Rd
Eastanollee, GA 30538**



Fertilizer ~ Tod Bethea

"I also pray that love may be the ground into which you sink your roots and on which you have your foundation" Ephesians 3:17

The soil is the foundation of any farm. God has given us great ground here. It has grown grass which is has fed the horses, who fed kids and adults in a very different kind of way. Sometimes we have to give back to the ground. We do that with fertilizer which nourishes the ground encouraging the roots of the grass to grow down deep.

In 2017, when Steadfast started, fertilizer was about \$320 per ton. Since then it has skyrocketed to a peak of more than \$1200 a ton in 2021 due to COVID, the war in Ukraine and other things. it has dropped down significantly to the \$600 mark, yet our fertilizer costs this year are \$7700. We are asking for your help in this. Any gifts you can make toward fertilizer costs would be greatly appreciated. All gifts to Steadfast are tax deductible. Also know that you have been fertilizer to this ministry. Through your prayers, volunteering, and giving you have nourished us. You enable us to sink our roots deep in His love which allows us to share joy, peace, empowerment and belonging to a community that desperately needs it.





Volunteer Love

We love our volunteers! In February we celebrated the 60 plus regular/repeat volunteers who have served at Steadfast in the last two years. We enjoyed a light lunch, a program, and got to distribute some Steadfast “goodies” to thank them for their contributions. We pulled out the table decorations to make the day festive. We wanted the volunteers to know how special they are to us. They are a major driving force for the ministry here. Just the other day, I received a phone call from one of our volunteer

regulars. He was calling to say he had a plan. The plan was to build a feeder that we have been needing to keep the horse’s hay dry, fresh, and safe. It was a truly great plan! It included composing a materials list, recruiting other volunteers to help build, and funds to cover materials. What an incredible gift! God spoke. He listened. And now, we are one feeder closer to meeting the need. We certainly do love our volunteers!

POWER

Journeyman: “How did it feel to be leading that great big horse around and for him to just follow you and do what you asked?”

Apprentice (age 9): “Like I’m a good leader!” (Followed by giggle, blush, and hiding their face)

We are so excited about the spring curriculum that we are working through in our apprentice program. The acronym is **POWER** and it is taken from Ephesians 3:14-21. First, Come into God’s Presence, I fall to my knees and pray, Eph 3:14. Then you can experience Oneness, Christ will live in you, Eph 3:17. His power is at Work in us, Eph 3:20. And, by this power he can do infinitely more, he will Exceed all that we could ask or imagine. Eph 3:20. Then Glory through Christ Jesus for all time and eternity will be Realized. Amen, So be it! Eph 3:21. The message for this spring is all about opening ourselves to the incredible power of God’s Spirit in us. When we tap in to this POWER, then we will be more than conquerors through him who loved us.



Relational Health (RH)

It is my personal belief that one of God’s greatest gifts to us is our need for community. People need people. That is the way we were made, it’s in our DNA. But even more so, we need God and if you really think about it, I think you will be hard pressed to find any challenge in life that does not have its roots in some kind of breakdown in our relationship to God. Knowing this, we made “Relationship to God” our first stop in the new RH curriculum we are working through with two local women’s recovery groups. After completing time hashing out our learning points with the horses and horticulture projects, participants are given an application project to complete at home. The first of these was to write a letter to God. There were not many parameters to the assignment, just that it be an open, honest letter to God sharing thoughts, fears, hopes and sorrows. We found this to be a lovely step towards growing in relationship with our God who wants nothing more than for us to be present with him. The women completed this task with diligence and although they weren’t required to, happily shared their letters with each other in group. One of them even kindly offered to share hers in this newsletter. Enjoy, and please join us in prayerfully covering our friends in recovery who are bravely repairing relationships and rebuilding their lives.

Letter to God

Dear God,
I don't always know how to talk to you, but I know you're there. Sometimes, I feel so close to you, like you're guiding me through everything, and other times, I wonder if you hear me at all. Life can be confusing, and I struggle with doubts about myself, about my purpose, and even about you. But I want to trust you.

I ask for peace, strength, and love. Peace to quiet my worries, strength to face whatever comes my way, and love to fill my heart and overflow to those around me. I know you are the source of all these things, and I need them now more than ever.

Sometimes, I feel alone. Sometimes, I feel like I'm not enough. But deep down, I want to believe that I am - because you made me. Remind me that you're here. Remind me that you love me. I'll keep trying to listen.

With Love,
Danielle