

# Christian Ranchman

*We're not trying to build an organization.*

*We're trying to fill the Kingdom of God.*



FREE

Volume 47, Number 4

“...By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another.” John 13:35

Jul / Aug 2023

## *I Shall Not Die But Live*

by Karla Welch

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.” Ps. 118:17 It was great weather, and we decided to head to our favorite place, Otter Creek Horse Trail System located in the Adirondack’s in Upstate New York. We arrived Wednesday, and planned on riding with two friends, Lori and Lynn, for several days. On Sunday, we rode to one of our favorite places, ate lunch and started heading back to camp. I was riding Roger’s horse, Denver, because I was video taping my horse, Max, which he was riding, getting ready to sell him. Denver is what you call a “buddy sour horse,” meaning he does not like to be too far behind or out of sight of his buddy, Max. Roger was leading on Max and our two friends were behind me. We were moving right along in a nice trail gait, which would be a “trot” on a non-gaited horse. We got to a section of the trail where it goes down into a gully and back up. I “checked” Denver attempting to slow him down. This upset him as he wanted to keep up with Max, and he took a few steps off the trail. The last thing I remember is seeing Roger heading back up the other side of the gully as I looked down at some

roots on the right side of Denver. All of a sudden Denver started rearing up and continued straight up, and I said, “Oh Lord, I think he’s going to come right over on me. I fell off and within two seconds Denver’s completely airborne body landed on me with a big thud...all 1,000 pounds...crushing me. I’m not a big person...I’m small in stature, 5 ft. 3” and pushing 73 years “young.” I told Lori, who was riding directly behind me, “I’m hurt really bad.” She then told Lynn to ride ahead, where she could get cell service, and call for help. I thought my back was broken as I lie there in excruciating pain. Roger immediately rushed over to me and took my hand and started praying. I asked him to call our Pastor for prayer. I honestly didn’t know what was going to happen and figured if I was going to die, I wanted prayer on the way out. I remember laying there whispering to my horse friend, Sally, who had moved to Heaven a year earlier, “Sally, I may be coming to join you” as my breathing was becoming shallower. Who knows what they can see or hear...the Bible says in Heb. 12:1 “We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.” Roger told me he managed to call our Pastor, but he didn’t answer so left a message...my heart sank. But immediately, Pastor called back,



Karla Welch

and Roger put the phone to my ear and he prayed for me. As I lay there, I asked the Lord to forgive me of any unknown sins and to cleanse me...I wanted to be as prepared as possible if this was MY appointed time! Heb. 9:27 “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

Always remember up to your last breath, unless you die suddenly, it’s never too late to repent and or call on the Name of the Lord to be saved. Like our Pastor says...”location, location”...make sure you’re going to the right place. Jesus is alive, Heaven and Hell are real, and eternity is forever and ever. There are MANY miles of trails at Otter Creek and there just “happened” to be a family not too far behind us that arrived on the scene within minutes and wife was trained in trauma! Thank you, Lord!!! To make a long story short, I ended up being taken on a body board via ATV, ambulance to the rescue Helicopter which flew me to the Hospital. After tests, they found out I had broken four ribs, punctured lung, and a fractured sternum. I was in the hospital four days and discharged. Seven days later, while at home, I had shortness of breath along with extreme fatigue and was rushed

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## *I Shall Not Die... Continued*

to a different hospital. I was given an MRI and it was determined I had a blood clot in each lung. I was told conflicting things by different doctors...one said no horse back riding until Spring when I would be totally healed. Another doctor told me December because when one has a traumatic injury, the longer you wait to resume what you were doing, the harder it's going to be. If I hadn't been seriously hurt when the horse reared, I would have immediately brushed myself off and gotten back on. But as the days went by, my anxiety grew when I thought about getting back on a horse...it was a form of PTSD...Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I developed an overwhelming fear, to the point where I could have easily given up on horses and actually wanted to. In fact, I had contacted Camping World regarding trading our horse trailer in for a regular camper. Of course, Roger, wasn't in agreement and encouraged me to hold off giving up "living my dream of owning and riding horses" until at least Spring. I told him, "You can't make me get on a horse!!" I was told about another local lady that had a similar horse accident three days after mine. Her horse spooked; she was thrown and suffered broken ribs, punctured lung, fractured collarbone, fractured skull, brain bleed and a concussion. I'm very glad I had my helmet on...she was not wearing one. I'm sure my helmet prevented further injuries when my head hit the ground and also when Denver's head hit mine. I only ended up with a small goose egg instead of my skull possibly being split open. I started wearing a helmet years ago when I heard about a similar accident and hope those reading this will consider doing the same. It's a cheap price to pay for something that may save your life or you from brain injury. In November, three months after our accidents, she was still not doing well and has had brain surgery and was in therapy. On the other hand, my doctor "ordered" me to climb back on a horse.

A friend told me he was on a business flight and sitting next to a girl on her way to her mother's funeral...come to find out her mother's horse had flipped over on her...the

same exact thing that had happened to me... except it killed her! Sometimes Roger and I switch saddles when swapping horses. I know if I was riding in Roger's saddle, which has a horn, I would have been impaled and dead.

The week before Thanksgiving, we went to Tuesday morning prayer meeting at our church, and I was still suffering big time with the PTSD regarding riding a horse. They anointed with oil, laid hands on me and prayed the spirit of fear regarding getting on a horse would leave. When I woke up the next morning, I knew something had INDEED lifted...honestly, it was like night and day...unbelievable! I came bounding downstairs and BOLDY announced to Roger that I WAS going to get on a horse, even "THE" horse if I had to. I was trying to make arrangements to ride a "safe" horse that a friend had offered and was determined that the next nice day I would do this.

The following Tuesday, right before Thanksgiving, the weather was mild and I decided that would be the day. It had been three months and one week since my accident. My friend's schedule didn't work out to get on her horse, so I decided it would have to be THE horse, Denver... the one that about killed me. Sometimes you have to face your greatest fear and actually for me, this was the best solution. I was still upset with Denver while brushing him before saddling and said, "If you do anything to hurt me, I'm going to get my pistol and put a bullet right between your eyes!" I think he heard that and believed it! Since he hadn't been ridden in three months, Roger rode him around our arena first and then I mounted. The amazing thing...there was not one ounce of apprehension...my heart wasn't beating out of my chest...I had absolutely NO fear riding him. Denver was excellent and it was just like the accident never happened; Not only did I get on "A" horse but rode the one I vowed to NEVER EVER ride again. Since then, I've taken him camping this past April and am now riding him by myself.

II Timothy 1:7 "He has not given me the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

I feel God saved my life twice within a two-week span...once during the accident and then again when I got the blood clots. AND He delivered me from the spirit of fear! My Pastor says, "I'm a walking miracle because I'm not dead." So, by the grace, goodness and faithfulness of God, I'm alive and can tell this story and "declare the works of the Lord." To God be the glory!! This is an abbreviated version of my story, if you would like to watch the entire testimony I gave at our church, please go to McKendree Church on Facebook; scroll to January 29, 2023, service, "More," then "Videos," scroll down to Jan. 29, 2023 Service and fast forward to 35 minutes. God bless, Karla

Denise & Chris Mathews and Karen Burgoon



## *Chris Mathews Ordination*

by Chaplain Karen Burgoon

Joe and I were able to attend the first annual Christian Family Roundup June 8th to 11th 2023 at Mammoth Cave Horse Camp in Kentucky. It was a blessed event with over 150 people in attendance. It was wonderful to be surrounded by families with children of all ages enjoying the programs and fellowship arranged by Chris Mathews and his cowboy church flock. We thank campground owner, Kevin for the hospitality and for providing such wonderful facilities. Chris and his wife Denise welcomed us on arrival, and one of

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## ***Mathews Ordination Continued***

the ministry workers welcomed us as well and helped us unload horses and even filled the water buckets. He then led us to our camping spot and prayed over us for a safe and blessed experience. Things were kicked off opening evening with a potluck dinner and a time of sharing. The other evening meals were provided and were hearty and delicious, followed by sharing of testimonies and times of prayer as well as evening worship with singing entertainment. There was a horse show as well as clinics including one on rodeo events. We enjoyed riding the miles of beautiful mountain trails. Sunday morning was the ordination of new Chaplain Chris as we welcomed him into the CFC ministry. He has been hard at work for the Lord pastoring the Church of the Brand at the horse camp as well as a traditional church just down the road. He has established a CFC chapter and they are very active as evidenced by the hard work to put on the roundup. The ordination was followed by a pancake breakfast. Cowboy church started with some good singing and the kids choir blessed us with a wonderful song. Chris shared a message regarding the Good Shepherd and the importance of stepping out in faith, to get out of your past and walk to the promised land, which was followed by a time of prayer and testimonies. Then a young girl named Irene stepped out in faith and was baptized in a horse trough. I cannot thank Chris enough for his service and for following the Lord's leading to establish this event which will now be occurring annually. Be watching for information on next year's event and pray for it as well as try to attend. Pray for God's continued blessings on Chris and the ministry team. Be blessed and be a blessing. Karen

## ***Having Church***

by Chaplain Joel Nupp

This coronavirus thing has done a lot of things to a lot of people. We don't understand it. We respect our government officials and rely on them. Sheryl and I lead a simple lifestyle. Nothing has really changed but the fact that we can't go to church..... Or can we?.

Palm Sunday we had Gathering here. Our river brethren friends. I don't show their faces out of respect of their privacy. We rode the pony, rode the horse. We cooked hot dogs over the fire. Hot dogs from the dollar store. Rolled up in dollar store bread. I read from my Bible. The same Bible they study. As the children listened to the Word. God's word. We had church. They brought their song books. We sang hymns. They were surprised to hear me sing the song just from the mention of the title. You see I was raised Methodist. Old wooden church with hard wooden pews. Church... I have never forgotten my upbringing. In these trying times it's there that I return. To what is safe. To what never changes. The Word. Many other occasions. Lots of different denominations here. Brethren, Mennonite, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic,....Church.... Some that don't have a church at all. But Cowboy Church... Simple. Over a fire. Lawn chairs. Hot Dogs. Church. Last night we had a Gathering. We took and shared communion. No, not the river brethren. Different friends. Different denominations. But the same. People were never meant to "go it alone". We need fellowship. Just like the disciples were told by Christ himself. "I will never leave you nor forsake you". We need reminded of that. People need to be heard. To tell their story. It's in that moment that we find out who we are. Who we really are. We keep the gatherings small. Out of obedience to the authorities. But we don't give up our ability to worship. We don't need a mega church to talk to God. Every day I ride my horse. I have Church. Christ is in all of us. Every single one of us. Today, I was supposed to be on the eastern shore to preach for Maryland high school rodeo. It was canceled. My heart breaks for those kids. But we never cancel our walk with the Lord. If anything, this virus that was supposed to be an end has actually been a beginning. It has put a spotlight back on the very foundation of our souls. It has stripped away all the superficial insecurities we had built up around us. It's in this moment we go back. Back to what really matters. The Bible says"

delight yourselves in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" Thank you, Lord. We need you now more than ever.



## ***Letter with Testimony***

by Bill Smith

Dear Cowboys For Christ, Hello, my name is Bill and I found your paper, the Christian Ranchman setting up front in the Pod I live in. So, I picked it up and really enjoyed reading it. If there is a chance I would love a subscription and some of your Bible Studies. Thank you so much for reaching out and sharing God's Word with others less fortunate. I spent my whole life in western Montana; grew up riding horses, did some rodeoing, roping, bareback broncs and packing back into the wilderness areas. Sometimes putting over a hundred miles on our horse camping out. I still own horses, but now my boys take care of them, because I fell away from God and I am incarcerated in Sandstone, MN. I grew up and went to church almost every

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### ***Letter with Testimony Continued***

Sunday, and believed that made me a good Christian, but I was living a lie. I walked out of my marriage to my wife of 24 years for no reason. She didn't do anything wrong to cause me to do this. She is a very Godly woman and prays for me all of the time. Still to this day, when I told her I wanted a divorce, she said that I had to tell the boys. God was speaking to me that day through my 13 year old son, but I didn't listen. My son, Bridger, said "Dad, keep God in your heart." I never stopped believing in God, I just stopped following Him all together. I walked out of the house, left my Bible and all my good values sitting at the door. This is why I am here now; until I got arrested, I never realized how selfish and self-centered I was. The hardest thing for me now is self-forgiveness. I let my family, friends and community down. I had done a lot of good in my life before; now no one will remember me for that, but for what I did. Thank you, Dave Harvey, the section in the paper "Riding Point" with Dave Harvey, in the article called, Life, really touched my heart. Kids are so smart, the story of Stephen and the empty container was so good. Thank you all, please keep my family and I in your prayers. Your brother in Christ, Bill PS. I already have a good Bible, so I don't need one.

### ***Letters to the Editor***

*(Editor's note: Bibles, Bible Studies, and Christian Ranchman are sent Free to all who request them)*

**Cowboys For Christ,** I have read and prayed for Jesus to come into my heart in the Christian ranchman. Thank you for adding me to your prayer list and for the Cowboys for Christ Bible, you'll send me with Jesus Christ as my trail boss, thank you. Suzy in Kansas

**Dear Cowboys For Christ,** My name is Mark and I am writing to you to ask for prayer and to be put on your mailing list for the Christian Ranchman. And any Bible studies you might have for a new believer and give me the price of one of your Easy Read Bibles. The King James is really hard to follow. Thank you for your time, Mark in West Virginia

**To Whom It May Concern,** I would love to have the Cowboys For Christ Bible to better understand God's Word. I really appreciate your time and all that you are doing. Sincerely, Bradley in Louisiana

**Dear Cowboys For Christ,** I pray this reaches you and those dear to you in great health and the highest of spirits. I recently had the privilege of reading one of your Christian Ranchman newspapers and would like to be placed on your mailing list to receive said publication. May the good Lord bless you and yours abundantly in all things you do. God bless. Respectfully, Josh in Texas

**Dear Cowboys For Christ,** My name is Randall, an inmate at the Wrightsville Unit and a student in the Principles and Application for Life Skills or PALS. It's a faith-based program. I want to know Jesus and build a relationship with Him. I want to be forgiven for my crimes. I shot a man in 2017, and I carry that burden with me every day. I'm writing Cowboys For Christ to request a good Bible, one I can understand. Cowboys For Christ just seems right to me. Love your brother, Randall in Arkansas

**Dear Cowboys For Christ,** My name is George and I'm in TDCJ (Texas Department of Criminal Justice). I'm an avid reader of the Christian Ranchman. I would like to thank y'all for all y'all do and have done for us inmates. My Daddy is 60 and in the past 6 years since I've been locked up, he has lost his wife (my Momma) of 30 years, and his daughter (my sister) to a car wreck, plus his only child left (me) is in prison. I have been talking to him about God, and he wants to learn! Could y'all please pray for him, and if possible, send him a Cowboys For Christ Bible, and put him on the Christian Ranchman mailing list. Thank y'all and God bless. Y'all partner in Texas, George

**Hello to y'all,** my name is Jamie and I'm kinda new at this. I'm trying to get my life on the right track with the LORD. And I've heard a lot of people talk about the Bibles and things y'all give to people. I'm in prison in Arkansas and have heard a lot of good things in the 19 years I've been locked up.

I've had my ups and downs in my faith and trying to be the person I need to be for my family. I don't mean to write and beg for a Bible the way I ask. I've got a New Testament, but it only has so much in it. I would like to read more to understand, and it only has 326 pages. But I really hope y'all could or would help me if y'all can. I would like to try some of y'all's Bible studies too, if I could, please and thank you. But I'll close for now. So, take care and God bless, Jamie in Arkansas

**Cowboys For Christ,** thank you for all the Christian Ranchman you have sent me. Keep up the good work. May God bless, Larry & Patty in Kansas

### ***Letter and Praise Report***

by Chaplain Randy Crew

Just wanted to give you an update on my health issues. Back in February at the Heartland Conference you and the other Chaplains prayed for me regarding my back. Just as a reminder, I was ordained two years ago this weekend, then just 6 months later I went to get out of bed one morning to go to work and the pain in my back was so excruciating that I couldn't even get out of bed. Cathy called the paramedics, and I was taken to the ER. I was told there was nothing that could be done for my back by the doctors and that I would always need a walker or a wheelchair to get around. I couldn't even get out of bed for over two weeks. My wife Cathy and I knew there was Power far beyond what the doctors could provide and prayed long and hard. God did answer our prayers and my back improved enough for me to be able to get around using a cane. Still had a lot of pain but at least I was mobile. I came to the Conference for the fellowship and teachings. I shared my story of the miracle that God had healed me enough to be able to get around using the cane. One of the Chaplains at the Conference felt led by the Holy Spirit to have me come forward to be prayed over.

Well, the Power of Prayer is an amazing thing!! As of this past week I no longer need

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### *Letter and Praise Report Continued*

to use the cane to get around; the pain in my back is virtually gone and on top of that, I had knee replacement surgery four weeks ago and the surgeon and physical therapists are astonished that I am able to walk normally, unaided this soon after the knee replacement. I believe that is due to the 'left over' prayers for healing from you and the Chaplains!! I will be conducting Cowboy Church at two horse shows this coming month and am looking forward to many more horse shows, trail rides and rodeos this summer where I will be able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Faithfully serving Christ, Randy Crew

### *Letter and Testimony*

by Andrew Contreras

Dear Cowboys For Christ, Thank you for the invitation to share my testimony of how God has worked in my life! God is good and His grace is always sufficient. I do not know how I got on your mailing list, but I consider it a gift and blessing from God to increase my territory (Jabez) from beyond these prison walls.

I had been running from God for over 50 years. When I was a young boy, my mother told me, "You will be a preacher." Those words scared me to the core and I learned to live comfortably in the shadows hoping it would be enough to "just get by" keeping my distance from hearing God's call. I hid in the shadows of knowing the Bible, memorizing Scripture, attending church and Bible Study regularly, serving on the Praise and Worship team, leading the Men's ministry, and even helping start a new church. You know, "just enough" to fool everyone, having them say, "He's a good Christian!" As long as I stayed "BUSY" (Being Under Satan's Yoke) by doing "my own things" I wouldn't have to hear God's call for me to do "His thing." But like Jonah, God's plan unfolded in His time, and He allowed me to follow my own path which led me to prison in Kansas (I'm originally from Stephenville, Texas.) It was while in prison where I had to stop

running, "Be still, and know He is God." It opened up my eyes and I began to realize Matt 7:21 was written just for me. I realized I had been saying "Lord, Lord" didn't you see me do all these things just for You?" Being still, I finally heard, "Only those who do the will of My Father will enter the Kingdom of Heaven." The bottom of "my plans" fell out and I began to realize the difference between "my plans" and "His plans." You would think I would have gotten the hint escaping death once at the age of 6 and three times at age 14, but some need a bigger 2x4! What I did realize was every breath we take is a miracle, a gift from God, and His way of saying, "I am not done with you." I still kept running from His call. Thus, the Big Fish – prison. Sometimes God allows bad things to happen to us to achieve His plan. God can turn any mess into His message! While many people may consider prison frightening and a loss of freedom, to me, it is the place where I have complete Joy, peace, and a place I have felt more freedom than ever before. Do not feel sorry for me, because.... "Phil 1:2 Now I want you to know, brothers and sister, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel."

And as Joseph told his brothers, "You did not send me here, God did!" What has happened to me is a part of God's omniscient plan! Now through His grace, 1) I preach and teach the Gospel every day, 2) I have taught men to understand and believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father except through Jesus, 3) The Gospel is being spread through my reports, newsletter, and personal letters to prisoners I do not even know through individuals, organizations and churches I write to, 4) Men are being taught how to walk with the Lord according to His ways, 5) Men are learning the meaning of true obedience, 6) Men are becoming true disciples and are reaching out to other men and are learning how to share the Gospel to others. And 7) Men are learning to be Christ-like.

Yes, you may say, "Everyone finds religion in prison." Well, many people in the so-called "free world" only find religion as well. Like me, all I was doing was living as someone

who only found religion on the outside. It took prison for me to find Jesus! I went to church, I read the Bible, I was involved in the church, I had memorized Scriptures, I wore a cross, and I had many Bibles. I did all that but now I realize calling yourself a Christian and even acting the part doesn't mean you are Christ-like. All it meant was that I was "comfortable" and that is where I failed. God isn't calling us to be "comfortable" He wants and desires for us to have a relationship with Him! We say we have a relationship with Him, and we say "we believe" but still we live with a bunch of "I can't." If we have the Holy Spirit within us, how can we have "I can't?" The same power of the Holy Spirit who was at creation and raised Jesus from the dead is the same exact Holy Spirit living inside all believers. If you believe this, then you have the power of the Holy Spirit to help you say, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength!" Because of the Holy Spirit living inside of me, I can preach and teach. Not only to the men in this facility, but also through the assistance of supporting churches and individuals and other prisons ministries, God Word can reach beyond these fences and beyond any walls. Halleluiah!

My ministry is called, "Every Breath Prison Ministries" and I have been spreading the Gospel for five years now. Through God's grace, I plan to continue spreading the Gospel once released to men in prison and to the ex-prisoners who do not feel or have not been welcomed in some churches. God has given me a clear path only because I finally quit running. I emptied myself and now I run full press onward to His calling, completely filled with His love, mercy, grace, and never-ending forgiveness. I wish I could tell you more about the wonderful things God has done for me. May the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the love of our Father in Heaven, and the strength and power of the Holy Spirit be with you and all your readers! Together in Christ, Andrew



**Biblical Coins**

by Chaplain John Duggan

He said, “I will hand Jesus over to you. What will you pay me for doing this? The priests gave him thirty silver coins” (Matthew 26:15). This is when Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus Christ. What type of silver pieces or coins were these? According to most Biblical scholars these were known as shekels of Tyre. Because they contained 94% silver content and were known in those days as the Temple Tax Coin. Therefore, they were the only accepted currency at the Temple in Jerusalem. In Matthew’s original writings, before translation the word argyria- meaning silver coins was used.

Is there any hidden meaning in thirty pieces of silver? With a little investigation we find that this amount of silver shekels is the value of a slave. Further evidence of this can be found in Exodus 21:32, which states: “But if the bull kills the slave, the owner of the animal must pay the master 30 pieces of silver and the bull must also be stoned to death”.

Where are the thirty silver coins that were traded for Jesus today? This is what we do know, after this betrayal Judas threw the coins back into the Temple and went off and hung himself. Only one of the original coins continued to bounce from history to the present. It is kept under lock and key in the treasury of the ancient parish church of Saint Asela, in the oldest Croatian town of Nin.

Although the thirty silver coins being ancient and rare would make their value priceless. However, their approximate value today, with the silver content would be around \$198.32. Can you believe that Jesus was betrayed in today’s prices for under two-hundred bucks?

Being a Chaplain in Cowboys for Christ, I ask that you bow your head and take a moment and say: I am sorry dear Jesus that you were betrayed, I will work my hardest not to betray you. You are my Savior and Lord, and the Lamb of God. From this moment forward I will follow the Lamb wherever He may go. Amen!

Next time we will look at another Biblical Coin, God willing. Remember collecting Biblical Coins, makes history breath.

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**High School Rodeo Ministry**

by Chaplains Joel & Sheryl Nupp

The first weekend in May we had the great honor to be at J Bar W Ranch in Johnsville , Maryland to host the MDHSRA Rodeo. John Williams holds a regular rodeo series at his ranch in Maryland throughout the summer and fall, this was the first time the MDHSRA had held an event at his ranch. It was such a great time. Joel and I moved out of Maryland in April of 2017 so I could be a bit closer to my family in western Pennsylvania. We now live in south central Pennsylvania, and in moving out of state it made it much harder to travel to the Eastern shore of Maryland to do the MDHSRA Cowboy church. Thankfully we have had other younger chaplains step up and fill in when we can’t be there.

Seeing all the kids that were little dudes, all grown up, now in jr. high and high school made me step back and go, “wow” this time is going by pretty fast. Time, something we appreciate a lot more the older we get. I was encouraged as always seeing the younger generations step up and stand strong in their faith in a world which is trying really hard to confuse them and ultimately destroying the values and principles of their faith. These young people, the parents need to know they aren’t alone in this world, and we older people, we know the struggles of raising kids, we have watched and witnessed our own adult children struggle with the craziness and unexpected events that life will throw at them. We have watched our own kids be pulled away from their values, their faith and we have wondered will they ever return to the place where they got off track. You all know what place I am talking about; we have been there!

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**COWBOYS FOR CHRIST  
STATEMENT OF POSITION**

Supreme authority over this organization and all its activities is vested in God’s own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and exercised by the Holy Spirit. This must be recognized and practiced as laid out for us in God’s divinely inspired Word, the Holy Bible.

Cowboys For Christ is not in competition with any denominational group. It seeks, rather, through God’s enabling grace, to be a helper to all local churches, denominations and groups to the extent that they are in harmony with the will of the Almighty God. Its function is to proclaim the Word of God. It is designed for outreach and building up of the Body of Christ, God’s blood-bought people, and in harmony with the work of the Holy Spirit is an active force in the Lord’s program for the present day.

The message of The Christian Ranchman is the saving grace of Jesus Christ. These messages come to us in a variety of expressions, including testimonies and Letters to the Editor, and each is meaningful in its own way. We pray that the Holy Spirit will minister to each of you that bit of reassurance and comfort your need today.

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## Riding Point With Dave Harvey...

### TIME



**2 Peter 3:8-9** 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. Time; a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or a thousand years, they are all the same to FATHER GOD. There is no difference, or limits or restrictions; all are the same. But we are not blessed with the same freedom, as we are living in a sinful world full of many limitations, many restrictions, and we are

certainly confined by every boundary of the reaches of time. Most carry a watch or some type of time device to help them keep on their daily schedule. I gave up wearing a watch a number of years ago, because it was always in my way and I was always very tough on the fragileness of a timepiece on my arm. Plus, since I always carrying my cell phone, I could check it for the time and even the date, as I would get so caught up in the many things that I needed to do, that I couldn't keep up with the time much less the date. It certainly is a fact; mankind is greatly affected by the restrictions of time.

The Apostle Peter was telling anyone reading this wonderful Book of second Peter that we must not put GOD in the same time restrains in which we are living. We must be very understanding of our limitations concerning time, but we must also be very understanding of the complete lack of any and all restraints upon the HOLY GOD. The Psalmist declared in **Ps 90:4** For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. A thousand years are like our 24-hour day, or like a watch in the night. Actually, the Jewish nation had three watches during the night; sunset until midnight, midnight until 3am and 3am until sunrise, which varied according to the seasons. But after the captivity; as the Greeks and Romans separated the night into four watch sections; the time of the different watches was usually about two hours. So, we can surmise by this that a normal watch in Peter's time was about two hours, which means that a thousand years for our HOLY CREATOR have a consideration of about two hours. Now by that calculation and to give you a better understanding of time in GOD'S eyes, I will ask you; how old are you to FATHER GOD? This kind of give you an indication of why we are called the children of GOD, doesn't it?

Adam and Eve did not have a time restraint until the fall, as we are clearly taught that mankind was created to be a companion to the ETERNAL HOLY GOD. **Gen 1:26-27** 26 And God said, Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And since GOD is timeless, mankind was first created to be a timeless creation. But sin entered and the restrictions of time came along with sin, because death entered along with sin, which means that everything living is now constantly dying. **Rom 5:12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" and death means that we as sinful mankind are all eternal dying, except for JESUS CHRIST.

If I can get you to remember this, or reflect on this TRUTH every time you look at your watch, your clock or your phone to see what time it is, then you will be so much closer to understanding what the Apostle Peter is trying to teach us. He is telling each one of us the importance of knowing the time limitations on us because of sin and those limitations will always be there except for the BLOOD OF THE LAMB of GOD. As the only way to offset the dying, is with the living SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. You are certainly dying and you will continue to die until your dying is completed at your death, or until the LORD comes back for HIS Church, HIS Body, HIS redeemed creation. That is if you are a child of GOD through the BLOOD OF THE LAMB OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST.

First, don't panic, don't try to run and hide; because you can't hide from death, but there is a solution to this dying. The answer is living; and that means living eternally just as you were created to do; you and all the rest of mankind. The HOLY GOD did not create you to die and as we are told in our text, HE is very patient with you to understand this time thing, this sin thing and repent of your sins and accept HIS GIFT of HIS ONLY SON, the BLOOD OF THE LAMB to wash away your sins and to be HIS child so you can be the eternal living being HE created you to be, for HIS glory, honor and to worship and serve HIM. HE is timeless, but you are not, or at least you are not if you haven't repented of your sins and your sinful ways and accepted JESUS CHRIST as your SAVIOR and LORD. You may be asking; well, how do I know that GOD really loves me? Well, because HE gave HIS SON to die on the cross (**John 3:16**) for your sins before you were born. Because HIS SON gave HIS LIFE on the cross even when HE knew you and your evil ways (**Rom. 5:8**) and because HIS HOLY WORD tells us the facts of eternal salvation. Please go to the Decisions section in this paper and read and follow the directions and "Oh, by the way, welcome to the living."

In Christ,

*Dave*





# COWBOYS FOR CHRIST GENERAL STORE



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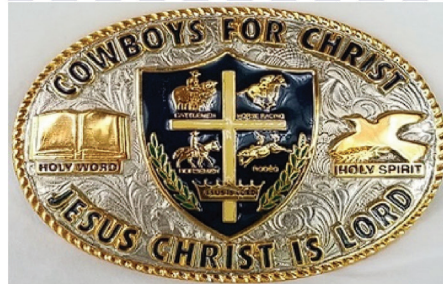
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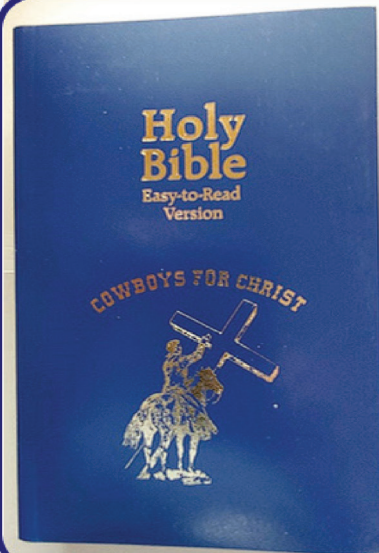
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Cowboys For Christ is, and always has been, an outreach ministry. We seek the lost wherever and whenever. All witnessing items are available to be used to share Jesus Christ to the lost. Each item has the suggested donation value, but you can certainly give more to help reach more for the Kingdom of God. God bless you and God bless your service to Him.  
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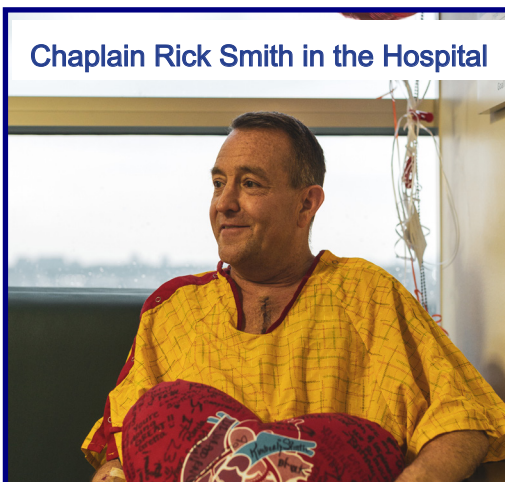
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Lord in the Rodeo World,  
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## Testimony & Praise Report

by Chaplain Rick Smith

Cowboy Chaplain Rick Smith found himself in the fight of his life on January 13, 2023 after suffering Congestive Heart Failure. He has been using a Pace Maker and a defibrillator since 2010 and had done very well managing his heart disease with medications until January 13, 2023 when his cardiologist informed him that for him to continue to live, he would need a heart transplant!!!! After Rick let this settle in, he knew this would be a new battle and a new journey. He would have to face this battle by the grace of God. He went on the heart transplant list April 25, 2023, and a month later after laying in ICU for a week he received a phone call that would change his life on May 26, 2023. The doctors came in and informed Rick that they had accepted a heart on his behalf. Chaplain Rick soon discovered that folk in 49 states and 7 countries had been praying for him a new heart and by the grace of God Rick received a Heart Transplant on May 27th, 2023, and walked out of the hospital 12 days later unassisted!!! If you have never seen a walking miracle, just take a look at Chaplain Rick Smith. Rick Smith @ RBO PO Box 214, Krum, Tx 76249



## Ordination of Shane Evetts

by Chaplain Steve Tankersley

Howdy everybody from West Tennessee. I hope everybody is gearing up for a season of fun, activities and hopefully a lot of riding this summer. On May 14th, we had

our monthly Cowboy Church Service. We were a little low on attendance, due to it being Mother's Day and decoration in our community, but we had a great service with a great message. I was very honored to officiate the Ordination Ceremony of our new Cowboy Chaplain Bro. Shane Evetts. Bro. Shane is from Corinth, MS and is the Pastor of Thrasher Baptist Church in Booneville, Ms. Bro. Shane also is the owner of Standing Oak Stables in Booneville Ms. Please join us in prayer as we lift up our Brother in Christ as he begins this new journey in his life. Thats all for now. Until next time. Ride well and stay safe. God bless each and everyone. Round Up For Jesus, Chaplain Steve Tankersley



Brenda & Chaplain Steve Tankersley  
with Shane Evetts

## SAVE THE DATE

**Jul 10-16: Heartland Christian Cowboys/  
Cowgirls Gathering**, Duke, MO  
Matt Wagner 816-390-7561

**Sep 21-24: Elkins Creek Gathering**,  
Pedro, OH  
Karen Burgoon 724-290-8554

**Oct 15: Carolina Trail Competition**,  
Mocksville, NC  
Karen Burgoon 724-290-8554

**Oct 27-29: 4B Farm Trail Ride**,  
Uwharrie, NC  
Karen Burgoon 724-290-8554

**GOD bless your service  
to HIM.**



## A Living Memorial

Death, as Christians understand it, is a change in the form of life; it is not a cessation of life. Those who have been given eternal life in Christ Jesus will spend a few fleeting moments here on this earth. The rest of eternity is spent in the presence of God.

Service in the name of Christ can also live on, even though the servant has gone to his heavenly reward. A living memorial in the name of a loved one, in the form of contributions, bequests or gifts to the work of Cowboys For Christ, will be acknowledged with a reproduction of the Keith Avery drawing, "A Time For Looking Back". Keith's poem accompanying the drawing, "Checkin' the Back Trail", will also be included with the reproduction of the drawing, in a framable presentation which acknowledges the receipt of the gift.

## Memorial Gifts

Cowboys For Christ

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## *Frank Hillyard Ordained as Chaplain*

by Dave Harvey

I want to welcome Chaplain Frank Hillyard from northern Virginia. Frank was Ordained at Iron Mountain Horse Camp on Memorial Sunday, May 28 at the Cowboy Church service. I was greatly blessed to hold the service on a rather cool and wet Sunday morning with a great group of riders and campers. A big thanks to Chaplain Karen Burgoon for singing for the service and also to her and her husband Joe, for spreading the word on the service and inviting everyone to attend. Please keep Frank and all of our Chaplain in your prayers as they ride the **trails of this ministry sharing JESUS CHRIST wherever and whenever the HOLY SPIRIT directs.**

**Dave Harvey, Frank Hillyard, & Karen Burgoon**



## *Frankie Mathews: New Georgia Chaplain*

by Dave Harvey

Congratulations to our new Chaplain Frankie Mathews of Rockmart, Georgia. Frankie was Ordained on April 22, and he is heavily involved in Little Britches Rodeo, as his two sons are competing. We were blessed to have his Ordination at the season end awards ceremony at the Crazy P Arena in Cedartown, Georgia. Please be in prayer for Frankie and all of our Chaplains as they go to share JESUS CHRIST to cowboys and cowgirls, anywhere and everywhere the HOLY SPIRIT leads.

**Frankie Mathews & Dave Harvey**



## *High School Rodeo Continued*

Don't lose heart, because when you raise your children in the belief of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) you have given them a place to return to when they finally realize this place (the World) is not our home. I often hear people say you can never go back. Really? So, once I have messed up, gotten off track I can't go back to the spot where I mess up and start over? Those are the thoughts and lies of the enemy. Well, God's word tells me differently. Malachi 3:7 tells me this "Return to me and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. God always gives us a way back if we are obedient. Return to me...I love those words. When your children are taught about the love of God, the sacrifice of God's only Son Jesus, the willingness of Jesus to do His Father's will and die on a cross for my sin, the promise of the Holy Spirit available always to speak to us, to guide us to comfort us...you give them something wonderful to return to, IF they should choose a worldly path.

**Cooper & Bear at a High School Rodeo**



Today as I looked around and saw all these kids sitting in the bleachers at a rodeo arena with their parents listening to stories from an old preacher about his choices to turn away from the path God had chosen for him and set out on his own road...the heartaches he would encounter, the feelings of being lost and alone...the turning to worldly ways, alcohol, ect. only to be more lost...but guess what? God showed up for him the moment he turned away from a sin filled life he was living.. (repentance) That old cowboy was broken and batterer. But, because he was raised up with parents who believed, who had faith in God to be there for their kids...that old cowboy would turn back, 32 years later...and God was there... He never moved He stood waiting for that child, (now an older cowboy) to turn back, get back on track to where he got off...God keeps HIS promises always. Not sometimes but ALWAYS. Parents do not lose heart, be patient, God hears your prayers! I am forever grateful for my heavenly Father for doing that. I married that broken cowboy almost 15 years ago. I was the daughter who had messed up...who had lived her life trying to do the right thing only to have bad stuff happen; dad died young, widowed with 4 kids at 40 years old, my dear sweet Keith dead at the age of 42, a good kind loving husband and father. I got tired of being the good person, the person who did the right thing, who made good choices only to have the world throw more and more junk at me. I thought I must not be good enough because why would a loving God let so much stuff happen to me, I didn't realize the whole time I was being mad at God for the bad stuff, in reality He was preparing/protecting me from so much more. My battle wasn't with God; my battle was with the enemy, Satan and, well, I had fallen right into the trap Satan set. Blame God, blame people, beat myself up, believe the lies, carry the shame, the guilt, thoughts I had running in my own head, you aren't good enough, you deserve this, it's your fault, all those words made me doubt the love of a LOVING Merciful, God. We have all heard those words running through

(Continued on Page 11)



***High School Rodeo Continued***

our minds, and for me, I know this and when I got so lost, I remembered the place where I got off track. Being alone without a Heavenly Father to talk to, separated from Him because of my own sin choices were the worse years of my life. Return to me, and I will return to you, the Lord's promise to me...His guidance so needed. It was my youngest son getting ready to leave for the Navy, who reminded me, he said to me, "Where is my mom and what have you done with her." I sat down and I cried, you know that guttural cry, the cry that you feel like you can't breath...and I said, Lord help me, I picked up my Bible, the one I had tucked away in my anger and I READ THESE WORDS "RETURN TO ME." The world wants to tell you, you must keep moving forward, but what if turning back was what is needed to move forward? Acts 3:19 Repent, therefore, and TURN BACK, that your sins may be BLOTTED OUT. Isaiah 44:22 CEV Turn back to me! I have rescued you and swept away your sins as though they were clouds. In that very moment, my life changed and 6 months later I would meet my soon to be husband, Joel. Yep, that old broken-down cowboy. The cowboy willing to lay down his pride and yes, turning back requires you swallowing a whole lot of pride to say, geeze, I really messed this up! Kids who are raised in the church, too often, when they messed up have to do a lot of humbling to make the admission!" I messed up!" and turn around and go back to where they got off track. As I watched these kids today at the rodeo sitting in the bleachers, I thanked God these kids have a place to return to should the world try to swallow them up. Grateful the Lord was using us to show them, grateful for parents who were sitting there showing them. I wanted to say to these parents your prayers are powerful, they are a beacon powered by the Holy Spirit, those prayers will guide them home should they get lost. I love in Isaiah 43:1-2 When the Lord is speaking to Jacob.. he says , "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you ARE mine.

When you pass through the waters, I WILL be with you, when you pass through the rivers it WILL NOT sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, the flames will not set you ablaze." Life isn't easy, and it is easy to focus on everything that is wrong with younger generations or older generations but I am here to reassure you, God is alive and He is working it all out for good to those who love Him. Today I witnessed a whole bunch of kids loving God, young and old. Special thanks to the special singers we had today at the service, Sierra Howell

and her grandma Debbie. If you are ever in the area of Central Pennsylvania, Central Maryland we are C.H.A.P.S . Your brother and sister in Christ, Chaplains Joel and Sheryl Nupp

***My Testimony***

by Chaplain Mark Ingram

For as long as I can remember, I was told by my mother she felt I was called by the Lord to be a minister. I was raised in the Church. From the time I was born I spent every weekend I was riding; a church pew and a little Welsh paint pony named Tonka. I was born on a  
(Continued on Page 12)

***MY ETERNAL DECISION***

There is one important decision that each and every person must make some time in their life. The decision to accept JESUS CHRIST as your LORD and SAVIOR guarantees eternal life. No one knows when their life will end, so it is very important to make that decision before it is too late.

The Bible very plainly tells us in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned". Also, in Romans 6:23 we are told, "For the wages of sin is death". This death actually is referring to eternal death. But the last part of Romans 6:23 reads, "But the gift of GOD is eternal life through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. And in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9 & 10 explains how, that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" sure includes you.

This very minute you can make the decision for eternal life and by praying this prayer and truly believing you can accept the LORD JESUS CHRIST as your LORD and SAVIOR. The late great D.L. Moody once said, "GOD has put salvation within the reach of everyone, because all you have to do is believe".

**Please pray this prayer, Dear HEAVENLY FATHER, I come to you a sinner and I am sorry for those sins, please forgive me. I know that your SON, JESUS CHRIST died on the cross and rose from the dead to save me from eternal death and I believe that in my heart. Please, Dear JESUS, come into my heart as SAVIOR and LORD. And FATHER please help me to be your child. In JESUS' NAME, Amen.**

If you prayed this prayer, please let us know so we can add you to our prayer list. Also, we will send you a Cowboys For Christ Bible to help you in your new life with JESUS CHRIST as your TRAIL BOSS.

Call 817-236-0023 or email: [cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.org](mailto:cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.org)

## *My Testimony Continued*

Sunday afternoon, literally between Sunday morning service and Sunday evening service. Despite my mother's vision of me being a minister and despite being raised in the church, I was never the true child of God I needed to be. In complete honesty, I was always at the church, but I never was truly in the church. There is a difference. I could quote scripture, chapter and verse with the best of them. But knowing it and living it are two different things. Despite of all of my mother's prayers, despite all the time I had spent at the church, I was not spiritually where I needed to be. I was never in trouble. I never was one to drink and party, but that is not the measure God uses. I was just an empty vessel, wondering on my own. Because of the love I have for the equine and bovine industries, I went to West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas to study Animal Science. My hope, at least at the time, was to enroll in veterinarian school at Texas A&M following my time at WTAMU. College introduced me to a whole new world I had never seen before. As I said before, I was not spiritually where I needed to be at that point in my life. I was, however, sheltered from a lot of what happens in the world outside of the boundaries of my Christian home and the church. On my own for the first time, I entered a world without the protection of the armor of God or my parents shielding me from the vices and influences of life. Even though there was a church just a few blocks off campus, I rarely attended. Instead, I occupied my time with friends and student organizations. During this time, I strayed from my parents' raising and, in some ways, became the "typical" college student at WTAMU. Despite the "fun times", I knew in my heart I was not living the way I should. I attended the University's Baptist Student Union sporadically. In complete honesty, I initially went to their meetings for the free lunch they offered every Wednesday at noon. But, that would soon change. In what we see as a free meal, God uses as a means to soften the heart. Everything I thought was great and fun about college

life would soon come crashing down around me. In the second semester of my freshman year, at a time I felt completely broken. In a time of despair, I met with the Director of the Baptist Student Ministry in his office. There, I finally accepted Christ. I was baptized in my home church with my mother witnessing. She had the biggest smile on her face. I returned home from WTAMU a changed man. Although I had intended on becoming a veterinarian, I began working as a police officer, in what I thought at the time to be a temporary means of employment. 27 years later, I'm still doing it. On July 25, 2007, God provided me the biggest need I had in my life, next to my relationship with Him. I met the lady who would become my wife. Tara has been described by many as a true angel. Prior to our meeting, she took it upon herself to adopt two children, biologically brother and sister. Following our marriage, I adopted both and accepted them as my own. Megan, who now 22, is a low functioning, non-verbal autistic. Brandon, now 21, is living on his own with two daughters of his own. We purchased a home and settled into what we thought would be our small family. God had different plans. Tara had been told by multiple doctors since her mid-teens she would never be able to have children of her own. However, we serve a God of miracles. Five months after our first anniversary, God blessed us with Kyle, who is now 13. Thinking Kyle was our one and only miracle baby, God gave us twin boys, Levi and Logan a little over a year later. All three have been baptized and are active in the church. On May 13th of 2012, following Sunday evening service, I was eating supper at a restaurant with my wife and parents. In what I would later realize was my last real conversation with my mother, she again reminded me of her vision that she felt I was called to the ministry. My wife joined in and agreed with my mother. Me, still running from any calling whatsoever, borrowed a line from our esteemed brother Billy Graham. I told her "two things I will never be is a preacher or an undertaker". As I should have learned early in life; never say never

when God is involved. That comedic remark did not work for Billy Graham and it did not work for me either. Little did I know at the time, but that would be the last time I got to talk with my mother. She passed from this life during a medical procedure the following day. One thing (out of many) I have learned from my mother's passing is our prayers are perpetual. Our loved ones may pass on, but the prayers they prayed for and over us remain. They come to fruition in God's timing. In a lot of ways, I look at my own calling to be much like that of Jonah. Or at least my own initial response to His calling. God sent Jonah to Nineveh. As we know, Jonah had his own ideas and tried to do things his own way. He was afraid to speak to the people of Nineveh, so he tried to run from God's calling and direction. We all know how that worked out for Jonah. Like Jonah, I allowed my own fear to prevent me from doing God's work. Thankfully, it didn't take a big fish for God to get my attention. One year almost to the day after my mother's passing, I was sitting in a meeting at the police department. The Chief of Police came to the briefing room and addressed the officers. He said he was adding a position for department Chaplain. He asked that anyone who was qualified, or knew of someone who was, to contact him. That's when God showed up. A voice in my spirit spoke to me. He said "You don't have to be pastoring a church to be doing My work". After much prayer and contemplation, I went to the Chief and asked about the position. I told him I had never been to seminary, but I felt led by the Lord to look into the position. My Chief was a devout Christian and a leader in his own church's denomination. His response to me still makes me chuckle. In an almost dry wit manner he looked at me and said, "Peter and Paul didn't go to the seminary either". With that he appointed me as Chaplain and started sending me to chaplaincy training courses, thus at least partially fulfilling my mother's vision of me and the ministry. It seems the closer you try to get to God, the more the devil messes with you. It shouldn't be surprising; if you're not trying

*(Continued on Page 15)*





# COWBOYS FOR CHRIST

## CHAPTER DIRECTORY

For more information about activities, meeting dates, times and locations, etc., please contact people listed for the chapter nearest you or visit [www.cowboysforchrist.org](http://www.cowboysforchrist.org)



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website: cowboyfortheson.com  
email: Kenneth.g.lesueur@gmail.com

### ARKANSAS

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Larry Van Dyck, VP 918-859-3396  
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**Riding for the Brand-River Valley Chapter, Ft. Smith, AR**  
Angela Holwick, Pres. 479-459-7273

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**Middle Georgia Chapter-Pike County, GA**  
Tom Kerlin, Pres. 404-557-8711  
Nancy Perkerson, VP 404-514-1919

**East Georgia Chapter-Walton County, GA**  
Linda Dillard, Pres. 770-896-5892  
Kent Pratt, VP 770-896-1875

**Georgia/N. Carolina Mountains Chapter-Hiawassee, GA**  
Chaplain Cindy Kenner, Pres. 706-970-3746  
William Kenner, VP 828-788-1787

**Redeemed Riders Chapter-Ringgold, GA**  
Chaplain Skeeter Spaulding, Pres. 423-664-2880  
Chaplain TW Lawrence, VP 404-374-9269

### HAWAII

**Kuuhana Ministries Chapter-Hoolehua, Molokai, Hawaii**  
Henry "Hanale" Lindo, Jr., Pres. 808-336-6266

### IDAHO

**Snake River Chapter-Meridian, ID**  
Chaplain Pete Blockhan, Pres. 208-391-8984

### ILLINOIS

**Trails of Hope - Viola, IL**  
Robert Schultz, Pres. 309-314-5719

### INDIANA

**Northern Indiana CFC-Elkhart, IN**  
Chaplains/Presidents- Willie & Kim Hostetler 574-575-0451  
Vice Presidents- Chaplain Andy & Sally Abrams 269-779-8179  
Fellowship: Trail Ride 3rd Saturday of each month. Cowboy Gathering first Saturday of every month

**Campfire Church Chapter-Kokomo, IN**  
Chaplain Stanley Pugh, Pres. 765-398-8628  
Heather Lawson, VP 317-450-9472

**Wild Horse Ministry Chapter-Kokomo, IN**  
Chaplain Jeff Walls, Pres. 765-553-1056  
Chaplain Bonnie Walls, VP 765-431-8701

### IOWA

**We Will Ride Ministry Chapter-Greene, IA**  
Chaplain Mike Reicherts, Pres. 641-330-6791  
Scott Chisholm, VP 319-230-1859

**Valley Hills Bucking Chute Ministries**  
Chaplain Ramsey Steen, Pres. 712-204-6290

### KANSAS

**Clay Center CFC-Clay Center, KS**  
Ben Tiemeyer, Pres. 785-630-1065  
Website: [claycentercowboysforchrist.org](http://claycentercowboysforchrist.org)

**Cornerstone Chapter-Highland, KS**  
Chaplain Mike Twombly, Pres. 785-741-5646  
Chaplain Judy Twombly, VP 816-294-7358

### KENTUCKY

**The Brand Cowboy Ministry-Mammoth Cave, KY**  
Chris Matthews, Pres. 270-597-6542

### LOUISIANA

**Riding For The Brand Cowboy Ministries-Loranger, LA**  
Chaplain Rick Ledoux, Pres. 985-878-6524

### MICHIGAN

**Great Lakes CFC-Coopersville, MI**  
Jim Hansen, Pres. 616-450-4887

**Heavenly Hoofbeats Chapter-Perry, MI**  
Chaplain Ron Squires, Pres. 517-675-1540  
Chaplain Claire Squires, VP 517-675-1540

### MINNESOTA

**Minn-Iowa Cowboys For Christ-Frost, MN**  
Judy Wiedemeier, Pres. 515-538-0109  
Kim Olson, VP 962-913-6936  
Cowboy Church: 1st Sunday each month-9am Jackson Livestock Sale Barn, Jackson, MN

**Bluff Country Chapter-Caledonia, MN**  
Chaplain Shane Buros, Pres. 507-450-3764

### MISSISSIPPI

**Tumbleweed Ministries Chapter-Ceaser, MS**  
Chaplain/Dr. David Terry, Pres. 601-337-1334  
Chris Brasington, VP 601-347-6699  
FSG Cowboy Church Sunday 10:00am

### MISSOURI

**Salvation Riders CFC-Lamar, MO**  
Jim Harrison, Pres. 417-682-9219  
David Eaves, VP 417-214-1239  
Fellowship: 1st & 3rd Sunday at 6pm at Memorial Hall

**God's Country Cowboy Chapter-West Plains, MO**  
Tony Smith, Pres. 417-274-4334  
Chaplain Laurie Smith, VP 417-274-4333

**Cotton Creek Chapter-Richmond, MO**

Chaplain Mike Stephens, Pres. 816-256-1403  
Bob Simmons, VP 816-776-2936  
email: [mike@cottoncreekchristianministry.org](mailto:mike@cottoncreekchristianministry.org)  
website: [www.cottoncreekchristianministry.org](http://www.cottoncreekchristianministry.org)  
First Monday at 7:00pm at 40794 E. 144th St., Richmond, MO  
Cotton Creek Cowboy Chapel 9:30 every Sunday

**Fellowship Of The Saddle-Holden, MO**  
Chaplain Mike Jackson, Director 816-506-4494

**Christian Horseman's Fellowship, Marble Hill, MO**  
Chaplain Pat Patterson, Pres. 636-485-8910

(Chapters continued on Page 14)

## **COWBOYS FOR CHRIST CHAPTER DIRECTORY**

(Continued from Page 13)

**Lone M Chapter, Lone Jack, MO**  
Chaplain Tom Brookshier,  
816-215-5424

**High Point Chapter, Holt, MO**  
Chaplain Jay Bettis, Pres.  
818-457-9004  
Doug Porter, VP 816-550-3285  
Meeting every Thursday High Point  
Arena 7:00pm

**Champions In Him Chapter-  
Poplar Bluff, MO**  
Chaplain T R Tibbs, Pres.  
573-429-6829

**Crowley Ridge Chapter, Dexter, MO**  
Chaplain Zach Zook, Pres.  
573-820-4127  
Chaplain Jason Williams, VP  
573-820-3554

**Bootheel Cowboy Chapter-  
Kennett, MO**  
Chaplain Kevin Swain, Pres.  
573-344-1405

### **MONTANA**

**Montana Cowboy Ministry-  
Roberts, MT**  
Chaplain TJ Cantin, Pres.  
406-794-2094  
Chaplain Linda Cantin, VP  
406-223-0099

### **NEVADA**

**Central Nevada Outreach-  
Austin, NV**  
Les Hornback, Pres. 775-934-9248

### **NEW MEXICO**

**Ride With Him Chapter-  
Las Cruces, NM**  
Chaplain David Price, Pres.  
915-240-4934  
James Eguire, VP 808-778-3099

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Heart of Carolina CFC-Clayton, NC**  
Cliff Lee, Pres. 919-553-6726  
Jerry Sprague, VP 919-365-9247  
Email: cleeconstruction@embarqmail.com

**NC Foothills CFC-Statesville, NC**  
Craig Deal, Pres. 704-873-3421  
Andrew Sams, VP 704-880-3661  
Email: craigdeal@bellsouth.net

**Cape Fear Chapter-Bladenboro, NC**  
Jack Johnson, Pres. 910-874-0171  
Gary Cashwell, VP 910-874-0613

**Northwest NC-Stoneville, NC**  
David Medlin, Pres. 336-253-6979

### **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Dakota CFC-Mandan, ND**  
Karen Hook, Pres. 701-391-4271  
Chris Heim, VP 701-663-7973  
Fellowship: 3rd Sunday of each month

### **OHIO**

**River Valley Chapter-Felicity, OH**  
Stephen Knipp, Pres. 513-218-1791  
Nicole Troxell, VP 513-312-4495

### **OKLAHOMA**

**Central OK CFC-Norman, OK**  
Chaplain Steve Womack, Pres.  
405-872-7329  
Carl Crisswell, VP 405-412-4614

**No Bull About Jesus Chapter  
Pocola, OK**  
Jamie Jones, Pres. 479-926-3242  
Wade Biggs, VP 479-522-0605 Prison,  
Jail and Recovery ministry

**Arbuckle Chapter-Ardmore, OK**  
Chaplain Danny Sherman, Pres.  
325-721-8660  
Chaplain Cheryl Sherman, VP  
972-802-5444

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**West Keystone CFC-New Castle, PA**  
Chaplain Dale Brenneman, Pres.  
724-924-2830  
Fellowship: 1st & 3rd Sundays/  
Call for times

**Silver Spurs Cowboy Church  
-Fawn Grove, PA**  
Chaplain Brad Rineholt, Pres.  
717-578-7294  
Jim Lewis, VP 443-417-3054

**CHAPS (Christian Horseman  
Always Planting Seeds)-  
Chambersburg, PA**  
Chaplain Joel Nupp, Pres.  
410-259-1301  
Chaplain Sheryl Nupp, VP  
443-557-8680

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Coastal Cowboys For Christ  
-Conway, SC**  
Buddy Smith, Pres. 843-397-9133  
Calvin Barfield, VP 843-365-5636  
Fellowship: 3rd Thursday of each  
month at Shoney's in Conway, SC

**Little Stevens Creek Baptist Church  
Chapter-Edgefield, SC**  
Rev. David Lyda, Pres. 864-201-9869  
Ted Nielsen, VP 863-634-3337

**White Horse Ministries Chapter  
-Gaffney, SC**  
David Blanton, Pres. 704-692-1093

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Center Of The Nation Chapter-Belle  
Fourche, SD**  
Fred Wilson, Pres. 605-645-1314  
Mike Fox, VP 605-641-0864

### **TENNESSEE**

**Round Up For Jesus Chapter  
-Morris Chapel, TN**  
Chaplain Steve Tankersley, Pres.  
731-607-1073  
Brenda Tankersley, VP 731-607-0871  
Cowboy Church: second Sunday -  
Morris Chapel Community Center  
10:30am

### **TEXAS**

**For His Glory CFC-Royce City, TX**  
John Clayton, Pres. 903-441-6975  
CFC Bible Study led by Dr. Dave Cel-  
lrella 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm at  
Rockwall Equine Center  
9385 CR 2432, Poetry, TX

**Hill Country Chapter-Wimberley, TX**  
Chaplain Harold Tannahill, Pres.  
979-578-3189

**Refuge Rodeo Ministry-  
Springtown, TX**  
Chaplain Clint Parker, Pres.  
817-584-4107  
Email: refugerodeoministry@gmail.com

**Cowboy Bible Fellowship  
-Blackwell, TX**  
Chaplain Tommy Tutt, Pres.  
325-743-2312  
Louise Summers, Sec/Tre  
325-743-5284

**North Texas Chapter-Decatur, TX**  
Kenny Cates, Director  
940-453-6941  
Derwin Tanner, Director  
940-300-3384

**Hollow Creek Ministry Chapter-  
Bulverde, TX**  
Chaplain Grant Smith, Pres.  
830-822-6030  
Julie Smith, VP 830-660-4508

**North Central Chapter-  
Weatherford, TX**  
Chaplain Wes Cummins, Pres.  
817-507-5816

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

**Ridin For The Brand CFC-  
Victor, WV**  
Chaplain Elbert Horrocks, Pres.  
304-658-9449  
George Hawkins, 304-658-4206

### **WISCONSIN**

**South Central Region Chapter-  
Baraboo, WI**  
Brian Barlow, Director 920-905-3551  
Chaplain Edward Singer, Director  
760-717-2640

## **INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS**

### **CANADA**

**Fallen But Forgiven Chapter, Grand  
Pointe, Manitoba**  
Chaplain Geoffrey Mackay, Pres.  
956-243-3412  
Chaplain Kim Burron, VP  
956-243-3412



## *A Living Memorial*

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**ISAAC RAY CARRIER**

**FROM:**

**CHUCK & JACKIE CARRIER**



### *My Testimony Continued*

to get closer to God, the devil already has you so he doesn't need to mess with you as much. As you move closer to God, the devil will create all the havoc he can to take your eyes off of Christ. In February of 2021, we were enjoying a day at our young boys' basketball games. We returned home to find our home on fire. As I pulled the truck in front of the house, I saw our neighbor from down the road kick our front door in and rush inside. I followed him to find the house full of smoke and flames. My neighbor, in a true act of courage was looking for any of my family who may be inside. Our house was a total loss. Once the fire was out, my wife and I went into what was left of the house to see if there was anything salvageable. On a bookshelf, less than 10 feet from where the fire started, I found a Bible a friend of mine had gifted me for my 40th birthday. Miraculously, it was undamaged. Only feet away from it, my wife's treadmill was completely melted and charred due to the flames and heat. I showed the Bible to my wife who was equally amazed by what we had found. Standing in the ashes of what had been our family home, Tara and I made the decision right then and there to turn the fire into a blessing. We were not going to allow the enemy to steal our hope and our faith. We made the declaration that we would be better off in one year to the day than we were on the morning before the fire started. One year later, God had provided us a new and better home! That's not to say the ol' devil isn't still trying to bring us down. Now just over two years after the fire, he's trying even harder. We've had people pull out in front of my wife causing an accident; twice! We've had health issues. Despite this, we remain steadfast and determined that the enemy will not win. He will not bring us down. For, as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!



## NORTHEAST COWBOYS FOR CHRIST GATHERING

September 22 - 24, 2023



Elkins Creek Horse Camp in Pedro, OH

**Event info:** [www.westkeystonecfc.com](http://www.westkeystonecfc.com)

**Reservations:** [www.elkinscreekhorsecamp.com](http://www.elkinscreekhorsecamp.com)

\*Daily Bible Study

\*Cowboy Church

\*Silent Auction

\*Concerts

\*Trail Riding in the Wayne National Forest

### NORTHERN INDIANA COWBOYS FOR CHRIST

## Trail Class Competition!

Yoder's Land & Cattle Co.

6445 N 1150 W

Shipshewana, IN 46565

**AUGUST 19, 2023**

**Registration Time: 8:00 am**

**Entry Fee: \$25 per entry**

**Divisions: Youth, Novice, Amateur, Open**

**QUESTIONS: WILLIE (574) 575-0451 OR ANDY (269) 779-8179**

**MINISTRY OF FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH OF NEW PARIS**





# COWBOY CHAPLAINS OF AMERICA



## ALABAMA

Mike Hardy – 256-431-7734

## ARIZONA

J. C. Shook – 294718  
Murphy Campbell – 183782

## ARKANSAS

Dr. Jessica Thompson -918-859-3396  
George Crumbly – 501-412-2234  
Patrick Kirby – 907-799-6031  
Josh Davis – 501-286-5531  
Sheila Burrows – 479-495-2938  
Johnny Burrows – 479-495-0959

## CALIFORNIA

Maurice Bork – D 16559  
Bobbi Dupertuis – 209-617-1746

## COLORADO

Bobby Cork, Jr – 720-409-9729

## DELAWARE

Dr. Doug Briggs - 302-379-6298

## FLORIDA

David Gillett - 813-789-0589  
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Maria Ford – 321-503-1330  
Wayne Walker – 352-949-1705  
Jeff Hucknall - 941-585-2446  
Jonathan Keen -863-325-5654  
Phyllis Godwin -904-723-0130  
Harry Godwin -904-588-3317  
John Johnson -423-331-8221  
Stephen Bissell – 813-714-9193  
Craig Mullin – 863-885-1705  
Jay McCracken – 570-507-2752

## GEORGIA

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T W Lawrence – 404-374-9269  
Cindy Kenner - 706-970-3746  
Rosalyn Boren – 770-328-0863  
Frankie Matthews – 770-853-9624

## HAWAII

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Zhanell Lindo – 808-658-1334

## IDAHO

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Wade Black –208-859-3624  
Amaia Black – 208-859-3624  
Casey McGehee – 208-721-3500

## INDIANA

Sandy Baker - 812-621-0294  
Stanley Pugh - 765-398-8628  
Kim Hostetler - 574-575-0452  
Willie Hostetler - 574-575-0451  
Kelly Miller – 260-330-5714  
Orlin Miller – 574-361-2209  
Jeffery Walls – 765-553-1056  
Bonnie Walls – 765-431-8701

## IOWA

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Rosalee Russell - 641-208-6450  
Randy Crew - 641-289-0136

## KANSAS

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Joseph Smith – 316-706-2615  
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Judy Twombly – 816-294-7358  
James Hathaway – 913-213-0185  
LaHonna Shelby – 785-559-0773

## KENTUCKY

Barry Bivens – 270-316-3318  
Alan Bivens – 270-929-3207  
Charles Powers – 859-333-5328  
Christ Matthews – 270-597-6542

## LOUISIANA

Rick LeDoux - 985-878-6524  
Wanda LeDoux - 985-507-8616  
Gerald Kelly - 318-282-3516  
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David Chenevert - 095250  
Raymond Flank - 110756  
Leander Gallet - 70712  
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Clarence Frederick -121926  
Ellzey Crossley - 344739  
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Kevin Rowe – 940-229-9957

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## MINNESOTA

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## MISSISSIPPI

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Shane Evetts – 662-415-1947

## MISSOURI

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Melissa Wagner - 816-390-7551  
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Mike Jackson - 816-506-4494  
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Theresa Anderson - 573-673-6042

Tim Anderson - 573-353-4577  
Trinity Cox – 660-654-2716  
Dr. Phil Holcomb – 620-404-9386  
Justine Barb – 660-723-5414

## MONTANA

Timothy 'TJ' Cantin - 406-794-2094  
Linda Cantin - 406-223-0099  
Mike Wendlandt - 406-698-4166  
Newton Old Crow, Sr. - 406-620-3215

## NEBRASKA

Tom Youngquist - 308-787-1715  
Connie Dringman - 402-583-0085  
Dennis Dringman - 402-583-0085

## NEW MEXICO

David Price – 915-240-4934  
Bill Hurt - 806-239-4296

## NEW YORK

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## NORTH CAROLINA

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Brandon Bridges — 1375168  
Adam Stroud – 704-621-2719  
Robert Stroupe - 704-675-1958

## OHIO

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Gerald Daniels – 580-920-5625  
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Johnie Brown – 918-520-9621  
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Karen Lee – 918-894-7106  
Dave McMillan – 724-289-0153  
Carol Steffler – 724-758-6255  
Steve Richmond – 724-372-0490

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Jeff Dellinger - 864-490-5454  
Kelly Mason – 803-298-9000

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Bill Wood - 605-639-9401

## TENNESSEE

Steve Tankersley - 731-607-1073  
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Jeremy Jones – 731-610-4414

## TEXAS

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Clint Parker - 817-584-4107

Dennis Lewis - 254-205-3188

Tommy Tutt - 325-669-2717  
Garland Matlock - 936-776-2491  
Harold Tannahill - 979-578-3187  
James Frazier - 469-410-2699  
Manuel Cuevas - 683-248-8036  
Billy Reed – 325-721-3096  
Omar Stiefer – 214-601-5376  
Nancy Stiefer – 903-330-1122  
Brandon Mercer – 817-408-0100  
Deb Toli – 727-667-1889  
Arron Toli – 727-204-9009  
Ken Nicolas – 512-585-9919  
Deb Nicolas – 512-848-8632  
James Bowman - 554132  
Grant Smith - 830-822-6030  
Greg Grout - 817-996-0176  
Ian Duncan - 817-345-1307  
Mike Campbell - 940-577-1385  
Mike Collins - 817-210-8298  
Charles Green – 210-300-9582  
Leslie Goolsby – 214-202-6119  
Helen Junell – 806-683-4993  
Donna Delegram – 830-515-2813  
Vanessa Clark – 210-330-1124  
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Dave Granade – 210-919-0089  
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Greg Malone - 903-312-3224  
Pat Henley – 817-966-8854  
Eric Norvell – 720-616-3587  
Rick Smith – 940-368-0034  
Dennis Sonsel – 830-263-4289  
Susie Thompson – 903-905-1807  
Wes Cummins – 817-507-5816  
Judd Treat – 214-325-8040  
Steven Thomas – 940-765-1756  
Tina Perkins – 817-793-1055  
Dale Long – 817-994-2722  
Dr Rand Certain – 469-671-6078  
Tommy Hutchins – 1853351  
Anthony Ramsey – 1470982  
Greg Connolly – 469-995-9995  
Lainey Franklin – 210-789-1649  
Jeff Bolin – 281-468-9925  
James Hooter Eaton – 832-292-3385

## VIRGINIA

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Jesse Bowman – 804-450-4081  
Frank Hillyard – 540-532-9536

## WEST VIRGINIA

Elbert Horrocks - 304-719-9982  
Tammy Burton – 304-482-0538

## WISCONSIN

Kaye Forystek - 920-434-7434  
Edward Singer - 760-717-2640

## WYOMING

Bill Ostrander -307-286-7517

## INTERNATIONAL CHAPLAINS

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