



Working It All Out For Your Good *By Jenifer Heath*

It's a good thing we only get to see our lives one moment at a time. Can you imagine if we were able to get a peek into our future, our victories, our failures, our gains, and our losses??? I am overwhelmed just thinking about it.

Romans 8:28

"And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose."

You've probably heard the saying, "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." Throughout our married life, Jason and I have set both long and short term goals for ourselves in an effort to live with purpose and intention. When we set our short term goals a few years back, they were nothing like the amazing adventure God had in mind for us. I'm glad I didn't see the whole plan way back then or I probably never would have had the guts to obey God's calling. If I could have seen all of the seemingly impossible situations, all of the ways it would stretch us personally and financially, and all of the things we'd be asked to do that would be way out of our comfort zone, I may not have had the faith to step out and make myself available for God to use... but I'm so glad I did.

In 2012, we bought our own little piece of paradise- a cozy, country home nestled amongst the trees on a small acreage right in the middle of

town. Our plan was to have a couple of horses for our kids to enjoy. At the end of that year, God spoke to Jason and I about starting Haven Acres. Little did we know that just 4 years later, the program would grow to such an extent that we would put our forever home back on the market in order to test the doors to see when and if God was asking us to purchase a larger property for the expansion of Haven Acres. The process has not been easy. Our house was on the market, with all of the stress that entails, on and off for 2 ½ years with few showings and no offers. In a last ditch effort, we relisted the house last November, and much to our surprise, it sold in 2 weeks, leaving us just 6 short weeks to find a new home. We put an offer on a beautiful 10 acre property in a nearby suburb, but we were outbid in a multiple offer situation. We had been praying specifically for God to open the doors that needed to be opened and close the doors that needed to be closed, so we weren't discouraged. We just figured it was a closed door, and there was something better waiting for us. Due to the limited number of properties on the market, we were forced to expand our home search area.



We located a very serene and tranquil property 35 minutes south of town and began the arduous process of negotiations, inspection, and then appraisal. To our dismay, 3 weeks prior to closing, the deal fell apart. We were still trusting God's leading, but it was getting a little nerve wracking at this point because we were less than a month away from moving out of our home and needed not only a home for our family of 6 but also a place for 8 horses, 4 goats, and 12 chickens.

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Working It All Out For Your Good - continued



Fear started to creep in. We were questioning our judgment and God's leading. We were praying and obtaining counsel from trusted friends and family members, but nothing seemed clear. There were no other properties on the market that suited both our family and Haven Acres' needs. I'll never forget God's answer to my incessant questioning.

It was a sub-zero, bone chilling morning. I was bundled from head to toe in my winter garb, cleaning chicken poo out of the coop. As I scooped, tears rolled down my cheeks, anxiety and fear mounting as I pondered where on earth we were going to move and how our

God was going to come through for us this time. I prayed as I worked, and finally I cried out to God, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING???" It was at that very moment that I heard His gentle reply, "I'm working it all out for your good!" At once, a peace stilled my heart and mind... He was working for the good of us and Haven Acres just like it says in Romans 8:28! He sees the whole picture while we see only this moment. **We can trust that God is always working for our good because His Word declares that, and He NEVER changes!**

It was a very stressful few weeks as we waited for a door to open, but we eventually found a property that was off the market, and the owners were gracious enough to allow us an early move-in agreement for our animals. This property is perfect! The outdoor arena is larger, and there's even a small indoor arena so that we can hold sessions on rainy days. It's more than double the acreage we had before with over 12 acres of amazing pastures, saving Haven Acres hundreds of dollars in hay costs. Tucked back off the road, the setting is peaceful and quiet, with towering pine trees, a haven for everyone who visits. God is doing something wonderful, something new and exciting. We're so thankful He works for our good and always provides for everything we need. **No matter your situation, no matter your challenges, He's working it all out for your good too, if you love Him and are called according to His purposes.**

Jedidiah's Journey



Hey guys! It's me, Jed! You probably read about me in the last Haven Acres newsletter. I just wanted to give you a quick update on my progress. I've had a very eventful few months since I was rescued last fall. As you can guess, I'm no longer scrawny and skinny. The people here have been feeding me delicious hay and grain in abundance, and I have gained over 200 pounds. When I first arrived, I had to be in my own pen until they made sure I wasn't sick, but I'm healthy and strong as ever, and now I get to be out with the rest of the herd in the pasture. I haven't had any problems other than a couple of crabby mares to contend with. I was so happy to be brought to a new home with lots of love and attention. I have to say, the property was kind of small compared to the ranches I've always lived on in the past, but you'll never believe what happened the week after Christmas... they brought all of us to a new ranch, and it's really amazing! There's room for all of us to run around and roll and play. There's even an indoor arena where we can exercise in the winter, plus a heated tack room so our saddles and bits stay warm and toasty. I just wanted to thank all of you for generously giving to Haven Acres because it's given me the opportunity to have a fresh lease on life, and I'm so grateful! I'm looking forward to meeting lots of kids this summer! It's going to be great!

Praise and Prayer

Here at Haven Acres, we have so much to be grateful for at our new location, but as you can imagine, there will be several projects to ready the property for the animals and our mentorship program this spring. We are asking that you pray as we seek both funding and volunteer help for the following efforts in the coming weeks and months...

Prayer Opportunities:

- Pray for favor with Castle Rock Township and neighbors as we seek to obtain a Conditional Use Permit for Haven Acres
- Pray for wisdom about a leadership program for training kids who are no longer in the program to be leaders at Haven Acres
- Pray for mentors and mavericks that are committed and really love the Lord and the kids
- Pray for the safety and health of our volunteers and animals

Funding Opportunities:

- Spring Vet Visits- Vaccinations, check-ups, teeth floating, and deworming for 11 horses- \$2,000
- 2 additional horse shelters- required for our Certified Equine Rescue Operation Certification- \$3300/ each
- Goat Shed and Fencing: \$1,000
- Chicken Coop and Run: \$1,000
- Storage Shed to store equipment so that we can create a larger tack room in the barn: \$2,000
- Fencing to reinforce some areas and provide the safest enclosure for the horses: \$3,000
- Bathroom in the Barn: estimated cost \$4,000
- Log Archway over the drive to clearly mark the entrance for Haven Acres: approximately \$5,000
- Horse Sponsorship: \$150/mo. We have several horses that need medications for their arthritis or other medical issues. It would help offset the cost if they had sponsors.



Photo Credit: Isabel Tomb

Note: Some of these projects may be a perfect size for an Eagle Scout or other volunteer type group. Also, if funds are designated for a specific project, they will be used only for that project unless permission is otherwise granted.

Tax deductible donations can be given via PayPal on our website at www.havenacresmn.org or sent via mail to:

Haven Acres
2820 245th St E
Hampton, MN 55031

A Parents Perspective



PEACE = freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility.

PEACE is the first word that comes to mind when I think of Haven Acres. I feel it when I'm there, and I know my daughter does as well. She is only 9 years old, but she's struggled with anxiety her whole life. Just doing simple things can be a challenge for her. Attending school, going to birthday parties, participating in any extracurricular activities, being in group settings - these are all things she wants to do, yet fear often holds her back, and she doesn't know why she is scared. As her parents, we are always on her side, praying for her, encourag-

ing her, cheering her on, but there isn't a day that goes by that we don't deal with the anxiety on some level. At a time when I felt exhausted and discouraged, we were introduced to Haven Acres. I was apprehensive on her first night, imagining it would be difficult for her to participate, but we wanted to give it a try. Surprisingly, she walked right up the drive, met her mentor and fell right into place meeting the horses and learning about the program (without me by her side - which rarely happens!). It's been a positive experience ever since. She looks forward to going, she prays for Haven Acres, she writes about the horses at school, and she says when she is older she would like to work at Haven Acres, helping other people someday. It has given her a purpose, and we both find it peaceful to be there each week. I don't really know why it clicked, but I believe there is some kind of therapeutic connection between the child, horse, and mentor - God's hand overseeing it all, providing a refuge for the kids and the horses. It's a beautiful thing and a blessing. Our family is so thankful to Haven Acres: Jason, Jenifer, their kids, Becky, Holly, all the volunteers and donors who make it possible for our family to experience occasional PEACE - freedom from the disturbance of anxiety while in a quiet and tranquil setting. —*The Moening Family*

Upcoming Dates

April 29: Haven Acres Open House
11am-2pm - Open to the public. All are welcome!

May 12: Bowling for Bucks
Fundraiser

May 20: Volunteer Work Day

June 5: Mentorship Sessions Begin



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Email: info@havenacresmn.org



Jason and Jenifer Heath
Co-Founders



Haven Acres

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