

Christian Ranchman

We're not trying to build an organization.

We're trying to fill the Kingdom of God.



FREE

Volume 50, Number 3 "...By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another." John 13:35 3rd Quarter 2026

Horseweek

by Chaplain Bruce Smith

Horseweek is a tradition in Norco CA. Horseweek consists of a week-long of community events that include a two-day ranch rodeo with a third day of bull riding and mutton busting, a community BBQ, a chili cook-off, a poker ride, a Challenged Children's Rodeo, a barrel racing, a sorting competition, an obstacle course competition (mounted), a designated kid's night, a designated adult night, and many other events including Easter sunrise services, making a week-long event with something to do, see or eat every day of the Easter break. The concept of Horseweek was born from the idea to keep the kids busy during their Easter week break from school. For those of you younger folks, Easter Break is now commonly known as "Spring Break" like Christmas Break is now known as "Winter Break" which are apparently more accepted, politically correct terms. In Norco, we still call it Easter Break.

This year's Horseweek started on April 5 with Easter Sunrise Services and then the rodeo began on Friday, April 17th with events every day through Sunday, April 26.

The Norco chapter of Cowboys for Christ began this year's festivities with assisting the



Horseweek Booth: Chaplain Bruce Smith and Prayer Warriors

Norco Christian Church host Easter Sunrise Services. Services began at 7 am with the Norco Horseweek Committee providing donuts, coffee and hot chocolate. The service was held in our community covered event arena. The service lasted a little over an hour and was well attended not only by folks in the stands, but about 30 people showed up on

horseback. Several members of CFC participated in the service with prayers and readings from the Bible.

At the ranch rodeo, CFC participated all three days of the rodeo with a behind the chutes presence to pray for the contestants and a booth in the vendor area where we passed out bibles, tracks, "little Jesus" figures and bumper stickers and witnessed to folks. This year a new addition to the booth was a large banner mounted on the back of the booth that read "Need Prayer?" with the CFC logo on it. Many people were drawn by the new banner and we had people coming up just asking for prayer. We were blessed to pray for young couples, lonely people, people with sickness, people with children in trouble, people with questions about God; the booth was almost always busy with prayer requests and we witnessed to many folks. Over the three days we gave out over 50 CFC bibles!

This is the third year CFC has had a booth at the Horseweek rodeo and this was our

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Horseweek Continued

best attended, biggest outreach to date. During the rest of the week members of CFC volunteered to assist at many of the community events and we all turned out to assist with the Challenged Children's Rodeo on the closing Sunday. CFC Norco has partnered with Challenged Children's Rodeo and we assist with all three of the rodeos they put on every year.

Our chapter was very blessed this year by the interest shown in our outreach and we were able to bless many and be blessed in the process.



New Chaplains and The Moving of The Holy Spirit

by Dave Harvey

March may have gone out like a lamb in many parts of the country, but assuredly we were greatly blessed to finish up the month with the power of the Holy Spirit and the joy of Jesus. What a wonderful and blessed time of sharing the Word of God at the Cowboys For Christ Cowgirls Retreat at 4B Farm on March 22. We certainly had a full house and bunch of cowgirls enjoying the beautiful trails and activities, plus some real time in seeking and drawing closer to the Lord. A big thank you to Chaplain Cindy La Chance and Lauren Daniels and Carmalee Scarpitti for putting on such a super program for the cowgirls. Fall Retreat-Oct 9-11-2026.

Next up was the very blessed and anointed Texas Cowboys For Christ Conference on March 28 at Gainesville, Texas. A big thank you to Chaplain Joey Skaggs and Ronnie Neu for hosting the conference at the Neu Ranch House Restaurant. We were greatly blessed to have our long time Cowboys For Christ member and very talented Mary Fay



Mary Fay, Matt, Rebecca, Joseph, Buck Self, Joey, Dave, Clint Parker, Amanda and Judd Treat

Jackson to bless us with her singing and music. Mary Fay was accompanied by her friend, Matt Barber, who also blessed us with some very soul touching songs. And to add to a great conference, I was honored to officiate at the ordination of new Chaplains; Rebecca Schilinski, Miranda Miller and Joseph Eggleston, and we certainly welcome them into our very elite group of Chaplains. A big Cowboys For Christ "thank you" to Joey, Ronnie, Mary Fay, Matt and everyone who attended to make it a great day of fellowship,



James Wendt, Dave, & Debbie Arnold

sharing and praising the Lord. Please pray for our new Chaplains and all of our Chaplains and leadership, for grace, mercy and blessings as they seek and serve the Lord.

The blessings sure did not stop with the conference, as the next day on Sunday March 29, I was so wonderfully blessed to go with Chaplain Tommy Tutt and to meet face to face with all seven of our great inmate Chaplains at the Robertson Unit in Abilene Texas. What a wonderful time of fellowship, sharing and seeking the Lord with these great men of God. Chaplain Tommy has worked hard and the Holy Spirit has move mightily to put together a wonderful team; the Magnificent Seven of the Robertson Unit (as the Warden has designated them) to do a great work there in touching many lives for Jesus Christ. Chaplains; Tony Ramsey, Tommy Hutchins, Guy Graves, Quinten Henry, Don Kennebrew, DeRome Patterson and Francisco Zapata. Please keep Tommy Tutt and all of these great men of God in your prayers as they continue to reach out to touch so many lives that were thought to be untouchable.

And the blessings just kept coming, as I was so very blessed to share the Gospel at two horse shows; Piedmont Saddle Club 4H Show and Carolina Paint Horse Show.

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New Chaplains Continued

It was a special treat at the paint horse show, as my granddaughter Jessie Mae added to the service with special singing. And again, I was so greatly blessed to minister and preach God's Word at the Youth Equestrian Development Association National Championship Show at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. At the end of the message, we added another Chaplain to our elite group of Chaplains, as James Wendt was ordained. Please welcome James and be faithful to pray for our growing group of hard riding soldiers of the cross of Jesus Christ as they mount up and ride for The Master. A great big "thank you" to Laura Smith and Debbie Arnold for inviting Cowboys For Christ to hold Cowboy Church at all of their shows nationwide. You can read more about this wonderful organization in this issue and you can sure go to their website at showyeda.com to learn more about their great program to develop young riders into fine horsemen. Please pray for our Chaplains and for all of the fine folks and riders at YEDA.

He Has Made Everything Beautiful

by Stephanie Wilson

A testimony of loss, horses, healing, and God's faithfulness through YEDA. I was seven years old when my family received devastating news; my brother was killed when a train struck his semi-truck just two miles from our home. I still remember watching my father collapse in grief and my mother fall to her knees crying beside the fence in our backyard. As the youngest of five children, I did not fully understand what had happened. I only knew that someone I loved was gone and that our family would never be the same. That loss changed us forever.

My mother never fully recovered from losing her son. Grief became a quiet companion in our home, and I grew up watching the people I loved carry a heartbreak that never completely went away. Looking back now, I can see God's hand even during those difficult years. He surrounded me with a loving family, placed horses in my life, and slowly began healing wounds I did not yet know how to name. Years later, I would come

to appreciate the truth of Ecclesiastes 3:11: "He has made everything beautiful in its time." One of God's greatest gifts to me during that season was a palomino horse named, Buster in Command. Through horses, I found confidence, purpose, and belonging. They gave me a place where I felt accepted and a community where I could grow. As my skills developed, so did my opportunities. My parents sacrificed greatly so I could pursue my dreams, and those experiences helped shape the person I would become. For nearly thirty years, I worked in higher education helping students discover their futures and pursue meaningful lives. Yet throughout those years, God kept stirring something in my heart. I often thought about the sacrifices my parents had made for me and the opportunities the horse industry had provided. Eventually, I felt called to return to the industry that had given so much to me and find ways to invest in the next generation. I wanted to help young people experience the same confidence, growth, and sense of belonging that horses had given me. That desire led me to seek mentorship from respected horseman Troy Oakley and eventually introduced me to the Youth Equestrian Development Association, better known as YEDA.

A dear friend, Joe Whitt, encouraged me to learn more about the organization. Through his encouragement, I reached out to Lynne Puthoff, who invited me to help at the Quarter Horse Congress. What I witnessed there was far more than a horse show. I saw young people being mentored. I saw coaches investing in students. I saw families

supporting one another. I saw opportunities being created for youth who might never have otherwise found a place in the horse industry. Most importantly, I saw lives being changed. One moment especially impacted me. I remember hearing Debbie Arnold pray before a horse show. It was not a routine prayer. It was a sincere and heartfelt conversation with God.

Afterward, I told Debbie how meaningful her prayer had been to me. She responded with words I have never forgotten: "YEDA may be the only place where some of these children and families hear the name of Jesus." That statement stopped me in my tracks. In that moment, I realized YEDA was about far more than competition. It was about creating opportunities for faith, encouragement, mentorship, and community. Today, YEDA serves students from across the United States and provides opportunities for young people to compete regardless of whether they own a horse.

One of the unique aspects of YEDA is that riders compete on horses they do not own.

WANTED
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your testimony!

Students draw horses and have only a short time to prepare before entering the arena. Success depends upon horsemanship, adaptability, preparation, sportsmanship, and trust rather than financial resources alone. In 2026, YEDA celebrated its 10th Anniversary National Championship at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia, where more than 500 riders gathered to compete, learn, and grow. YEDA's impact extends beyond the show arena. Through the YEDA Scholarship Incentive Fund, more than \$83,000 has been awarded to graduating seniors pursuing their educational and career goals. The organization invests in leadership

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He Has Made Continued

development, mentorship, responsibility, perseverance, and character formation. What I admire most, however, is YEDA's commitment to faith. Every YEDA horse show includes Cowboy Church on Sunday mornings. Families, coaches, volunteers, and riders gather together to worship and be reminded that our identity is not found in ribbons, placings, championships, or mistakes. Our identity is found in Christ. For some families, Cowboy Church may be the first time they hear the Gospel. For others, it is a reminder that God is present not only in church buildings but also in barns, arenas, and everyday life. This week, while serving at YEDA Nationals in Lexington, Virginia, I was reminded once again that horses are rarely the whole story. The horse often becomes the doorway. Through horses, young people find confidence. Families find community. Volunteers discover purpose. Friendships are formed. Faith is shared.

As I looked across the Virginia Horse Center, I realized that what God did for me through horses after the loss of my brother is what He continues to do for countless others today. Horses gave me a place to belong when my family was learning to live with grief. They gave me confidence when I doubted myself. They gave me purpose when I was searching. They gave me a community that helped me heal. Today, YEDA is helping create that same sense of belonging for thousands of young people and families across the country. There are moments when I have to pinch myself. I get to spend my days working with horses, encouraging young people, helping families, and contributing to an industry that gave so much to me. I know this opportunity is not something I created on my own. It is a gift from God.

When I look at YEDA Nationals, Cowboy Church, the Scholarship Incentive Fund, and the lives being shaped through horses, I am reminded of Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, much will be required." The horse industry gave me far more than ribbons, trophies, and championships. It gave me belonging when I felt lost. It gave me confidence when I was uncertain. It gave me

purpose when I was searching. And perhaps that is the lesson God has been teaching me all along: The horse is the doorway, but belonging is the gift. What began with a little girl searching for hope after tragedy has become a calling to help others discover confidence, community, faith, and purpose. Through horses, God continues to open doors, change lives, and make everything beautiful in His time. Most importantly, God used it to reveal His faithfulness throughout my life.

Looking back over nearly fifty years, I can clearly see His hand in every chapter. He met me in grief. He walked beside me through loss. He used horses as one of His tools for healing, growth, and purpose. He placed people in my path—my parents, my family, Krissy Davis, Troy Oakley, Joe Whitt, Lynne Puthoff, Debbie Arnold, Laura Smith, Rick Weitzel, and so many others—who encouraged me, challenged me, and opened doors I never could have opened myself. Today, my prayer is that every young person who enters the arena discovers not only a love for horses, but also the hope, confidence, and faith that can carry them through life's hardest seasons. Much was given to me. Now it is my turn to give back.

Letters to the Editor

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

Christian Ranchman, could you send us a subscription to the Christian Ranchman. We used to belong to Cowboys For Christ, but working on ranches we have moved a lot and lost touch. So glad to find you again. Lord bless you and your work, Dana in Oregon

Dear Friends, I am a new believer in Christ. I enjoy the Bible, but can't understand a lot of it. Please send me an Easy To Read Version Bible. I am indigent with no family support. I have 32 to 40 years to do in prison. Please also, add me to your mailing list. I can receive up to 5 books at one time. I look forward to an Easy To Read Bible along with any other books you may have like: Bible dictionary. Sincerely, Mitchell in North Carolina

Cowboys For Christ, I really enjoyed talking with you and so glad I found my mother's old Christian Ranchman. I am enclosing a donation for the cause. Keep up the good work you're doing. If you have a copy of your paper to send me, I would enjoy it. Thanks so much, Edna in Florida

To whom it may concern, I recently attended a wake for Chaplain John Duggan Ph.D. in Buffalo New York. I could not find a Chapter on your website for New York. I was given a Cowboys for Christ Bible. I'm very impressed with the ease of reading. I would like to purchase four Cowboys for Christ Bibles for individuals that I feel will benefit in receiving them. I saw on your website there is no charge for the Bibles. Therefore, I would like to make a donation. Please provide an address that I can submit a donation along with the cost of mailing the four Bibles I am requesting. Thank you and God Blessings on your ministry, Suzanne in New York

Greetings fellow believers and cowboys, I am a true cowboy. I know how to rope and ride, as well as being an excellent farrier. I love your newsletter and I would like to receive every forthcoming issue, so please add me to the mailing list, because I am a true cowboy for Christ. I also write books, and I'm a singer/songwriter of Gospel songs giving glory to God, amen. I'll be waiting for my first Christian Ranchman. God bless. Sincerely, Ricky in Texas

To Whom It May Concern, hi, my name is Kenneth, I'm 60 years old. I have been sentenced to 8 years in prison. I would like to receive your newsletter, the Christian Ranchman. Thank you and God bless, Kenneth in Indiana

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Letters Continued

Hello, my name is Roy. I am writing to you today respectfully requesting one of your Bibles to be sent to my wife. I am currently an inmate in a Florida prison and I have one of your Bibles, which I have enjoyed very much. I know that my wife will be blessed to have one of your Bibles as well. Thank you for your Bible ministry that provides Bibles to those of us in need of God's Word. My wife's name and address are listed below. Thank you for your time and have a blessed day. Roy in Florida

Cowboys For Christ, Dear Sirs, Thank you so much for the Christian Ranchman. I received my issue last Friday and I am always glad to get it. I used to live in the Fort Worth area for a number of years, but in September of 2022 I left the North Texas area and moved up to Broken Arrow. The Christian Ranchman sure means a lot to me. I appreciate the good articles and stories you always have. Up here in Oklahoma they have a proud cowboy tradition. I hope to go to a few rodeos events and attend some cowboy gathering this year. That would really mean a lot to me. Keep up the good work at Cowboys For Christ. God bless all of you. Sincerely, James in Oklahoma

Cowboys For Christ, thank you for the Certificate of Completion you sent me for completing the 3-part Living Under His Wings Bible Study. I will always hold it dear to my heart. And I look forward to any and all material that you send me. Thanks for the nice Bible. It will be a great help to me to understand God Word! Thank you again, Johnny in Virginia

Cowboys For Christ, Hello there. My name is Jacob and I'm a fellow cowboy and rancher. I'm also a bull rider. I have a friend who I am currently incarcerated with, and he goes by the name of Gregory. He gave me your newspaper, and he told me all about you guys. I'm 21 years old, I do believe in God and my Savior, Jesus Christ. I have read your newspaper and I love what I read. I was hoping that I could get a subscription to your

newspaper and a copy of the Cowboys For Christ Bible. I don't have money and I don't have family. I pretty much raised myself. My adopted family told me I was a mistake to them. And my biological family is just not in the picture. I've gone and decided all I need is a horse and Christ and I'll do just fine. But I hope you get this letter. If I can get a newspaper and Bible, my address is below. May God bless you, Sincerely, Jacob in Utah

Cowboys For Christ, I sure do appreciate you all. Would you please send a Cowboys For Christ Bible to my son. He just got saved! He says he wants to start a prison ministry. Please pray for him, would you? Thank you and thank you for all you guys and ladies do. Cathryn in California

Dear Cowboys For Christ, I just got the Christian Ranchman last night. Thank you so much! I love the testimonies and letters. All of the readings were a blessing. I grew up on a very large dairy farm in Hershey PA, home of Hershey Chocolate. I grew up going to church. I knew about Jesus, but I didn't know Jesus. I am in prison for taking my step-dad's rifle out in the corn field with the intent of shooting myself. The Lord has got a hold of me during this incarceration. I don't know my specific plan on this earth, yet. But I know that the Lord's will is what I am to be seeking. Can you please send me a Bible and Bible studies and any other literature you can? I just want to tell anyone struggling with depression, anxiety or any other mental health issue...I love you. I see you. You matter. And the Lord Jesus Christ can and will heal and restore you. Trust God!!! Sawyer in Pennsylvania

Chaplain News and Reports

I wanted to share some wonderful news with you about the first night of my first rodeo of the year. It went very well, and we were blessed with a great turnout and an incredible atmosphere. One of the biggest highlights was being able to give out four Bibles. Three of those went to special-needs girls, and another was given to a young lady who thought the Bible was

absolutely incredible. Their mother was so thankful, as she shared how difficult it has been for them to understand a regular KJV Bible. It was such a blessing to see how meaningful these Bibles were to them and how God used this opportunity to minister to their family. Moments like these remind us why this work is so important. Thank you for your prayers, support, and heart for helping reach people through ministry opportunities like this. **Blessings, Chaplain Titius Sloan in North Carolina**

Dr Dave, please accept this check as an offering to support Cowboys For Christ. It is an honor to serve with all who are reaching out to do the work of our Lord. I am praying all is well. As we serve, let's make a habit to hold up each other up in prayer and remember to cover the new laborers in our prayers, as well. It is challenging, yet rewarding; a calling that takes a lot of faith. By supporting one another and walking closely with God, we can effectively step out and honor Him. **God bless, Chaplain Gail Gant in Missouri**

From Dawn at He Reigns Rescue Ranch

We thank you, for the Bibles again this year!! We are so grateful!!

Letter and Testimony

by Kari Dawn Yount

My name is Kari Dawn Yount and I am currently incarcerated for the death of my cousin, Nathan. He died too young at the age of 22. Nathan was a military brat and moved around internationally, living all over the world. He loved to play around making music and had his style all his own and a sense of fashion that suited him so well. It has been the worst loss I have ever suffered and has impacted every area of my life. I don't think that I will ever move on, nor have peace about the situation. They say it's all my fault. I will never forget that day. I'll never stop regretting the careless choice that I made that day. How I wish I could turn back the hands of time.

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Yount Testimony Continued

I personally have been an addict since my adolescence! I've used and been addicted to every drug that I can think of, and heroin was the best and the worst. It deafened me and blinded me to my surroundings. Death was always a heartbeat away. A darkness lingering around the corner. People would call with the news of another death of a friend and it was just like that, another loss. The list of us, who made it out alive, was much shorter than the list of those we lost. But when Nathan passed, it wasn't really like that and when we received that phone call. It was like someone reached in my chest and clenched onto my heart.

I was in jail when I first heard that Nathin was using heroin. I couldn't really believe it. But laced with fentanyl, the drug had taken over everyone. My aunt informed me that his mother had flown him around the country to some really nice rehab facilities. Not long after that I got out of jail, myself. He graduated a program in California and came out to Kentucky to stay with my uncle. In no time he was calling me for heroin. Me, being who I am, I thought I was coming to the rescue. It took me all day long to get ahold of that stuff, and it was usually a 30-minute process. Something was trying to stop me. I know that God was trying to be in control, but I went out of my way to get to him. I remember handing it to him and making him promise to be careful, then I gave him a hug and I left. I never dreamed that it would be the last time I saw him alive, but it was.

God has blessed me with spiritual gifts for things ahead, but if only I could've seen that one coming. I guess death is a part of life; a part of someone else's life that has forever changed mine. I will never see things the same and I will never forget, but God has now wiped every tear from my eyes. Through Nathan's death I am learning to appreciate life on another level.

Letter

from Chris Franklin

Hello, my name is Chris and I am 40-years old. I am currently incarcerated in Arkansas for a 20-year sentence that took me to a place

I should have never wanted to be. I wanted to write to Cowboys For Christ and just try to step out on a limb here. I was a product of a very aggressive and dysfunctional family, so unfortunately, I became the same person I was running from when I was a kid. I came to prison when I was in my 20's on accusation, but come to realize that it was I that put myself here. I fled from anything that there was to do with God, Jesus or the Bible. It wasn't until late 2019 that I found that I couldn't help myself with getting better. I realized I needed the help of the Lord. I was always around Christianity with my aunt, but thought that it wasn't for me. Now I am happy to say that I am in a Christian based program called, Pathway to Freedom, at the Hawkins Unit for men here in Wrightsville, Arkansas. Now I am closer to the Lord than I have every been. I just thank God for what he had done for me. He has made a way for me to come back to The Father. I feel just like the prodigal son; may God forever by glorified and edified! Thank you, Chris

Praise Report and Grumbling

by Chaplain Casey JC Shook

Blessings brothers and sisters, I would like to give a praise report to you all and bring you a devotional, too. Last week I received an email from a dear brother and friend, Howard Bell. I remember our first meeting about eight years ago at the South Unit Church. I was blessed to be a Chaplain Assistant at the time, and I was able to share some time with Howard and his ministry team. In this, I was able to fellowship with Howard on my life experiences and he shared how the Lord's hand has also been on him in the Lord's work.

The first sermon I heard from Howard was on grumbling and complaining and not being thankful in all circumstances. This teaching was on point due to how many incarcerated loves to complain about something every day. Please don't get me wrong, as some of the complaining is very justified, but if you claim to be a Christian, I must ask what does the Scriptures teach us on that?

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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...

DISCIPLINES AND PUNISHES

Heb 12:3-6 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Those words; "disciplines and punishes" sure do sound kind of tough and they bring back memories of my childhood when I was less than a perfect child, which was a bunch. I wasn't a bad boy all of the time, and

I don't think that I was ever just plain mean. I sure got into trouble at times and usually when I was where I shouldn't have been, doing what I knew was wrong. I can assure you that my Dad was very fair in disciplining and punishing me, and I am also sure that I deserved it every time. I can also assure you that it wasn't very pleasant or welcomed. And that my Dad always punished me for a reason and I was sure of his love for me, even though I got a few good switchings that I deserved.

I have an older sister, Oops, see I messed up again. I mean that I have a sister that I happen to have been born a couple years after her. I was told to never introduce her as my older sister. Anyway, my Mom promised a surprise to the one who was first to go out to get a load of fire wood for the stove. Well, I knew that my sister was bigger and faster than me so I sneaked out and locked the back gate, right before the race started. And, sure enough my sister got to the gate first, which was never locked, usually. Well, you guessed it, she was running fast and the gate didn't fly open when she ran into it and she sure got a big goose egg on her forehead when she slammed into the locked gate. Yes, I got a whipping when my Dad got home from work and I really deserved it, because you see, it was my job to get the wood in every evening after school. We heated and Mom cooked with wood and that was my job, so really the problem actually began when I didn't do my chores, to start with. So, I needed that whipping for not doing my chores and then locking the gate on my sister. Mom was trying to teach me a lesson for not doing my chores and seeing that my sister got the prize for having to do them.

It was the same with my own three children; I had to discipline and even punish them a few times, too. I sure did not do it because I wanted to, but because I needed to because I loved them. I may not have fully understood that when I was a boy, but it was very clear to me when I was the Dad and had to discipline my own children. God's Holy Word reveals that this is his principle and it is very clearly stated in: "Prov 3:11-12 11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, 12 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." As I just revealed, everyone at times needs to be disciplined and sometimes even punished. I know that my Dad and Mom really loved me and I also know that I sure love my own children. We also know that the Lord loves us, which is very well documented in the Holy Word of God. Which should prove to us that the Lord loves us: "Ps 86:5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you." The Apostle John establishes the fact of God's love in "1 John 4:8-9 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

When you feel beat up and pressed down and worn and losing all will to keep going, you must remember that God loves you and the time of punishment and discipline will end: "1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." During the times of struggle, I really lean on: "1 Peter 5:8-11 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."

Cowboys and cowgirls, it may not be discipline or punishment from the Lord, as it could be attacks of the devil. Or, it could be self, old unfaithful self, doing something it should not do, which goes back to 1 Peter 5:8 and being "self-controlled." This is another part of God's love that is sometimes hard to understand, especially in the world of; "me, myself and I." We must be faithful to love Father God, his Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit all of the time, and especially when we are feeling disciplined and punished.

God bless you in his Holy Love, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Dave





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Shook Report Continued

Howard even shared some common jokes with complaining from those that are incarcerated. However, after the laughter stopped while he was lying on a bench, he told us to really look at him and he said, "What do you all have to complain about, look at me and my daily life trials." What I have not told you was that Howard Bell is a quadriplegic and that the Lord has truly used Howard in these trials to bless others. Just one example was in the email that Howard just shared with me. Howard told me that the Lord has put into his heart to minister in prisons all over the United States, but that would require a van equipped for a wheel chair and his travel team. Last week he received that fully paid for van to do just that. He mentioned that he has dates set up this summer to minister in New Mexico, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, Florida and Pennsylvania. There will also be tent revivals; as he will not only minister in prisons, but also at some of the local churches near those areas.

Howard will also be featured in the September issue of the Victorious Living magazine, which happens to be another great ministry that does some great work in the prisons. I remember reaching out to Howard and asking him to share in fellowship with me on the subject of "Divine Love" and what that should consist of in a saved individual. Howard has been such a humble and gracious brother in that and his ministry is called "Yielded Life" which is a good reminder of what one must have in order to walk and be lead in the Holy Spirit. I constantly preach that we must surrender daily to our Lord and Savior, if we expect to grow and be used in our Heavenly Father's work. So, how have you yielded/surrendered to the Lord today?

A final thought as this is the week of His passion and Easter for many. As we come into remembrance of what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did for us. I believe through His Word that those who are Christians must be as bold as Ezekiel was in being the "Watchman" in Ezekiel Chapters 2

& 3. Please keep in mind that we are in some serious trials and in a time where Isaiah 5:20 is very prevalent in our world. We are seeing how many have been given over to a reprobate mind. Only through our prayers, their faith and repentance, in the power of the Holy Spirit and with the Truth of God's Holy Word can we see a transformation of the lost. Jesus went out to reach the lost and hurting and as Christian, we must do that, too. Be blessed and led by the Holy Spirit, and may God bless you and keep you. In the love of Christ Jesus, JC

Women Horses and Chocolate

by Chaplain Tammy Burton

We had a "cast your cares" campfire devotion at the Women Horses and Chocolate event at Elkins Creek Horsecamp. I encouraged the gals to write something in private--something they needed to let go of---maybe unforgiveness, bitterness, sadness--guilt---and throw it in the campfire and leave it!!! Psalms 103v12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. 1 Peter 5v7 Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you. Spending time and listening to some of the things others are battling, and offering them encouragement through Christ---what an opportunity this has been. There is nothing we can't face with Jesus, a good friend, horses and chocolate.

When Life Flipped Upside Down: Healing the Invisible Wounds

by Melinda Gerrish

In 1999, Mike and Melinda Gerrish began building a life rooted in hard work, horses, and shared dreams. What started as a simple love story would grow into something far greater—tested by tragedy, reshaped by resilience, and ultimately transformed into a place of healing for others. For over two decades, their journey has been defined not only by what they built—but by what they survived. A Life Built on Horses and Hospitality. In 2005, the Gerrish's opened Cuttin' Up Stables in Shirley, Indiana—a "horse motel" that quickly became a beloved stop for travelers crossing the country with their horses. Guests came from all over the world, many returning year after year, eventually becoming like family.

Mike, who grew up on a farm in Parke County and later became a science teacher, brought a lifetime of experience working with animals. Even in retirement, his passions remain unchanged: horses, fiddle playing, and a touch of magic. Melinda, raised in Rush County, had always dreamed of owning horses. Today, she is an accomplished horsewoman who spends her days training, riding, and connecting deeply with her animals—four grulla Quarter Horses and one miniature grulla. Her creative spirit is woven throughout every corner of their property, from décor to design.

(Continued on Page 10)



Chaplain Tammy Burton (far left) and the group at Horses, Women and Chocolate

Life Flipped Continued

Together, they created not just a business, but a community. Then, in an instant, everything changed.

The Night That Changed Everything. On September 2, 2018, while returning from a trail ride in South Dakota with their close friend Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs, the Gerrish's were involved in a catastrophic accident on Interstate 29 in Iowa. A vehicle crossed the median and struck their truck head-on. Five lives were caught in that moment. Only two survived. Mike suffered life-threatening injuries. Melinda endured serious trauma—some of which still lingers today. Their friend, Dr. Cobbs, a respected physician and educator, was among those who did not survive. Long after the physical wounds began to heal, the invisible ones remained. “The screeching tires, the shattering glass, the impact,” Melinda recalls. “Those sounds don't leave you.” Trauma has a way of rewriting everything—how you see the world, how you feel safety, how you understand your own story. For the Gerrish's, healing would require more than time. It would require intention.

Choosing to Heal. In 2019, just months after the accident, Mike and Melinda made a bold decision: they purchased 40 acres of land and a log home in Henry County. It wasn't just a move. It wasn't just a new home. It was a step toward reclaiming their lives—it was an act of faith. “The copper you see across the ranch is a reminder,” Melinda says. “We may have been broken, but God didn't leave us there. We are not victims—we are survivors walking in His purpose.” They named it Copper Rise Ranch—a name rich with meaning. Copper, long associated with energy, intuition, and healing, became a symbol of both their physical recovery and spiritual renewal. “The copper you see across the property is a reminder,” Melinda says. “We are not victims. We are survivors, living with purpose.” Over time, the land itself became part of their healing. Wooded trails invited quiet reflection. Three crosses made from trees deep in the woods created sacred space for prayer and stillness. Horses, ever intuitive, became partners in emotional recovery. And slowly, something unexpected happened. As they healed, they began to realize—they had created something that could help others heal, too. And slowly, through prayer, time, and trust, something began to shift.

A Sanctuary for the Wounded. Today, Copper Rise Ranch & Retreat is more than a home. It is a destination. Since 2019, Mike and Melinda

have hosted over 100 events with over 5,000 guests. Opened as an Airbnb in 2023, the ranch offers guests a chance to step away from the noise of everyday life and into something quieter, deeper, and more restorative. With rolling acreage, wildlife, horses, and western-inspired comfort, it invites visitors to breathe again. But beyond its beauty, the ranch holds a deeper mission. The Gerrish's host a wide range of gatherings—Cowboys for Christ Talent Shows, church events, equestrian clinics, reunions, weddings—but some of their most meaningful work happens in the quiet, unseen spaces. They host retreats for women recovering from trauma, including survivors of human trafficking. “These women have learned to disconnect from themselves just to survive,” Melinda explains. “They've worn masks for so long, they don't always know who they are underneath.” At Copper Rise Ranch, the goal is simple but profound: create a safe space to begin again. Women are given time, support, and space to process their experiences—without pressure, without distraction, and without judgment. Here, healing is not rushed. It is honored. “Sometimes healing begins by simply being still long enough to hear His voice,” Melinda says.

The Power of Creativity and Connection. One of the most powerful tools in that healing process is something often overlooked: creativity. “People forget what they love,” Melinda says. “They've spent so much time surviving, they lose touch with what brings them joy.” Art, music, nature, and even simple acts of creation—these become pathways back to self. Scientific research supports what the Gerrish's witness daily: creative expression helps regulate the nervous system, reduces anxiety, and allows people to process emotions that words alone cannot reach. Whether it's decorating, painting, riding a horse, journaling, or simply sitting in stillness, these moments help shift the body out of survival mode and into a place of safety, and safety, after trauma, is everything. “Creativity reminds the brain that it's okay to explore again,” Melinda says. “That joy is still possible.” **Stories Cast in Bronze and Memory.** At Copper Rise Ranch, healing doesn't only happen in wide-open fields or quiet wooded trails—it lives in the details. It's etched into metal, shaped into form, and carried in the stories behind carefully chosen pieces of art. For Melinda, these aren't decorations. They are reminders. Anchors. Conversations between past pain and present purpose.

Women Can Do Anything. One of the most striking pieces on the ranch is a bronze

sculpture titled *Women Can Do Anything*. At first glance, it's unexpected—even whimsical—a cowgirl riding atop a pig. But beneath its unusual imagery lies a story of defiance and survival. The artist who created the piece once lived in an abusive marriage. Her husband told her she would never succeed, never make it on her own, never become the artist she dreamed of being. He tried to define her limits. But she refused to accept them. The pig in the sculpture represents the weight of that oppression—the voice that tried to diminish her. The cowgirl, steady and unshaken, represents the strength it took to rise above it. Over time, the artist not only left that life behind but became successful in her own right, proving every doubt wrong. For Melinda, the piece resonates on a deeply personal level. “It reminds me that strength doesn't always look loud or dramatic,” she says. “Sometimes it looks like simply refusing to give up.” Positioned intentionally on the ranch, the sculpture serves as a quiet but powerful message to every woman who sees it: you are stronger than what tried to break you.

Angels Watching Over You. Another cherished piece carries a different kind of weight—one shaped by connection, compassion, and unexpected redemption. *Angels Watching Over You* came into Melinda's life not through purchase, but through relationship. At the time, the artwork belonged to a man who had lost nearly everything. Once a successful businessman, he was battling addiction and struggling just to get through each day. Their connection began simply—through conversations. Melinda listened, without judgment, without expectation. “I didn't have anything to offer him but my time,” she recalls. “But sometimes, that's what people need most.” Over months, their conversations became a lifeline for him. Then, more than a year later, he reached out again—but this time, everything had changed. He had rebuilt his life. Started a new business. Found stability. And he hadn't forgotten. He told Melinda the angel sculpture belonged to her—not as a transaction, but as a gesture of gratitude. A symbol of what it meant to be seen and heard during his darkest time. “It reminded me that God places people in our lives for a reason,” she says. “Sometimes just showing up for someone can change everything.” When Mike and Melinda drove hours to meet him in person, Melinda saw something she hadn't expected: Peace. “I recognized his voice immediately,” she says. “But this time, I saw gratitude in his eyes instead of pain.”

(Continued on Page 11)

Life Flipped Continued

Today, the sculpture stands as a testament to the power of presence. It represents the unseen ways we can impact one another—and how healing often happens through simple human connection.

The Bison: Holding Onto the Good. Not all healing comes from confronting pain. Sometimes, it comes from choosing what to remember. During their 2018 trip to South Dakota—the same trip that would end in tragedy—Mike, Melinda, and their friend shared one of their most memorable experiences: riding among bison. It was wild. Peaceful. Awe-inspiring. After the accident, it would have been easy for that entire journey to become overshadowed by loss. But Melinda made a conscious decision—she would not let tragedy erase the beauty of what came before it. When she later came across a bison mount from that same region, she knew it belonged at the ranch. “It’s a reminder,” she says, “that even in the hardest stories, there were still moments of joy.” The bison now stands not as a symbol of what was lost, but of what was lived. It represents a shift in perspective—an intentional act of remembering the good, even when grief is present. “God gave us beautiful moments in that trip,” she says. “I didn’t want the enemy to take that away.” It is a reminder that even in life’s hardest chapters, God still gives glimpses of beauty.

More Than Art—A Language of Healing. Each piece at Copper Rise Ranch tells a story, but together, they form something greater: a language of healing. They speak to resilience without needing words. They hold space for grief without demanding explanation. They remind visitors that pain and beauty can exist side by side. For those walking through trauma, these pieces often become mirrors—reflecting back strength, possibility, and hope. Because sometimes, healing doesn’t begin with answers. Sometimes, it begins with a story... cast in bronze, carried in memory, and finally, understood. Each piece is more than decoration. It is testimony.

From Pain to Purpose. Nearly eight years after the accident, Mike and Melinda are still healing. Trauma doesn’t simply disappear—it evolves, softens, and becomes part of the story. But it no longer defines them. Instead, it fuels their purpose. “We didn’t realize at first what we were creating,” Melinda reflects. “But once we did, we knew we had to share it.” Mike shares “This is just not a place for us. We have created a place that we enjoy sharing with others, whether they

are family members or individuals with common interests. Whether we are sharing a social event or something with a particular purpose, we appreciate the opportunity to create something special for others to enjoy.” Today, Copper Rise Ranch stands as a place where brokenness is not hidden—but met with compassion. Where people can sit with their pain, reconnect with themselves, and begin again. Where healing happens not all at once—but one breath, one moment, one step at a time. And in that stillness, many discover something they thought they had lost: Hope. Today, Copper Rise Ranch stands as a living testimony—that God restores, redeems, and renews. That even the deepest wounds can become part of a greater purpose. That healing doesn’t happen all at once—but one prayer, one breath, one moment at a time. And for those who arrive carrying burdens they can barely name, the Gerrishes offer something simple, yet profound: A place to rest. A place to heal. A place to encounter hope again. Because sometimes, when life flips upside down...it’s where God begins to rebuild. Copperriseranch.com

Dear Friends and Cow Folk

by Chaplains Ken & Deb Nicolas

Yes, all Scripture is inspired by God. But we often mistakenly put a period where God has placed a comma in Scripture and completely miss the important parts! The fact Scripture was GIVEN, a gift from God, for a very intended purpose often escapes us. Like a present, we are to open it and read it. Then we are to incorporate it into our lives and make Scripture the fabric of our very souls. When we do, we are inspired by its doctrine, exposed to its Truth, corrected in our passions and taught what righteousness looks like so that we are equipped to do the work God has given us. Jesus is Lord!

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:16 - 17

Ride straight, ride strong, ride true, ride with love for one another and always ride for the Brand!



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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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.

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Larry Van Dyck, VP 918-859-3396
Facebook: Element Christ Riders

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Website: www.cowboysforchristfl.com

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Chris Brasington, VP 601-347-6699
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David Eaves, VP 417-214-1239
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Tony Smith, Pres. 417-274-4334

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email: mike@cottoncreekchristianministry.org

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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 CFC -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-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

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-Bulverde, TX

Chaplain Grant Smith, Pres.

830-822-6030

Julie Smith, VP 830-660-4508

North Central-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- 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



INTERNATIONAL CHAPLAINS

CANADA (Winnipeg)

Kimberley Burron - 204-955-9034

Geoffrey Mackay - 204-807-5479

CANADA (Alberta)

Ben Kellert - 780-307-3251

Cody Gilliland - 403-977-7665

CANADA (British Columbia)

Dr. Maurice Bork - 250-488-2071

AUSTRALIA

Jude Fisher - 61-429-123-091

Miranda Butcher - 04-056-180-86



COWBOY CHAPLAINS OF AMERICA

ALABAMA

Mike Hardy - 256-431-7734

ARIZONA

J. C. Shook - 294718

Greg Grout - 928-458-8852

ARKANSAS

Dr. Jessica Thompson - 918-859-3396

George Crumbly - 501-412-2234

Patrick Kirby - 907-799-6031

Josh Davis - 501-286-5531

Johnny Burrows - 479-495-0959

Geoffrey Goodrich - 479-372-3887

CALIFORNIA

Bobbi Dupertuis - 209-617-1746

Bruce Smith - 626-716-0185

DELAWARE

Dr. Doug Briggs - 302-379-6298

(Continued on Page 16)



**COWBOYS FOR CHRIST
GATHERING
AT ELKINS CREEK
HORSECAMP
Pedro, Ohio**

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2026

FACILITIES

- Scenic riding trails through the Wayne National Forest
- Hook-ups for campers
- Limited number of cabins
- Restrooms w/hot showers
- Stalls
- Bedding

• **RESERVATIONS!**

Make your reservation soon - campsites are filling up! Make your reservation directly with Elkins Creek Horsecamp www.elkinscreekhorsecamp.com

ACTIVITIES

- Daily Bible Study w/Chaplain Dale Brenneman
- Evening devotion w/CFC Executive Director Dave Harvey
- CFC Chaplain spotlights– tell us what amazing thing God did in your ministry this past year
- Concert and ice cream social
- Trailriding in the Wayne Natl Forest

• **EVENT INFO:**

Chaplain Karen Burgoon 724-290-8554
Chaplain Dale Brenneman 724-856-5680

SILENT AUCTION

TO BENEFIT CFC BIBLE FUND

Bring an auction item! Items will be on display and bids may be submitted until Saturday night. Items will be awarded during the intermission of the Saturday night concert. All proceeds go to the CFC Bible Fund to help pay the printing and shipping costs of the thousands of free Bibles distributed every year by CFC!



*In Loving Memory and a Tribute to Scott
Taddiken*

Scott Taddiken, the founder and past president of the Clay Center Chapter of Cowboys For Christ went to be with the Lord on March 20, 2026. Present chapter President, Sam Tiemeyer and the chapter leadership were blessed to present Scott with a Cowboy For Christ flag and plaque during a visit just a few days before his passing. Scott was a horseman, a strong Christian and an active worker for the Kingdom of God. This is certainly evident in the continued ministry works of the Clay Center Chapter and the present leadership wanted to honor him for his faithful service to the Lord.

The Trail Boss is Watchin'

By Tom Kerlin

Inspired by Deuteronomy 33:26 ... There is no one like the God of Israel. He rides across the heavens to help you, across the skies in majestic splendor.

On the dusty plains of Texas,
or the plains of Galilee,
There's a Trail Boss watchin' over
every driftin' soul like me.
When the canyons get too narrow,
and the shadows start to grow,
There's a power in the high ground,
that the lost may never know,

The Good Book tells the story
of a King who wears no crown,
Who doesn't need a stallion,
just to get his message down.
For there ain't no God like Israel's,

He's a breed apart and true,
And He's lookin' off the rimrock
just to find a way to you.

He saddles up the thunder
when the storm clouds start
To gather and the lightnin'
licks the sky.

He ain't hidin' from the tempest,
or the wailin' wind on high.
He flings a leg o'er glory,
spurs the clouds into a run,
And He gallops through the starlight
'til the breaking of the sun.

He rides in Holy Splendor across
the great celestial range.
He moves with easy grace
with a mission that doesn't change,
And with the majesty of ages
written on His weathered face.

He don't need a rope or saddle,
nor a bit to guide the way,
For the heavens are his pasture
and the galaxies His bay.

So, when you're cinched up in your sorrow
or you've lost the proper trail.
When your spirit's feelin' empty
and your mortal powers fail,
Look up past the horizon where the
blue meets gold and red.
He's ridin' down to help you,
just like the Spirit said.

So tip your hat to Heaven
when the night is deep and still.
And know the Boss is ridin' point
above the highest hill.
In His majestic splendor through
the vast and open blue,
The God who created the universe
is reachin' out for you.



COWBOY CHAPLAINS OF AMERICA



FLORIDA

David Gillett – 813-789-0589
 Eva McCracken – 570-468-3403
 Wayne Walker – 352-949-1705
 Jeff Hucknall – 941-585-2446
 Phyllis Godwin – 904-588-3317
 Harry Godwin – 904-588-3317
 John Johnson – 423-331-8221
 Stephen Bissell – 813-714-9193
 Jay McCracken – 570-507-2752
 Cliff Matthews – 352-267-7321
 Barbara Mackenzie – 352-303-1706
 Lawanna Davis – 727-742-6943
 Robert Davis – 727-742-6130
 Kathy Johnson – 352-436-2054
 Bret Lamblin – 352-217-5953

GEORGIA

Daryl Spaulding – 423-664-2880
 T W Lawrence – 404-374-9269
 Cindy Kenner – 706-970-3746
 Rosalyn Boren – 770-328-0863
 Frankie Matthews – 770-853-9624
 Keith Barnes – 770-728-2997

HAWAII

Henry Lindo – 808-336-6266
 Zhanell Lindo – 808-658-1334

IDAHO

Pete Blockhan - 208-391-8984
 Wade Black - 208-859-3624
 Amaia Black – 208-859-3624
 Casey McGehee – 208-721-3500

ILLINOIS

Robert Schultz - 309-314-5719
 Randy Koch - 563-260-8384

INDIANA

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

Mike Reicherts - 641-330-6791
 Ramsey Steen - 712-204-6290
 Rosalee Russell - 641-208-6450
 Randy Crew - 641-289-0136

KANSAS

Bonnie Smith – 316-655-7606
 Joseph Smith – 316-706-2615
 Mike Twombly – 785-741-5646
 Judy Twombly – 816-294-7358
 James Hathaway – 913-231-0185
 LaHonna Stadler – 785-559-0773
 Jeff Kemp – 740-364-8506

KENTUCKY

Barry Bivens – 270-316-3318
 Alan Bivens – 270-929-3207
 Charles Powers – 859-333-5328
 Chris Mathews – 270-597-6542
 Denise Mathews – 270-597-6552
 Russell Kreider – 859-319-9304
 Donna Delegram – 830-515-2813
 Annie Parnell – 270-614-1065
 Ricky Parnell – 270-579-8441

LOUISIANA

Rick LeDoux - 985-878-6524
 Wanda LeDoux - 985-507-8616
 Gerald Kelly - 318-282-3516
 Wayne Lomax - 985-507-9276

Justin Wascom - 225-921-3617

David Chenevert - 095250
 Raymond Flank - 110756
 Leander Gallet - 70712
 Noble Bates - 318-617-3034
 Clarence Frederick - 121926
 Ellzey Crossley - 344739
 Steve Stewart - 70776
 Larry Kelly – 225-241-9983
 Aaron Thomas – 985-317-8108
 Angela Rowe – 817-458-2495
 Kevin Rowe – 940-229-9957
 Murphy Campbell – 928-276-2471

MAINE

Koko Preston – 817-236-0023

MICHIGAN

Claire Squires - 517-675-1540
 Ron Squires - 517-675-1540
 Andrew Abrams – 269-779-8179
 Steve Mann - 616-916-1860

MISSISSIPPI

Dr David Terry – 601-337-1334
 George Kilgore – 601-422-9177
 Shane Evetts – 662-415-1947

MISSOURI

Matt Wagner – 816-390-7561
 Mike Stephens – 816-256-1403
 Melissa Wagner – 816-390-7551
 Carol Jackson – 816-506-4654
 Mike Jackson – 816-506-4494
 Tom Brookshier - 816-215-5424
 Laurie Smith – 417-274-4333
 Pat Patterson – 636-485-8910
 Jay Bettis – 816-457-9004
 Gail Auld-Gant – 573-208-0661
 Yolonda Stroup – 573-495-2625
 Jerry Stroup – 573-618-0988
 TR Tibbs – 573-429-6829
 Zack Zook – 573-820-4127
 Kevin Swain – 573-344-1405
 Jason Williams – 573-820-3554
 Nancy Jones – 573-230-6869
 Theresa Anderson – 573-673-6042
 Tim Anderson – 573-353-4577
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 Justine Barb – 660-723-5414
 Gary Whaley – 314-304-0977
 Cathy Whaley – 636-866-9228
 Dick Nugent – 417-247-2570
 Caroline Nugent – 417-247-2318
 Leonard Feil – 816-284-5225
 Bruce Blankenship – 417-241-4308
 Trinity Griner – 660-654-2716
 Denton Farmner – 816-383-0201

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Mike Wendlandt - 406-698-4166
 Newton Old Crow, Sr. - 406-620-3215
 Marcia Rytky - 406-544-2368
 Will Rytky – 406-543-7363

NEBRASKA

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 Connie Dringman - 817-236-0023
 Dennis Dringman - 817-236-0023

NEW MEXICO

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 Bill Hurt - 806-239-4296
 Shane Hendrickson – 575-770-4629

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 Brandon Bridges – 1375168
 Adam Stroud – 704-621-2719
 Robert Stroupe – 704-675-1958
 Titius Sloan – 817-236-0023
 Charlene Gibson – 336-703-7035
 James Gibson – 336-528-0926
 Cindy LaChance – 419-270-9334

OHIO

Sandra 'Doc' Bradley – 817-236-0023
 Bob Werry – 740-645-1967
 Gary Liston – 220-207-8194
 Maureen Wilhelm – 817-236-0023

OKLAHOMA

Steve Womack – 405-641-5992
 Anna Sherman – 580-706-0254
 Kenny Matlock – 918-839-6976
 Danny Sherman – 325-721-8660
 Cheryl Sherman – 972-802-5444
 Johnie Brown – 918-520-9621
 Mark Ingram – 405-543-3978
 Kristi Kiker – 918-841-8585
 Frank Kiker – 918-402-6629

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 Sheryl Nupp – 443-557-8680
 Steve Sellers – 717-360-3897
 Dave McMillan – 724-289-0153
 Carol Steffler – 724-758-6255
 Steve Richmond – 724-372-0490
 Roxie Stultz – 814-979-8472
 Cary Stultz – 814-979-8472
 Chris Gregory – 412-596-2383
 Lori Richmond – 724-372-0490
 Amy Stroble – 570-971-6735

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

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Bill Wood – 605-639-9401
 Steve Brandner – 605-518-9586

TENNESSEE

Steve Tankersley – 731-607-1073
 Crystal Bowers – 615-917-4235
 Jeremy Jones – 731-610-4414
 Dena Whitney – 931-629-4766

TEXAS

Ben Addington – 830-832-8302
 Carl Smith – 214-957-6111
 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
 Billy Reed – 325-721-3096
 Omar Stiefer – 903-372-0731
 Nancy Stiefer – 903-330-1122
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 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
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 Mike Campbell – 940-577-1385

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 Helen Fassauer – 806-683-4993
 Vanessa Clark – 210-330-1124
 Marsha Shilling – 817-709-5795
 Dave Granade – 210-919-0089
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 Thomas Duke – 936-524-7009
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 Greg Malone – 903-312-3224
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 Eric Norvell – 720-616-3587
 Rick Smith – 940-368-0034
 Dennis Sonsel – 830-263-4289
 Susie Thompson – 903-905-1807
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 Judd Treat – 214-325-8040
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 Guy Graves – 1653242
 Quentin Henry – 1856769
 Chester Bell – 1663013
 DeRome Patterson – 1347243
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 Anna Bowen – 661-331-8186
 Dorinda Blease – 817-999-4130
 Jack Blease – 940-765-1321
 Joey Skaggs – 940-443-0321
 Maria Halterman – 972-388-4158
 Lynn Carter – 817-454-0103
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 Thomas Burt – 512-216-0522
 Teresa Corman – 817-575-7776
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 Jonas Rambo – 972-841-2653
 Rebecca Lehne – 830-733-0170
 John Beaver – 817-296-2681
 Rain Ermis – 713-542-7160
 Cody Jones – 817-304-5320
 Jeannie Randolph – 859-325-9292
 Francisco Zapata - 746479
 Joseph Eggleston – 940-372-9377
 Miranda Miller – 940-399-9343
 Rebecca Schilinski – 940-366-2300

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 Tammy Burton – 304-482-0538

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