

Spring & Summer 2023

Marmon Valley Ministries

SPURS

Spurring faith formation
in the next generation



IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

Gabriel "Gabe" Wigington rides with a purpose...and never rides alone. That's something she learned during Bible study at Marmon Valley summer camp.



Gabe at camp-2018

"I remember hearing, again and again, that God is always with you and loves you," she says.

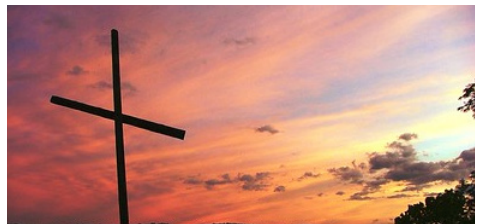
The Wyoming native recalls the first time she came to camp as a nine-year old, when her family came to visit her Dad's family in Columbus. Brian came to camp in the 70's and passed his love of horses along to his daughter.

INSIDE:

- *Content matters.
- *A sign of things to come.
- *Fundraising opportunities.

Now 19, Gabe is a sophomore at the University of Wyoming, majoring in Animal Husbandry. She is a member of the school's Ranch Horse Team, displaying her riding skills in national competitions, tackling challenges like navigating her horse through obstacle courses and cow herding.

"It really makes me comfortable thinking that I have a purpose," she adds. "Marmon Valley helped me understand that I've been chosen to do this horse thing and I'm in the horse world for a reason."



Cheering her on are two teammates she met at camp, Sammi Nack and Lindsey Mericksko, both from the Columbus area. Despite living more than 1,300 miles apart, the three developed a strong bond. As much as the girls loved horses, developing their relationship with the Lord and with each other is what they looked forward to the most.

“I really think that was a huge part of it,” Gabe recalls. “I think it was super cool, building those relationships at a young age.”

Now, all three are together again at the University of Wyoming and on the Ranch Horse Team. Gabe tells us, “It just blows my mind sometimes that we’re all at college together, live together and ride horses together. And it all started at camp.”



Lindsey, Sammi, Gabe-2023

Gabe knows the weeks she spent at summer camp were life-changing... and can be for any kid, even if they are not horse crazy.

“I think it’s about the people you meet at camp. Wrangler Matt had a huge impact on me. There are great people there, whether that be the people who run camp, the counselors or the other campers. You make lifelong friends and memories.”

For more information about the 2023 Marmon Valley summer camps go to www.marmonvalley.com/summer-camp or scan the QR code.



PASSING THE BATON

After serving as Marmon Valley Ministries Development Director for 13 years, Jim Schroeder retired at the end of April. We plan to keep him involved by inviting him to join the ministry’s Board of Directors.

Donny Macaluso is stepping into Jim’s position. Donny spent the past ten years as Youth Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Bellefontaine. Donny and his wife Tirzah have four children and live in Bellefontaine.

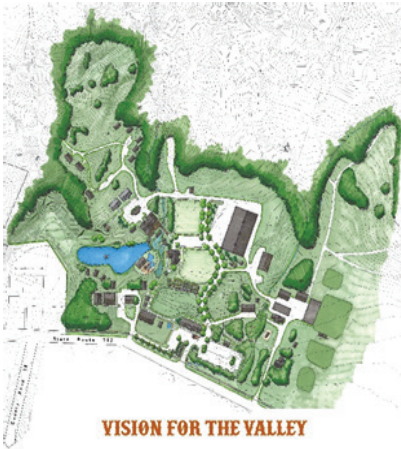
Our thanks to Jim for his years leading our fundraising efforts and to Donny for joining our Posse!



Jim & Donny

A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

“How can God use Marmon Valley Farm to help build his kingdom?” That was the question the Marmon Valley Ministries Board of Directors asked in 2010. They commissioned a land-use study and the resulting plan is called the Vision For the Valley.



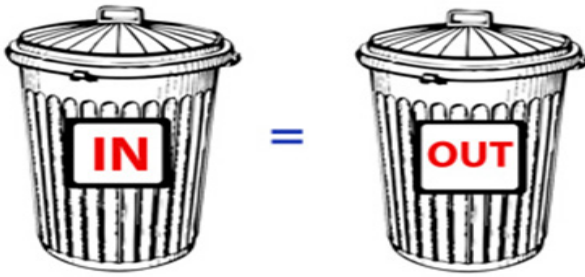
It includes a dozen new cabins, a new dining hall, a conference center and areas for tent and tepee camping. At the time, the cost was estimated at \$10 million to \$13 million. With only 72 active donors, the decision was made to put the Vision on the backburner while the donor base developed. Finally, in 2021, the leadership of the ministry decided it was time to start turning the vision into reality...starting with a \$1-million dollar campaign. More than \$640,000 in pledges and donations have been received so far.

The centerpiece of the campaign is the new Orchard Barn, a 36-bed bunkhouse with 14 showers and 4 restrooms. Tearing down the old Hog House and a groundbreaking in November of last year started the process, with completion scheduled for early May. Camp Director Matt Wiley sees this as another major milestone for the camping program, started by his parents, Bill and Phyllis, in 1964.



“Mom and Dad were always looking for ways to grow the camp so more kids could learn about farm life, experience

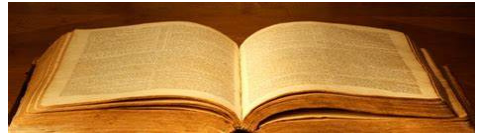
God’s great outdoors and just have fun,” Wiley says. The Orchard Barn makes it possible for as many as 160 more kids to come to camp each year. Matt, and his sister Jane Olsen, believe this is just the first step in what will be a multi-generational fulfillment of the Vision, with the 4th generation of family members now learning the ropes.



“Content Matters”

“Garbage In, Garbage Out.” This is a phrase that is commonly used in Computer Science and Mathematics. It basically means, the quality of output is determined by the quality of input. If a wrong number is put into an equation or the wrong sequence in a computer code, what happens is that the math problem doesn’t come out right or the computer software won’t work properly. Basically, what goes in determines what comes out. This is true in our own lives and our kid’s lives. This is why “Content Matters.” In today’s world where technology, entertainment, and knowledge can be accessed with the touch of a finger we have to be especially cautious as to what we allow in our minds and our children’s minds. What goes into our minds affects the heart. If what goes into our minds is “garbage” then, what comes out of our heart tends to also be “garbage.” King Solomon said it best in Proverbs 4:23 when he said, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” Guarding our heart means

guarding our minds too. Here are 5 of the top resources to help us guard our hearts and minds.



1. **The Bible** First and foremost, the Bible is the #1 guard and filter for all things. The Word of God is also known as the “Sword of the Spirit” and is part of the Armor of God in Ephesians 6. The Word of God and the Spirit of God are our best defense against things that want to infiltrate our minds.



2. **Plugged In** is a Focus on the Family publication designed to shine a light on the world of popular entertainment while giving families the essential tools they need to understand, navigate, and impact the culture in which they live. Through our reviews, articles and discussions, we hope to spark intellectual thought,

spiritual growth and a desire to follow the command of Colossians 2:8: “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Each month, Plugged In is visited more than 1 million times by people looking for detailed information about what’s really in popular movies, videos, television episodes, songs and games. Entertainment industry ratings only tell you so much. We go deeper, diving into specific content and the meaning behind it. Our award-winning website also offers news and blogs.”



3. **Vidangel** “We recognize that filtering is not “one size fits all.” Tastes and preferences will vary from person to person, family to family, and often depending upon the situation. VidAngel’s mission is to give you the tools to make the media you allow in your home better for your needs: More enjoyable and less concerning.”



4. **Bark.us** monitors texts, email, YouTube, and 30+ apps and social media platforms. Families can manage when their kids can access the

Internet on their devices, as well as which sites they’re able to visit. You can set bedtimes and block access to a wide variety of websites including streaming, gaming, and adult content, and more.



5. **Movieguide’s** mission is to redeem the values of the entertainment industry, according to biblical principles, by influencing industry executives and artists. Movieguide.org provides Reviews, Articles, and Videos for just about every aspect of the movie industry.

These are some great resources to help us be wise and discerning about whether or not we are putting garbage in our hearts and minds.

“You can’t unsee what you see, and you can’t unhear what you hear!”

In Christ,

Donny Macaluso

Yearly Events

Mother Daughter

Moms and Daughters enjoy a special overnight together as well as horseback riding, delicious meals, and plenty of other farm activities.



Summer Fun Days

Bring your family or troop out and enjoy trail rides, swimming, boating, rock wall climbing, hay rides, and more!



Fall Youth Weekend

Come in the spring or fall for a small taste of summer camp packed into one awesome weekend!



Father Son

Dads and sons will enjoy horseback riding, shooting, archery, rock wall climbing, and much more!

Family Camp

Work Weekend

Families exchange good, hard work on the Farm for some fun activities!



A RIDE & A RUN = CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in September, 31 riders saddled-up and took a one hour ride through the woods of Marmon Valley Farm. Those riders raised more than \$9,000 by persuading friends and family to sponsor them in the annual Ride Through the Valley trail ride fundraiser. When combined with \$9,000 from business sponsors of the event, more than \$18,000 was raised for the camp scholarship fund!



*Summer Maley
Top Individual Fundraiser*

In November, the horses got the morning off and 152 runners hit the trails for the 10th Annual Horseshoe Hill Climb trail race, raising more than \$12,000 to support summer camp.



The fundraising ride this year will be on September 17TH, and the Trail run is on Saturday November 4TH. For

more information on the 2023 Ride Through the Valley & Horseshoe Hill Climb, go to www.marmonvalley.com/events or scan the QR code.





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