Volume 49. Number 1

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

1st Quarter 2025

Cowboys For Christ Partners with East Coast Equine Ministry

by Chaplain Jesse Bowman

Located on 50 acres in beautiful Western Hanover, Virginia, Wings of Hope Ranch is a Christian-based ministry pairing rescued horses with children and teens facing challenges, free of charge. Co-Founder of Wings of Hope, Alison Boyd is also the inspiration, creator and all round get it done leader of the East Coast Equine Ministry Clinic. Alison invited Cowboys For Christ to participate in the clinic in 2023 and again in 2024. The clinic, held each fall for the last nine years, continues to grow and attract people who are involved with using horses in ministering to those who are hurting, lost, or in need of a spiritual connection. Cowboys For Christ set up a table and met with participants throughout the three-day event. Chaplains Jesse Bowman, (Virginia) and Roxie and Cary Stultz, (Pennsylvania) attended. Cary was all smiles when he showed me his Cowboys For Christ Chaplain Belt Buckle he recently received. Cary and I had discussions at last year's event about becoming a Chaplain and both he and his wife Roxie answered the call by becoming chaplains! Commenting on the event, Alison said, "I think the Lord has busted



out any preconceived boundaries of what the East Coast Ranch Ministry Clinic is. His plans are so much greater than ours! In our 9th year He has called people to fellowship and learn from all over the United States and now beyond, from places as far away as Peru, Canada, and Australia. He is assembling a team of wranglers for Christ who are corralling people all over the world with ranch style ministries. This year we had 50 speakers, 50 volunteers and over 130 attendees representing 55 ministries around the globe. We fed on God's Word, gleaned from each other's testimonies and wisdom, relished our

time in praise and worship and shouldered each other's burdens in prayer. Can't wait to see what the Lord has planned for our 10th anniversary event next fall! "In addition to the variety of topics covered by the presenters, folks joined in praise and worship throughout the clinic. The Refuge Praise Band from Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch in Bend Oregon provided inspiring music, testimony and spirit filled praise. The band had people on their feet, raising their voices and their hands in worshiping our awesome God all weekend! Band members who made the cross-country trip were Troy Meeder, Max Clark, Sarah Robinett, Keri Close and Kate Johnson. Sunday morning Cowboy Church stirred our hearts. filled our minds and fed our souls, as the Word of God was opened by Pastor Gerald Castlebury from the Cross Branded Cowboy Church. Thanks be to God; the 2024 clinic was an outstanding success. Alison has already begun planning for the 2025 10-year anniversary. If you are using horses in ministry. or considering doing so in the future, this is a clinic to keep on your radar. Check in with www.wingsofhoperanch.org, or East Coast Ranch Ministry Clinic and Fellowship, www. Facebook.com/eastcoastranchministryclinic, for details of the 2025 event.

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Glory Reins Ranch Celebrates 15th Year

by Chaplain Jesse Bowman

Glory Reins Ranch, located near Farmville, Virginia, has been serving the heart of Virginia for fifteen years. Everything and everyone connected with the ranch points those who visit directly to Jesus. Cowboys For Christ was invited to share in the celebration, and celebrate we did! Beginning with the parade of ponies Saturday afternoon, the enthusiastic crowd learned about each horse in the herd and were able to meet them up close and personal. Younger kids then showed their skills in the arena, galloping along in horse stick races, and enjoyed a tractor pulled train ride around the arena. After giving thanks to God for the perfect weather, the success of the previous season and the support and fellowship of the volunteers and community, everyone enjoyed a terrific bar-b-que dinner with all the trimmings. The delicious food fueled everyone up for the hoedown dancing in the main arena. Young and old alike literally kicked up a dust storm dancing for several hours under the lights as horses grazed in the adjacent field. On Sunday morning folks were treated to a hot breakfast with homemade biscuits and gravy, cooked up by farrier JW Stafinski in the Heartbeat Barn. I was blessed to be

able to bring my wife and daughter to enjoy both days of the celebration, and to deliver the message during Cowboy Church right after breakfast. Before and after the message, folks were led in wonderful praise music by the Gallub family of Farmville. A Cowboys For Christ table was set up and many people received the Christian Ranchman, tracts and bumper stickers. As one volunteer said so well, Glory Reins Ranch is truly a remarkable and inspiring place. The ranch operates on Christian principles and its mission is to provide solace and healing to people who are hurting and lost. Using horses, and a prevailing atmosphere of tranquility and safety, owners Kevin and Robin Warren ensure that no one pays a single dime for their time at the ranch. From a girls Bible study, to equine assisted learning activities, each session is free to the participants and the ranch runs only on the generosity of others. A wonderful cadre of dedicated volunteers bring their own special touch to making Glory Reins Ranch a place of healing. It is evident in the comments made by those who have participated in the activities at the ranch during the past season. "He was the horse who helped me, when I came my heart was broken." "I'm going to call them what Adam named them, Horse." And the one that caught my heart, "When I am with them ponies, I smile from the inside out."

These are just a few of the positive comments made by those that have visited Glory Reins Ranch. Another volunteer stated that the fruit of the spirit, joy, was her payback for volunteering at the ranch. I was blessed for sure to deliver the message God placed on my heart Sunday morning. However, in return, I came away from the weekend with an example of authentic Christian love and caring, selfless dedication and service to others. The humility of true service to others through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ was evident in everyone working

and volunteering at the ranch. God willing, Glory Reins Ranch will experience their sixteenth year serving the heart of Virginia and Cowboys For Christ will be back to celebrate another year with these dedicated and humble servants.

Cowboys Fellowship Ministry Report

by Jennifer Gouldsmith

Cowboy Fellowship in Richmond, Missouri, feels the Spirit moving amongst our church! We just finished up an amazing campout that culminated with a 5th Sunday service, music from Sonshine Road Ministry, fellowship, amazing food, and with the baptism of 10. We set up Friday night and had beautiful weather for the end of September. We had a constant fire going with rings of chairs, and the beauty of God was on full display with the colors of the changing trees.

Our church family solidified the meaning of family. We ate as one, we served each other, we prayed together, and we all watched the children run through the joint campgrounds. It was a small taste of what the Kingdom will look like.



We were able to walk through the campgrounds and invite others to our service on Sunday, ask if they would like Bibles, or even to join us at any time. Everywhere we go, we want to welcome people and be an example of Jesus.

(Continued on Page 3)





Cowboys Fellowship Continued

When Sunday came, you could feel the excitement in the air. Those of us who were being baptized were ready to rush into the 58-degree water. You could feel the Holy Spirit in the air and coming alive in the people. Much joy and celebration arose with each new disciple.

We all made it back to the campsite to be joined with the congregation of Hickory Grove Baptist Church and the message given by Lynn Rogers, of the same. The music from Sonshine Road was heard across the campground and we ended with a magnificent meal.

Although we had such fun and fellowship, we can't forget that baptism is a serious commitment. It is more than an outward symbol of an internal commitment. It is a deeply meaningful covenant between our Lord and us. These baptismal candidates, and some that were already baptized, attended 2 sessions with Chaplain Mike Stephens, our minister.

Big changes should occur once we are baptized. We are now walking ambassadors and representatives of the Trinity. Physically, emotionally, and mentally, we are accountable. What people must see in us is a living Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 says,3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Baptism opened a whole new set of keys to the Kingdom. We unlocked what we already had inside of us when we made our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit. This gives us a testimony. We are commanded to make new disciples, and we use our testimony to do this.

Matthew 28:19-20 says,"19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the

very end of the age."

worship service.

We at Cowboy Fellowship have accepted this and are excited to watch the Kingdom work through us.

Our next event will be with Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Brothers and Sisters in Christ is an organization that includes many local churches. They will be hosting a Harvest Celebration for the community.

It will be the end of the harvest for our local farming community. It is a time to come together and celebrate all that God has given us and to form relationships throughout the community. They will serve a traditional Thanksgiving type meal, free to the community, and praise music. It will be on Saturday, November 9th from 11am to 3 pm at the American Legion Building, 312 Clark St, Richmond, Missouri. This event has traditionally been well received and gives us another way to minister to our community. On December 29th we will have Rodney and Cindy Hyatt of H20 to complement our

Testimony

by Jonas Rambo

Throughout my whole life people has mentioned to me how much of a leader I am. From peewee football, to middle school football, to high school football and up until my incarceration I believed it, because I was the captain of my teams. Then my life took a turn for the worst, and I found myself in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, serving a 25-year sentence. The year was 2008 and I wouldn't be eligible for parole until 2020.

So, the next year, 2009 I started doing things that didn't fit my character. I found myself in seg-confinement, locked in a cell for 23 hours a day. My mother came to visit me and the officer had to unshackle me in front of her, and she cried, because I looked like a caged animal. After nine months of being in seg, I made a promise to my mother and myself....never again.

Once I was released from seg, I was shipped off to another unit, and I signed up for my GED, HVAC trade, and many other classes.

All the way up to 2020. So, with everything that I've done and completed I knew that I was going to be released. And my mother was still saying the same thing. "Son, you are a leader. You are going to be a minister, someday." And so, I went to the unit parole board, and they gave me three years set off. My world was crushed, because I felt that I've done everything that was in my power. Then the next day one of the field ministers said, next month you'll be teaching the preaching class. I knew at that point what God wanted me to do. So, I attended the preaching class.

After that I became the unit mentor, and thanks to Warden Jennifer Cozby and me hearing God's voice, in 2023 the unit parole board granted me a release date. And it didn't stop there, God allowed me to do ministry with Chaplain Tommy Tutt. For two years we have been working together and I was introduced to Cowboys For Christ. And that is how the Lord brought me to this beautiful point in my life.

NEEDED: HORSE` SHOW CHAPLAINS

If you are called to serve the Lord in the Horse Show World, we have a great need for Horse Show Chaplains to take the Word to the Cowboys and Cowgirls at Horse Shows of all Breeds. Please Call Dave to talk about how you can start in this amazing ministry!

817-236-0023 or cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.org

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

Cowboys For Christ, Thank you for the Bibles! Please accept this donation to your wonderful ministry. We continue to pray for those who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Thank you for shining a light! Jan in Nebraska (Continued on Page 4)

Letters to the Editor Continued

Dear Friends, thank you for sending a Bible to my granddaughter, that meant a lot to me. You have no idea; my heart goes out to you all. I'm sending a little something to help the next person that is in need of a Bible. It's not much, I just wish it could be more. I don't get any more support from outside. My only support passed away not long ago and I know that my sister is in good hands now. Anyway, I just want to say that I do believe in what you all are doing and it's a blessing to have people like you all in this world. Keep up the good work and may God bless you always. Your friend in Christ, Cecil in Louisiana

Cowboys For Christ, I received this flyer (The Ride) a few years back at a bull riding in Huron, SD from a man I didn't know. I laid it on my gear bag with some other literature. Since then, I have been struggling with some old habits and past injuries. I really want to come back to rodeoing mentally, physically and most importantly Spiritually stronger than ever before. And being a positive advocate for how Christ help turn my life around. I love the work y'all are doing, so here's a donation to keep it going and if at all possible, could you send me some Cowboys For Christ stickers for my ridding vest and to hand out to friends. Thanks, and may God bless you, Tristan in Illinois

Cowboys For Christ, it is my hope this check will help somebody learn about God's love, like I did many years ago. It changed me as a person for the better, and gave me a reason to keep living to serve my fellow man. God bless you all, Will in Ohio

Cowboys For Christ, to whom makes the Christian Ranchman possible. Greetings, I am writing in regards to an address change. I have moved again and wish not to miss a single issue of the inspirational message of God Word, if at all possible. I find a lot of inspiration in what you publish. It's not watered down, it's straight to the point and no holds barred. I have been receiving the

Christian Ranchman paper for several years and always look forward to the next copy. I always read it twice, then I share it with others. I have sent several to an old cowboy and his wife in Montana. Please keep them coming, okay. Thank you, to all that make this possible. Each of you and your families are always in my thoughts and prayers. Keep up the awesome work! I pray God's blessings upon y'all always. Sincerely, your brother in Christ always, James in Texas

Greetings, just a short note to let you know that the Mr. & Ms. Community Breakfast Group and attendees have voted to share part of its love offering with your Bible Drive. We are located in Clay Center Kansas where Cowboys For Christ has a chapter. Thank you for your work in bringing Christ to the people.

Cowboys For Christ, we have received the Christian Ranchman for years. Thanks. Retired on the ranch we own thirty years ago; we are both in fair health and about ninety years old. Your work for the Bible and Jesus has been exceptional. God bless you to continue your work. Jim & Frances in Texas

Greetings in Jesus' Name, we really enjoying reading the Christian Ranchman for many years. Such a blessing to see how God is working in our cowboy community? Enclosed is a donation towards the 60,000 Bible Drive. God bless y'all at CFC, Danny in Florida

Cowboys For Christ, please send me the ERV Bible. Thank you for the ministry you do to share Christ. Kathy in North Carolina

Dear Cowboys For Christ, I was given your information to write to request a ERV Bible. My name is Lace and I'm currently incarcerated at the Crain Unit in Gatesville Texas, serving a 15yr sentence. I've had a King James Study Bible for close to 2 years, but I can read it all day long and don't understand what it is saying or means. So, I hope and pray that you able to send me

an ERV Bible. I want to learn the Word of God, but truly want to understand and know it in my heart. Thank you so very much in advance! Blessings to y'all, Lace in Texas

Cowboys For Christ, I have finished my Bible study; 1-2-3 and I am sending the letter you requested. I have been given an out date, but I would so love to continue my studies at home. Please send my certificate to my home address. Sincerely, Concilla in Virgina PS thank you for the beautiful Bible.

Dear Dave, please apply this to your Bible Fund. Thanks for the Christian Ranchman. I've been with Chaplain Fellowship ministering for several years, serving in several military organizations as a volunteer. I am a cowboy at heart, just never been one. I think your Bible program is great. Blessings, Mike in Texas

Cowboys For Christ, Good morning, I would like to be put on the free cowboy paper mailing list and a free Bible (ERV). Thank you and blessing always, Zaida in Alabama

Off the Trail

by Chaplain Ed Singer

This past September, I had the opportunity to participate in a 42-person trail ride in Utah. The countryside was beautiful and awe-inspiring. We split into two groups and each group had two guides. Riders came from five states; two came from as far away as Delaware. To see all those riders moving up and down the switchbacks among the beautiful red rock formations was an unforgettable experience. But this article is about what happened off the trail.

After the first night's supper in the large, finished barn, we all brought our chairs into the center of the floor. Everyone introduced themselves and said a few words to let people know a bit about them. It was an open microphone; you could say where you're from, how long you've been riding, who you were here with, or what you did for a living.

(Continued on Page 5)

Off the Trail Continued

I was about halfway down the circle.

Several riders had medical backgrounds or jobs. Some were nurses, medical techs or physical therapists. When my turn came, I said: "One thing you should know about me, is that I'm a cowboy chaplain. I've been ordained by Cowboys for Christ. If you get hurt on the ride and the medical folks can't help, then maybe I can." Well, this got a pretty good laugh and I thought that was the end of it.

Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised, but during the week, two riders came to me privately, for counseling! That's right. They approached me asking the big questions; one of them being: "Why does God allow suffering in the world?" He was specifically asking about a four-year old niece with a terminal illness.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I was not prepared for this. What does one say to a person who is hurting so bad? You can toss out all the cliché's like "we live in a fallen world" or "everything happens for a reason." Those tired sayings work when it's about someone you don't know who is far away. Those responses don't work so well when it's your pain or loss, or someone is sincerely and directly asking you about a situation.

While I answered the best I could, and let the Holy Spirit be my guide, I knew I fell short. I knew that my walk didn't need a new direction, it needed new enthusiasm. I needed to pick up the pace in the same way if you pick up the pace on a treadmill, over time you will grow stronger. I needed to pray, read, and meditate on God's word. What did I learn from all this? God is still God. Jesus did it all on the cross. But every Christian can offer a sympathetic ear to a brother or sister. You don't have to be "in ministry". But chaplains or pastors are explicitly recognized as teachers, leaders and as God's representative. We all should be ready with open hearts and open ears to respond to God's promptings.

My encouragement to you, new Christian, long-time believer, pastor or chaplain, is to make yourself known to others. Be willing to take the chance. Be available to bear with

those in pain and celebrate the victories. Our God is a mighty God. His Spirit will guide you on the trail. And may we be known by how we love one another!

Letter and Testimony

by Joseph "Adam" Vaughn

Cowboys For Christ, I deeply appreciate the Bible and the Christian Ranchman. It would be nice to continue to get them; the testimonies are hope! I am working on the Living Under His Wings course. I am housed in Franklin County Jail and I am new to studying the Scripture. Even newer at learning discipline. I am unsure of what I face in terms of time, however; I am learning to be "free" while I am here. The purpose of this letter is really just to say, thank you. I am grateful for the care you show for people in my position. I applaud you and look forward to future correspondence. Sincerely Adam

My Testimony

Rock bottom hurts! I sit here and look back over my choices in my adult life; I can clearly see how I've ended up here. I used, misused and abused everyone and everything in my life. It's no wonder I ended up broken and alone. I've fought my entire life to manipulate and control my life. I have used drugs and my loved ones until I have no where left to turn. I sit here and cry so often it's crazy. I stand, my back to the wall with nowhere to turn. Ending up here has been my own doing. What now?

Now, I pick up the one book I've ran from; the Holy Bible, the only friend I have left. I hit the books daily, I work out, I pray, I hope this is it; I have faith He can fix me; I love enough to let go of all things. With all that my life has been I only hope that I can make amends. I'm here content with what I have, most of the time. I suffer depression in a major way. I am going through the loss of my wife and family and every comfort I had. Reality, I am locked up again, truth; I've never known freedom, before now. While I can look at every negative; this is simply the turning of a page. I am trying a new walk and have found a peace I've never known.

(Continued on Page 6)



A Living Memorial

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

JEANIE EVERETT

FROM:

MIKE & KAREN COWAN

MIKE BRAZIL FAMILY

BOB BRAZIL FAMILY

CHAFFEE COUNTY CATTLEMANS ASSOC.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

JAMES H LUEDERS

FROM:

MRS JAMES H LUEDERS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

DAVID L BRANHAM

FROM:

SHANE BRANHAM

SHAWNA MURLIN

Letter and Testimony Continued

I thank Cowboys For Christ for their quick response. I think Christ for sacrificing his life for me. I thank God for his patience and love. I'm blessed to be sat down, to learn my lesson.

Letter

from Edwin Baty

Dear Cowboys For Christ, I wanted to let you know that I have completed the three Bible Study booklets that you sent. If you have any more, please send, as well as any reading material. I think you should know y'all have a Chaplain named Garland Matlock out of Liberty Texas, who is and was an officer (guard) who was in the county jail the evening I can in. He could tell that I was in a deep dark hole. I didn't see or seem to have any way out or so I thought. That was May 2, 2022. Well, that is just a part of the story for me, and because of him and Jesus, there is more of my story. I accepted Jesus into my heart on July7, 2022 with Matlock leading me. He also had me write my life story, which he has the only original copy left. The other copy was destroyed when I got to TDCJ (Texas Department of Criminal Justice.) I am proud to say my story is not over and I owe it all to Jesus Christ and Mr. Garland Matlock. I know, without a doubt I would not be alive today if it wasn't for them. Thank you and God bless.

Norco Chapter Report

by Chaplain Bruce Smith

Things out here are continuing to grow, as our group makes more and more inroads into the horse community in this area. We are continuing to meet regularly and the next event is a city Christmas Parade of Lights where we will be entering a trailer pulled by an old Ford tractor. The trailer will be decorated with lights and our Cowboys for Christ banners and display a nativity scene. Some members of our group will ride on the trailer and the rest of us will be walking along side. Our message is Jesus is the reason for the season while a speaker on the trailer plays a recording of Linus

from Charlie Brown Christmas reading the Christmas message from Luke.

I just want to tell you that God keeps using me, stretching me and teaching me. I was invited by the mayor to deliver the opening invocation at the State of the City Address last month, the opening prayer the Rotary Car Show and the benediction at our beautiful Veteran's Memorial at the celebration on Veteran's Day.

Our group has a trail ride coming up that is going to be on a poker ride format. But instead of collecting a poker hand of cards at the stops, the riders will draw cards with bible verses on them. At the end, we are going to draw matching bible verses to determine the winner. Most of the verses will be from Romans and "The Romans Road." A combination of the verses will be read and a short devotional will be presented followed by prayer and an alter call. We hope and pray that many will have this message of salvation touch their hearts and they will give their lives to Jesus.

God bless you, Dave. And may you and yours have a wonderful, blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season filled with joy, love and good health. In the meantime, here are some more names to add to the Christian Ranchman mailing list.

A Cowboy Chaplain is called to serve the MOST HIGH GOD and fulfill the commission from our **LORD** in Mark 16:15. That commission is to "GO" and Cowboy Chaplains accept that calling to "GO" wherever and whenever possible to proclaim, to witness, to reach out to the lost. The Eternal Salvation of those ministered to must remain the constant and sustaining goal of a Cowbov Chaplain. As the Chaplain cares for their concerns, seeks to comfort their hurting and be of service to them there must be a strong desire for them to come to know **JESUS CHRIST** as their **SAVIOR** and LORD. If you feel led by the LORD to be a Cowboy Chaplain, please contact us! Email: cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.org

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Dr. Dave Harvey, President/Editor
David Harvey III, Media Director
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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...

ONE LOST SHEEP

As I was reading and studying God's Holy Word in Luke 15:3-5 about the parable of the lost sheep, who had wandered from the flock. It struck me that the sheep was part of the flock, and had been safe and protected and was being watched over by the shepherd. The lost sheep had left the shepherd and had wandered out into the world. That thought really hit me hard, because I am sure guilty of that fact, because of wanting to do things my own way and wandering out into the world. I guess that there are many reading this that can relate to this situation that I will call the "wandering sheep syndrome."

Really the whole chapter of Luke 15 is dedicated to the teaching of Jesus about leaving the fold, being lost or willfully leaving the "family of God" to do "your own thing." The lost coin was once in the bag, in safety and was secure with all of the other coins, but for some reason that coin became separated from the rest and was lost. The prodigal son, not only left his father, but he took his wealth and wandered off into the world to have fun, completely ignorant of the pitfalls and dangers that were waiting for him. So, maybe I should call it the "lost coin syndrome" or the "prodigal son syndrome" because it doesn't matter what we call it, they all mean the same. That we are wandering, lost, or running away from the Lord and his safety and protection, and usually totally unaware of the adversary waiting for us to rob, steal and destroy. John 10:10a The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: We sure like the safety, comfort and peace of being watched over by the Shepherd, but sometime the world will distract us and we will lose our focus and before we know it, we are wandering far from the Shepherd. It is not like we plan to take off or that we are trying to get away from the flock or the safety and peace of the Shepherd. It is just that we are not watching, not on our guard and certainly not drawing close to the Shepherd. We totally forget that there is a spiritual battle going on and that we are the target. When we are tired, worn, unprepared and weak, that is always a cue for the adversary to strike. I Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

There is one thing that we must all be aware of; and that is that the adversary is not particular of who he comes after and no one, and I mean no one is exempt. God's Holy Word is there for us all of the time, but we must study and pray and be on guard to offset these attacks. You can be sure that they will come and we have so many illustrations of how they came and who was affected in the Holy Word of God. Which means that we have plenty of warnings, most are from start to finish examples and many true life stories of how this spiritual war has been played out over the centuries.

Psalms 51 is the response of King David to his "wandering" and since King David is a "man after God's own heart" I think it would be good for us to learn from him and how he reacted when he was caught in the trap of the adversary or drawn away by the flesh. I think the first thing that struck me is that King David didn't try to blame someone else, like Adam did when he told God that "the woman that you gave me" caused my problem. I don't think that worked out so good for him or us. So, it is important to confess our sins and short comings and especially our "wandering." If we do sin or are awaken to our faults, we sure have a promise from the Lord that will stand the test of time and wanderings. And we need to activate that promise immediately. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

That is just what King David did in Psalm 51, he cried out to the Lord for forgiveness and mercy. He recognized his sins and proclaimed that he had sinned against the Holy Father, the Holy Son and the Holy Spirit and he humbly begged for forgiveness. So many of us like to justify our thoughts and actions by some fleshly excuses instead of admitting our sins and falling before the Throne of Grace to beg for forgiveness and mercy. We need to remember that we have a great High Priest setting at the right hand of the Holy Father who is always our representative. He is not only the Son of God, but HE has paid the penalty for our sins with his own blood. I especially love verse: "Ps 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." These verses certainly should be a prayer that we all can lift up the Holy Father knowing that he will hear, and that our glorious High Priest and Savior is there to plead our case.

In fact, let us all pray that prayer to get rid of the weight of the sins that are so encumbering to us as we go through our daily lives. Those sins restrict our thoughts, cause hurt and trouble our heart, keep us from the Holy Father and bind our usefulness to the building of the Kingdom. I know that we all want to be fruitful servants to our Lord and without the weight of those sins we can go on to do great things for him. Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, please create in me a pure heart, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Please draw me close to you and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Please restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me, to serve you and to walk close to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

1 ane



OWBOYS FOR CHRIST





Specialty Items

The Following Items Are Free:

Tracts (put quantity requested on line)

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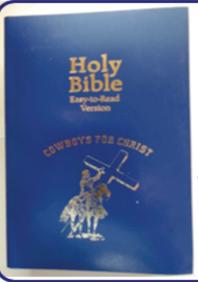
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Please see our website, CowboysForChrist.org to donate to our Bible fund! We are raising money to order an additional 22,500 Bibles to give away to any who ask for a Bible to bring us to 60,000 Bibles!

Dena Whitney Ordination

by Chaplain Dave Harvey

A whirl-wind of ministry and great times starting with the Ordination of Cindy LaChance on Dec 9 in Garner North Carolina, which led to the Ordination of Dena Whitney on December 15 in Mountain City, Tennessee. It was a cold and wet day traveling to the mountains of east Tennessee to Dena and Shawn's mountain top home just outside of Mountain City. Dena had gathered a group of friends and neighbors for the special occasion of her being ordained as a Chaplain with Cowboys For Christ. I was so very blessed to share Gods' Holy Word and officiate at Dena's ordination. It may have been raining and windy outside, but the Son shone very brightly on the inside of their beautiful home in the setting of the mountains of eastern Tennessee. Dena has already started a very much needed and necessary ministry which is reflected on her background as a nurse. God bless her as she goes to share Gods' love and to all of our Chaplains, as they touch lives for Jesus Christ.



James Boyd Ordination

by Chaplain Tommy Tutt

On November 10, 2024, the Robertson Unit hosted a Cowboys for Christ – Cowboys Chaplains of America Ordination Service for Brother James Boyd. Cowboy Chaplain & CVCA Tommy Tutt officiated the service with assistance of Cowgirl Chaplain Tina

Perkins. Cowboy Chaplains Chester Bell IV and Derome Patterson were invited to share exhortations, and Cowgirl Chaplain Tina Perkins welcomed James Boyd into the Cowboys for Christ ministry with words of encouragement. Also in attendance were fellow Cowboy Chaplains; Tony Ramsey, Tommy Hutchins, Quentin Henry, Donald Kennebrew, and Guy Graves. All present joined hands in laying a prayer over James Boyd. After the service was completed, James Boyd was presented with a belt buckle and a plaque with his Certificate of Ordination.

Following the ordination service, everyone celebrated and reflected on the day. The month of November marked two years since the inception of the Cowboys for Christ ministry at the Robertson Unit, starting with inmate Chaplains Tony Ramsey and Tommy Hutchins in November 2022. Both of these men were asked to share a few words with the newly ordained chaplain, as well as the other five Cowboy Chaplains here at Robertson. Prior to James Boyd's Ordination, there had been a total of seven men ordained as Cowboy Chaplains dubbed the "Magnificent Seven" by their mentor Tommy Tutt. Cowboy Chaplain James Boyd will therefore be known as "Ocho", until leaving the Robertson Unit and being released on parole in the near future.

The Cowboy Chaplains of the Robertson UnitwishtoshareaspecialthankstoWarden Cozby, the Robertson Administration and Staff, and Cowgirl Chaplain Tina Perkins for the support and service to this program. We also thank Brother Robert Kessler for the photography and Little Italy Restaurant for their assistance with the food for this event. May God Bless You All!

"Ride courageously for me and you won't regret it" - Luke 21:19





My Testimony

by Chaplain James Boyd

My coming to Christ is going to sound like a motion picture, but it's my reality and its evidence that God is amazingly full of grace and mercy!

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 31, 1988 at Cook County Hospital to my mother, Annette Boyd. She was a very adventurist woman and her and my aunt travelled to Las Vegas, where she got pregnant with me and my twin, Jason. My biological father tricked her with cunning lies that made her return to Vegas from Chicago. Because he manipulated her young mind, that they were going to be together, just for her to be betrayed! Betrayal was known by me and was my first, middle and last name!

At the young age of 11 years old, I was pulled into the life of crime, which was called the game. I started gang banging, material lusting. Pimp living caught my eye and I was zealous for them both and told my self I would be the greatest of all times. I was shot at 3 times and I started my jail career and have been in and out of jail ever since.

At fourteen I met my first kid's mother, Valencia Webb and she was my Delilah and I was her Samson, because she betrayed me and took my strength. One devastating night, my son, James Boyd Jr. fell between the wall and suffocated while we were asleep.

(Continued on Page 10)

Boyd Testimony Continued

I tried to commit suicide. I couldn't handle the funeral preparations, I paid for it all and left things for her to handle. When the eulogy was read the minister said that my son, James Boyd, Jr. lived with mother and father, Larry Eshay Sears! Betrayed, and my hatred for women started and every woman I came across was a harlot and I was their pimp. The devil began to sift me like wheat and I heard other men say, "if the woman won't work (prostitute) they won't eat." (A twist on God's anointed Word through Paul.) I walked out that lie, as the truth.

A pimp had a stable (prostitutes) that depended on him for food, shelter, guidance and protection. There was a Pastor in the community named, Pastor Wilkins that called me a pastor that was covered in sinful attire with all the gadgets. and I asked him, "how so?" I have all of this: guns, drugs, gang-colored bandanas (red/blood gang) and I told him I was a pimp and showed him my stable. He told me the devil is a liar and said, "you are a pastor!" Which means you are a shepherd that has a flock and they are dependent on you to provide: food, shelter, guidance and protection. He told me of the greatest Shepherd, Jesus Christ, that laid down his life on a cross that paid for my sins, so I would not have too!

But!!! I ignored him and pursued the sin and it sent me to the pen, where I got locked in solitary and God became so real. I'm serving time for 3 counts of: "compelling prostitution by fraud, force and injury" as one of the girls was 17. While I was there, I had my Damascus experience and Jesus showed me my purpose! I'm a pastor to the mavericks; not a pimp! 6 of the 16 women left the life from my departure and me preaching the Gospel of Jesus!! They now have jobs, beautiful families, children and they are no longer "team flesh, they are team Jesus." All praise to God! I'm head pastor at G4/G5 church, the hard heads, or as we say: "The Mavericks." I'm a part of saving souls; that's my goal, by introducing them to Jesus!! He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and this is my testimony.



Chaplains Tommy Hutchens, Tony Ramsey, Chester Bell, Don Kennebrew, Guy Graves, DeRome Patterson, Quentin Henry, Tina Perkins and Tommy Tutt



Chaplains Tommy Hutchens, Tony Ramsey, Chester Bell, Don Kennebrew, Guy Graves, DeRome Patterson, Quentin Henry, Tina Perkins and Tommy Tutt

Cindy LaChance: New Chaplain for North Carolina

by Chaplain Dave Harvey

The Cowboys For Christ Heart of Carolina Chapter December meeting and Christmas party was the perfect setting for the ordination of Cindy LaChance, who is our newest Chaplain for the state of North Carolina. Cindy is wanting to expand her ministry reach and has chosen to ride for the Lord as a Chaplain with Cowboys For Christ. It was a pleasure to travel to Garner with Chaplain James Gibson and attend the Christmas meeting of the Heart of Carolina Chapter and officiate at Cindy's ordination. The chapter, led by president Cliff Lee, has a long history of serving the Lord all around the Raleigh North Carolina area and all over the state. Please pray for Cindy and all of our Chaplains and all of our Chapters.



Chaplains James Gibson, Cindy LaChance,
Dave Harvey

A SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL OF OUR FAITHFUL CONTRIBUTORS AND READERS

COWBOYS FOR CHRIST HAS PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED THE CHRISTIAN RANCHMAN SINCE 1976 AND WE SURE WANT TO CONTINUE TO KEEP SENDING OUT THIS KINGDOM FILLING WORK FOR THE LORD. DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, WE ARE SEARCHING FOR ANOTHER PRINTER AS THE CURRENT PRINTER IS CLOSING. ALSO, THE MAILING AND POSTAGE HAS GREATLY INCREASED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WHICH MAY MAKE IT NECESSARY THAT WE CHANGE OUR PRINTING SCHEDULE AND FORMAT TO HELP KEEP IT ROLLLING OFF THE PRESS. PLEASE MAKE EVERY COPY COUNT AND PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.



Testimony

by D Ray Permenter

I've been a cowboy all of my life, on flesh and bone and steel horses. I thought it about time I asked for a subscription to the Ranchman and share a small piece of my testimony. I was raised by backslid Baptist parents with not much of a church life or upbringing. My mother was full blooded German, and I never met my biological father. I was raised by a stepfather, and my mom passed from a massive stroke in 1976, right before my 12th birthday. I was the youngest of 2 boys and 6 girls, with my brother being the oldest. After Mom passed, my other siblings drifted off into their own lives. So it was just me and my step dad. Dad would get up at 4 AM and go to work, call at 7 AM to wake me up for school. At 3 PM after school, I'd call him at work to ask what to set out or sometimes cook to eat. I became a pretty fair cook by 13. Dad would come home around 6 PM, have a coffee can or two of whiskey and coke, and one of us would cook. I think the term they used was I was a latch key kid, no structure or supervision. I pretty much raised myself. Of course, I hung out with the older crowd, the wrong crowd. The German blood burned hot in me. So, I grew up hard, drinking and fighting.

I was hustling pool at 15, and in a bar fight almost every night. I got into pot then pills, and then one night somebody poured some pinkish powder out on a table and said try this. It was P2P Speed. I spent the next 7 days awake. I worked so hard and fast I got a promotion, a raise, and fired in the same week. I soon learned how to cook P2P Speed while still in high school. I went to prison on a burglary charge and got a 5-year sentence.

One thing led to another, and I ended up becoming one of the founding members of the Aryan Circle A White Supremacist Gang. I spent 30 some years as part of that group with 3 more trips to state prison and 2 trips to federal prison all due to a lot of drugs, money, and violence.

Everyone called me Preacher Man back then. I have always loved and read the

Bible. I say read not studied. And I did not have a relationship with God, but I read and quoted Bible scripture a lot. One day, I'm reading in the back of a magazine, The Universal Life Church has a Bible correspondence course to get an ordained minister's license. So, I sent off for the course. It took me about a year to do all of the studies, but I did it. And I got a certificate of ordainment in the mail.

I was in and out of prisons and jails, trying to get something. I don't know what. I'd get out of prison, do alright for six months or a year, start to get high and go right back. I've been shot in the head, stabbed twice, beaten unconscious numerous times and left for dead.

In 2001, while I was in county jail for misdemeanors, the true love of my life and soulmate, Jean, came to visit me at the jail, driven by my best friend of 30 years and his wife. On their way home, a drunk driver T-boned their car and killed all three. I don't remember much of the next 10 years as it was the worst of my life. I would literally get high while reading my Bible and preaching to my friends.

Today, I'm doing a 10 year sentence for possession of meth, and I will do the full sentence due to my past gang affiliation. But, I have a true relationship with God today. I am redeemed and stirve only to serve Him. I still read my Bible everyday. Today I understand what I read.

Today I have family support and mentors like Carl Gully, my pastor, Tommy Rooser, my brother in Christ, and Mike West, and many more praying with and for me. God is good!

(Continued on Page 15)

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A Living Memorial

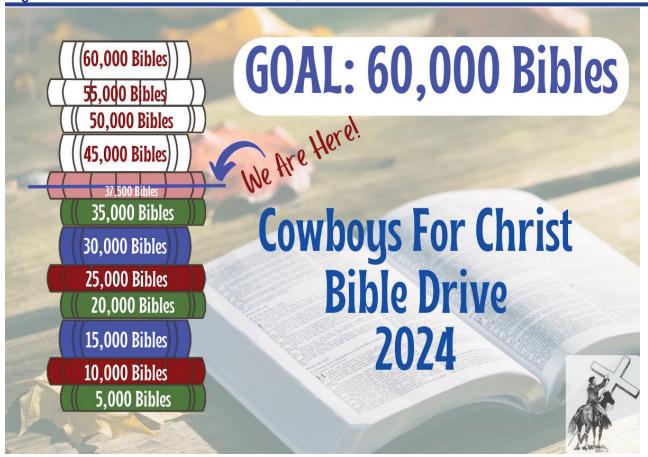
Death, as Christians understand it, is a change in the form of life; it is not a cessation of life. Those who have been given eternal life in Christ Jesus will spend a few fleeting moments here on this earth. The rest of eternity is spent in the presence of God.

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.

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Please Consider Donating to Our <u>Bible Fund</u>

by Dave Harvey

Our Bible supply is dwindling very quickly (which is a great problem to have!). Please prayerfully commit to helping us replenish our supply of our Cowboys For Christ ERV Bibles. We certainly want to continue to give them away as we go to share JESUS CHRIST and to minister. It is our desire to raise the funds to have another 22,500 printed and on hand to make the WORD OF GOD available to cowboys and cowgirls and to those searching, so they will have the TRUTH, understand the TRUTH and know the TRUTH. This order will get us to the grand total of 60,000 Bibles going out to touch lives for JESUS CHRIST. Please be in heavy prayer and dig deep to contribute to our Bible Fund.

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



COWBOYS FOR CHRIST

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Tony Smith, Pres. 417-274-4334 Chaplain Laurie Smith, VP 417-27 4-4333

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Chaplain Mike Stephens, Pres. 816-256-1403

email:mike@cottoncreekchristianmilistry.org
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Cowboy Fellowship 9:30 every Sunday

(Chapters continued on Page 14)

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(Continued from Page 13)

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Arbuckle Chapter-Ardmore, OK

Chaplain Danny Sherman, Pres. 325-721-8660 Chaplain Cheryl Sherman, VP 972-802-5444

Chisholm Trail Chapter-Chickasha, OK Chaplain Mark Ingram, Pres.

405-406-7362

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CHAPS (Christian Horseman

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David Blanton, Pres. 704-692-1093

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Fred Wilson, Pres. 605-645-1314 Mike Fox, VP 605-641-0864

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Brenda Tankersley, VP 731-607-0871 Cowboy Church: second Sunday -Morris Chapel Community Center 10:30am

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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

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Kenny Cates, Director 940-453-6941 Derwin Tanner, Director 940-300-3384

Hollow Creek Ministry Chapter-Bulverde, TX

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Ben Kellert - 780-307-3251



Permenter Testimony Continued

There is so much more to my testimony, but the one thing I want be sure to share. In 2015, I was in prison and immediately separated because of my gang ties. The tiny holding cell was empty except for a piece of toilet paper that said "Don't forget to read Matthew 6:24".

I was moved to another building – 6 section 84. But the paint was scratched, and it looked like 24. So, I got bombarded by the Holy Spirit for days by the number: 6.24. Finally, I threw my hands up in the air and yelled ok, I'll read Matthew 6:24. That was my last night as a gang member. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Your brother in Christ, unworthy yet redeemed.

D. Ray Permenter - God bless your ministry

To receive Cowboys For Christ FREE Quarterly Publication, The Christian Ranchman, just go to our website and you will find a download link. You can read it while sitting at your computer. Email the link to your friends. It will be in PDF format so you will have to have a PDF reader program (Adobe Reader is free to download) on your computer. Or, if you do not have access to a PDF reader, e-mail your mailing address to:

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We will never share/sell your information, that's a promise. You will find articles of interest, poetry. testimonies, Brother Dave's preaching itinerary, photographs, local chapter listings, updates and much more!



2025 Cowboys for Christ

Annual Heartland Conference... Sharing ministry ideas to better equip God's servants

DATE: Saturday, Feb 1, 2025

8:30 - 9:30 AM: Breakfast

9:30 AM - 12 PM: Retreat sessions

12 PM - 1 PM: Lunch

1 PM - Mid Afternoon: Retreat sessions

429 Illinois Ave

St. Joseph, MO 64504

Location: Hoof & Horn Steakhouse Please confirm your attendance by 1/25/25

Questions or need more information?

Contact Matt Wagner at 816-390-7561

Bring with you:

- your bible
- notebook and pen
- contact/business cards

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