

# The Christian Ranchman

We're not trying to build an organization.

We're trying to fill the Kingdom of God.



Volume 37, Number 11-12

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

Nov/Dec 2011

Brother Ted and everyone at Cowboys for Christ headquarters would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2011 has been a year full of challenges for so many people but one thing never changes "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

**May You Have A Merry Christmas  
And A Blessed New Year!**

*Ted K. Pressley*



## UPDATE ON TED PRESSLEY

Ted and the Pressley family would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and emails of encouragement for Ted. Those mean so much to him. Ted continues to recover from the stroke he suffered on September 16, 2011 and has been working through a number of medical issues. We continue to ask for your prayers for Ted and for the Pressley family. If you would like to send a card to Ted, send them to:

*Ted Pressley*  
c/o Cowboys for Christ  
PO Box 7557  
Fort Worth, TX 76111

## Christmas on the Ranch

Submitted by Ted Pressley

'Twas the night before Christmas & out on the ranch  
The pond was froze over & so was the branch.  
The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule.  
The kids were all home on vacation from school,  
And happier young folks you never did see-  
Just all sprawled around a-watchin' TV.  
Then suddenly, some time around 8 o'clock,  
There came a surprise that gave them a shock!  
The power went off, the TV went dead!  
When Grandpa came in from out in the shed.  
With an armload of wood, the house was all dark.  
"Just what I expected," they heard him remark.  
"Them power line wires must be down from the snow.  
Seems sorter like times on the ranch long ago."  
"I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom. "With their light,  
And the fireplace, I reckon we'll make out all right."  
The teen-agers all seemed enveloped in gloom.  
Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room,  
Uncased his old fiddle & started to play  
That old Christmas song about bells on a sleigh.  
Mom started to sing, & 1st thing they knew  
Both Pop & the kids were all singing it, too.  
They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy Night,"  
Their eyes all a-shine in the ruddy firelight.  
They played some charades Mom recalled from her youth,  
And Pop read a passage from God's Book of Truth.  
They stayed up till midnight-and, would you believe,  
The youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas Eve.  
Grandpa rose early, some time before dawn;  
And when the kids wakened, the power was on..  
"The power company sure got the line repaired quick,"  
Said Grandpa - & no one suspected his trick.  
Last night, for the sake of some old-fashioned fun,  
He had pulled the main switch - the old Son-of-a-Gun!

## A Cowboy's Christmas

A.R. Danes

The ol' home place is warmed by the fireplace flame  
The pasture outside is no longer the same  
The season now changed on this morn from the night  
The green fields of the valley are all covered white

The snow-kissed tall pines standing proud on the hill  
Emit twice the beauty any Christmas tree will  
A Cowboy's Christmas is about to take place  
With tin plates and cotton no china or lace

A meal on the table to fulfill the day  
With loved ones in mind he bows down to pray  
Bless Mother and Father and all them without  
Thanks for the four walls my hands built so stout

His morning feast over he heads out the back  
To gather more wood from upon the stack  
Then heads for the barn to tend to the stock  
Like a shepherd of old he then counts his flock

Now hitches the mare to pull the ol' sleigh  
To visit the neighbors who live down the way  
A new chair for the Misses and a pipe for her man  
The gifts that he bears are all made by hand

The mission now over and warmth in his soul  
He heads back homeward from meeting his goal  
A Cowboy's Christmas is well on its way  
And at his lunch table he bows down to pray

Bless Mother and Father and those who have none  
Bless my neighbors misses he wants a fine son  
Thanks for the bread which in front of me lay  
And thanks for the loft full of fine winter's hay

From outside he hears a young snowbird call  
Recalling the season for one and for all  
The ranch house is peaceful as nears this day's eve  
It's the Birth of Our Savior to all who believe.

As the days chores are done once again  
A Cowboy's Christmas is nearing its end  
He prepares a fine fowl to supper this night  
The smell in the air is such a delight

He now sits at the table décor so fine  
Tears him some bread and pours him some wine  
Bless you Oh Lord and Mother and Dad  
And this Cowboy's Christmas- The finest I've had

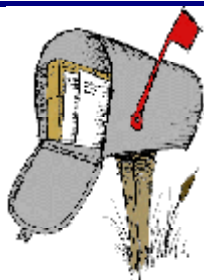
Amen



Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fort Worth, TX  
Permit No. 284

Cowboys For Christ  
P.O. Box 7557  
Fort Worth, TX 76111

# Letters TO The Editor!



Dear Cowboys for Christ,

I have been a reader of the Christian Ranchman for several months now, and I truly enjoy reading your material. I just wanted you to know that your Christian Ranchman reaches out to many kinds of different people not just cowboys. The majority of my life I've walked on this earth claiming to be a gangster. The Lord finally opened my eyes, and, now, it's Him that I serve, stay loyal to, and give my life to. I am currently a prisoner in Iowa, and I learned that you guys could use a little extra help. Its days like this that I wished that I was a free man making at least minimum wages, but working in prison only pays several cents an hour but I would like to make a \$2.00 donation and pray that it will at least help a little. I am sure that the Lord will provide all that you guys need so that you may continue to spread His word. I thank every single one of you at CFC for the amazing work that you do. Your time and efforts really do help a lot of different people (cowboys, gangsters, bikers...) with their spiritual growth and all that you do is truly appreciated. I look forward to the next issue. May the Lord bless the CFC and all of the true believers across the world! JC

\*\*\*\*\*

The reason for me writing is to congratulate you for your good job that brings many blessings to all who read it. (The Christian Ranchman) This past month I was handed a Christian Ranchman by another inmate. It was the September/October issue and I am here to tell you that I really enjoyed it greatly. Now, I would like to ask if you can add me to your subscription list. Thank you very much and keep up the good work in Jesus name. May God bless you all.

Sincerely in Christ, E.S., TX

\*\*\*\*\*

Brother Ted,

I've been a Christian since age 12 but I didn't really know Jesus. Not like I do now. Thanks to The Christian Ranchman and my Rule Book, I'm learning verse by verse how to stand up and be a real man. I look forward to my Ranchman newspaper. Keep the Word coming. I use my Ranchman as a tool to witness.

M.M., TX



## EXPLANATION OF GOD

Author Unknown

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything, hears everything, and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista ... At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God.. They finally got tired of him preaching to them, and they crucified him But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them, and God said O.K.' 'His Dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and They are sure to help you because They got it worked out so one of Them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong and besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But....you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'



## The Christian Ranchman

Volume 37

Nov/Dec 2011

No. 11-12

The Christian Ranchman is published monthly (subscriptions are free) by Cowboys For Christ, P.O. Box 7557, Fort Worth, TX 76111.  
**Physical Address: 3011 FM Rd. 718, Newark, TX 76071**

**Post Master: Send address changes to The Christian Ranchman, P.O. Box 7557, Fort Worth, TX 76111.**  
**Phone (817)236-0023**

**Ted K. Pressley, Founder/President, Editor**  
**Hank Sinatra, Assoc. Editor**  
**Dave Harvey, Executive Director**

Please remember that the statements and expressions are those of the witnesses, and not necessarily those of the staff or officers of Cowboys For Christ.

**E-Mail Address:**

[cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net)

**WEBSITE: [www.cowboysforchrist.net](http://www.cowboysforchrist.net)**

### 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 a substitute for the local Church or Assembly, nor is it 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.

© 2011 Cowboys For Christ

**REALITY**

Chuck DeHaan

Another rodeo had just completed its last performance. Cowboys, cowgirls, bull fighters, and specialty acts were all loadin' up and leavin'. Some were headin' to the next rodeo, some to the practice pen, others just home for a spell.

Three young bull riders pitched their bull ropes and riggin' bags into a ten year old Cadillac and spun out onto the highway. They had two states to cross and just twenty- two hours to do it in. That inward excitement of the next rodeo, you know that youthful expectation.

Johnny was in the back seat pawin' things around until he had a "nest" to sleep in. Quickly, he pulled off his boots and snuggled down. He had no trouble droppin' off to sleep. He knew his turn to "herd" this cowboy chariot would come soon enough. The two up front were "re-ridin'" their bulls and how the judgin' went.

"You know Bill you made a pretty good ride on your bull tonight, but you sure need to work on your get off. Gettin' hung up for another eight seconds, well, keep that up and you'll have the reach of a one arm orangutan."

Bill knew Jeff was funnin' him, that's just "The Cowboy Way." But before Jeff could run his full spill on him he thought he'd just cut him off with, "I used to know an ex-bull rider ...he kept switchin' hands when he rode. Sometimes left, sometimes he'd ride right. Sounds hard to believe I know, but the reason for it you see, he was hurt a lot. They used to call him Ol' Hang Up Willie. He got hung up so often that his arms and shoulders took so much stretchin' and hurtin', he had to switch hands back and forth lettin' the hurt one heal. This went along for years and his poor ol' arms finally just stayed all stretched out. Just stayed long. We used to call him Stretch. Seemed to fit 'im."

"Wow," with his mouth open and a serious, straight face Jeff asked, "Is he still ridin'?"

"Oh, no," Bill said, "but would you believe he could buckle on his own spurs while standin' straight up?!" They both laughed and kept up swappin' stories back and forth into the night. They'd talk about bulls, horses, girls, home, and what the future holds.

Jeff was ridin' "shot gun" and lookin' back over his shoulder at Johnny when he commented, "Ol' John's all bedded down back there and sleepin' like a hog in the sunshine. You know he gets put out with me at times, because I don't attend those cowboy Church services with him. Boy have you noticed they're poppin' up everywhere?"

"Yeah, I know what you're sayin'," Bill answered, "I went to a couple of them also. Over all, they were quite cool. But like you, I keep tellin' myself, 'I'll do that later. I've got so much goin' on right now.'"

They rode along into the night, quiet for a while. "You know," Jeff broke the silence, "I've always known there was a God, just didn't know much about him. I reckon there's a bunch of us like that. But I wonder about Jesus. I've heard said He's God's only begotten son. And I heard He came to save us and mend our evil ways."

"I follow you," Bill chirped in. "It seems like there's much to learn. I just don't have time for it now. I got my whole life ahead of me. I'll take up going to Church, to meetings, or whatever they call it later, when I slow down

a bit and get time."

Jeff was grinnin' when he said, "That's right ol' Pard. We've go things to do, places to go, and bulls to ride." They both agreed to that as they stared out the dirty windshield.

Quiet again, each one tendin' to his own thoughts. "Bill?" Jeff asked in a quiet sort of way, "Have you notice how many cowboys have made that commitment, prayed what they call the sinner's prayer, and became 'born again'? I heard a lot about all those things. The few times I went to one of those meetin's. And of course Johnny keeps witnessin' to me. That's what he calls it. But the part that always spooks me is when the speaker says, 'What if, yes what if, something unforeseen happened this very day and your life was snuffed out; with out Jesus, do you know what would happen to you?' Well that's when I shut them out." Jeff went on, "I don't have time to dwell on those things. I'll cross that bridge when I slow down, after I quit ridin' bulls. Like you, right now, I'm busy just livin' and lovin' every minute of it."

"I reckon we'll both settle down someday." It was quiet again on into the dark night, each to his own thoughts. Then out of nowhere, the blinding lights of a big eighteen-wheeler appeared shining bright into their windshield. Brakes squealing, air horns blaring, glass shattering, metal crushing, then silence...total silence....

**THE ROUND PEN OF LIFE**

By Dan O'Daniel, Enid, OK

I was born to a family that raised Quarter Horses. I recall Dad having studs that were known sons of Leo, Leo San, Go Man Go, etc. When I was about ten or twelve, it somehow fell to me to start the two-year-olds under saddle. It has been my good fortune to start colts under saddle all my life.

I came to Christ as a boy, and, at the age of 21, the Lord called me in to the ministry. Of all the churches I have pastored over the last 38 years, the one I have enjoyed the most is the Cowboy Church we now pastor. Some cowboys and I got together and decided to start it in October of 2004. We meet at the livestock auction barn every Thursday night. We thought it would be a good place for those who rodeo on weekends to come. We thought we might see forty or so at the most. Last Thursday night, we had 254, and it just keeps growing. I feel so blessed to be a part of a church where God is moving.

One day, I went to lunch with a few other preachers and they were talking about how someone comes to Christ. One bunch believed that it was all our choice, and the other bunch believed it was all God's choice. That afternoon I was starting a colt in the round pen when I said whoa he stopped and faced me and walked right to me. We had joined up. He was ready for me to be the boss. Suddenly it dawned on me that what we talked about at lunch works just like what happens in the pen. That night I wrote this poem:

As I put him in the round pen,  
He had a wild look in his eye.  
His only thought to get shut of me,  
And you could bet he was gonna try.

As I stepped out in the middle,  
He began to come unnerved.  
When I waved my coiled rope,  
He whirled around and swerved.

I made a loop in my rope,  
And threw it across his back.  
He jumped and snorted,  
And almost had a heart attack.

As he ran in a circle,  
He worked up a sweat.  
He's about to give me one side,  
On that you can bet.

Finally we came to join up.  
He stopped and walked to me.  
All the snort and fear was gone:  
It was a pleasant sight to see.

He had made his choice,  
He was gonna trust in me.  
But that's not true.  
That's what I want you to see.

I had chosen him while  
He was in the herd.  
I roped and drug him out  
Before he was ever curried.

I think that's how it is,  
Between the Lord and us.  
He drags us to Himself,  
And we make an awful fuss.

He runs us in the round pen of life,  
Until that fateful day,  
When we turn and trust in Him,  
In our own clumsy way.

When we say we chose Him;  
But that's not quite true.  
You'd never have chosen Him  
If he hadn't chosen you.

And put you in His round pen,  
And then under saddle,  
Helped you through the boogers of life,  
That you were bound to battle.

And then before you know it,  
Time has run its course,  
And our dear Lord has put a fine rein on you,  
Kinda like a good old usin' horse.





## ***A Living Memorial***

*In Memory of*

*Connie Greer Renard  
From  
Dick & Diane Milner*

*Sam Eaton  
From  
Sharon Poindexter*

*Wallace Mitchell  
From  
Eloy & Jeri Gonzales*

*R. Bruce Sullivan  
From  
Your Loving Family*

*Donna Dobson  
From  
Julie and David Stroud*

**Revelation 12:11 says,  
"They overcame him by  
the blood of the Lamb,  
and by the WORD of their  
testimony."**

**Have you shared His  
Word lately?  
Send us your  
testimony today!**

## ***Amazing Grace***

By E.J. Steerforth

The Lord's faithfulness and steadfast love for us, despite our foolish waywardness, amazes me. He protected me and held me through a life of craziness in the fast lane, and, when I was through running and turned to Him, He welcomed me with open arms and forgiveness. I do regret the years I wasted trying to assuage my pain by my own means instead of by turning to Him.

My mom has been a strong Christian for a very long time, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior when I was young, but after my father left (He was not saved), I entered my teen years, and I chose a lifestyle totally contrary to the way had been raised by my mother. I left college and moved to South Florida. Although the Bible my mother had given me for my twentieth birthday went with me wherever I moved, I never took it out of its little satin bag. I never used the Lord's name in vain, swore, or anything like that, but I never talked about the Lord either. I did my best to forget about the things I had been taught about God. I knew back in the day that Jesus had a place in my heart, but I didn't want to give up the "independence" and the lifestyle I thought I needed for happiness and sanity. What a liar Satan is! A haze of alcohol and loud southern rock and roll helped to keep my mind off the 'still small voice" that called to me from time to time.

My family never stopped praying for me and loving me. In 1990 a series of painful experiences brought me to my knees, and I cried out to God and asked Jesus Christ to be not only my Savior, but also the Lord of my life. Hallelujah! I can look back over the years and see how He never left me despite my attempts to quickly run away from Him. Unconditional love and grace are truly amazing!

I work with horses, many of whom have been abused, some just plain spoiled, and lots of them from the track. Through this work God has taught me about His principles of discipline and the power of love, in a way I don't think any human could have done, as I had been prone to keep people at arm's length. I have learned so much from these creatures of His who respond so readily to compassion and loving discipline. I've come to accept the Lord's discipline in my life, and in turn am learning about trust and willingness to be open and loving with human beings. Although I still struggle sometimes with having the same patience and compassion for people that I have for horses (despite 33 years of riding including 14 years of paid exercise riding and training, I've still been hurt by more humans than horses) I know that the Lord God has saved me to share His love with the two-legged beings that He created in his image. He continues to open doors for me to witness to my students and clients, but I think I still lack the boldness I should have.

Jim Adkins's poem "Eagles and Doves" (CR February '98) really spoke to my heart in this matter. I work with people who "eat, drink and sleep" horses. These animals do have a way of talking over every minute of our lives and thought life, and I pray daily that I won't lose sight of the real purpose of my work with horses- -to reach people for Christ's Kingdom. The Christian Ranchman has been such an encouragement in this respect. I wish you had a chapter in this spiritually barren part of the continent

(New England). I have yet to meet another Christian horse person up here.

I first heard about CFC at a John Lyons clinic in Massachusetts in 1994. Up until that time I had been thinking about some way to find out if there were other Christians who were involved with horses, and who would want to form a fellowship group. So, finding out about you was an answer to prayer. The Sunday Morning worship service held in conjunction with the clinic was great, and before leaving I had a chance to speak with Mr. Nagel and his wife who were very much encouraged about working with horses and the ministry opportunities the Lord is providing through that work.

I continue to pray for the CFC ministry and to support you financially as the Lord provides. God Bless You.



## ***Christ our Savior is Born***

By Yolanda Oswin

Looking down from heavenly realms  
And seeing despair on earth  
God's time had come to set in place  
His plan for the Savior's birth.

Joseph and Mary, a favored couple  
Were chosen, this plan to abide,  
Mary to carry and bear God's Son  
Joseph to stay by their side.

T'was wonderment to consider  
This miraculous Son of God  
A child, born in a stable,  
Where cattle trod.

Holding Jesus, The savior and King,  
What Joy filled Mary's heart.  
Despite the cold, despite the damp  
Despite the terrible start.

Wrapped in merely swaddling cloth  
And looking no special thing  
Yet Angels proclaimed this special  
Event,  
The birth of the King of Kings.

Wise men did well to follow the star,  
To the stable all forlorn,  
They beheld for themselves the truth  
Of the Word,  
Their Savior had been born.

As Jesus grew in stature  
He obediently lived God's will,  
Totally man yet totally God  
Salvation...the plan to fulfill.

Many remain in thought of the babe,  
In a manger instead of an inn.  
History, His story, tells of His death  
To pay up the price for our sin.

*Mule Days  
from Leslie Hill & Twin Counties  
Chapter, Rocky Mount, NC*

Every year the Twin Counties chapter of Cowboys for Christ attends Mule Days, which is a long weekend event that starts on Thursday and ends on Sunday. Horse lovers from everywhere come to ride their horses and to hook up their wagons then ride through town. There are rodeos going on everyday at different times for everyone to enjoy. Saturday is the day of the parade and many people come to enjoy the wagons and the riders. The Twin Counties chapter of Cowboys for Christ is in the parade every year. We have Jimmy Dozier with his percherons pulling his wagon, and the rest are either on horseback or muleback. The Twin Counties chapter is in charge of the gospel music on Friday night, and they have church services on Sunday morning. This year, it rained, but we did not let that get us down. We all got together and had a great time. We had a lot of laughter and good chuck-wagon cooking. We all sat around and watched the kids drive by on their vehicles at night, and, during the day when we were sitting around the camp, we watched the other horse and mule lovers ride by our camp site. We were located on a corner where all could see and hear us. We made sure that people knew that you could be a Christian and still have Great Fun. It just shows that you do not have to drink to laugh so hard that it hurts. We do offer church services every Sunday at 10 am when we attend Mule Days. Anyone is welcomed to attend, and it does not matter how you are dressed, or even if you come by horse, vehicle, or by foot. The chapter just wants to make sure that everyone has a chance to hear God's word. So, please mark your calendars for Mule Days in Benson, NC on September 20-23, 2012 and come join the Twin Counties chapter to worship, laugh, praise, and just to have a great time. Bring your family and friends to see everything that will go on at Mule Days.



*The Christmas We Had Everything*

Gene Day

Jesus' birth was surprisingly humble and lowly. When He was born, He was laid in a borrowed manger because there was no room at the inn. His earthly parents were poor, yet devout people. It was these people in this place that God chose for the birth of the Savior.

We all know that gaudy decorations and expensive gifts are not what make Christmas meaningful, but many get caught up in the advertising hype around us. We feel sorry for the poor who don't have all the good things most of us have. Being poor does not mean Christmas cannot be full of all that God intends.

When I was in seminary, we had little money. My wife and I were able to purchase a few nice gifts for our daughter but had only \$3 a piece to spend on each other. By shopping carefully, we were able to buy several items with the money. Our Christmas tree, a live cedar which someone gave us, was decorated with popcorn and cranberries. A cheap nativity scene, decorated with little lights, was the centerpiece in our home. An elderly lady was invited to share Christmas dinner with us. As I read aloud the Christmas story from the Bible, with only the illumination of Christmas lights, we experienced a sacred moment with God. We felt very rich that year.

No other Christmas in our memory has the warmth and charm of that one. It was holy and filled with the presence of God. We were grateful to God for His provision. We did not feel poor. Indeed, we had everything.

Reprinted with permission from Gene Day's book 'The Best of God's Acre.'



Jack Sorenson - A Cowboy Christmas

## WEBSITE NEWS AND UPDATES

### Note to Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents

Quarterly Updates are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following months: January, April, July & October.

The update form is available at:  
[www.cowboysforchrist.net](http://www.cowboysforchrist.net)

If you do not have internet access and do not have the current form, please call the office at 817-236-0023 and we will mail it to you.

**Quarterly Updates can be e-mailed to:**  
[cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net) or mailed to PO  
Box 7557, Ft. Worth, Texas 76111.

### CHECK THE WEBSITE & CR CHAPTER DIRECTORY — We have audited all chapter files.

If your chapter is not listed in the directory or on the website, we have not received the required Quarterly Updates. If your chapter is active, please submit a current Quarterly Update so your chapter information can be reinstated in the next issue of the Christian Ranchman and posted on the website.

If there is an error, please call the office or e-mail [cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net) and it will get corrected as quickly as possible.

### Contact us via E-Mail:

Ted Pressley and Dave Harvey General mail:  
[cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net)

**Submit testimonies, articles or to subscribe to  
the Christian Ranchman at**  
[ranchman@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:ranchman@cowboysforchrist.net)

### Order Inquiries:

[cfcorder@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cfcorder@cowboysforchrist.net)

### Paperwork/Chapter Correspondence:

[cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net)

### WEB SEARCH ENGINES

Please continue to use Google and Yahoo search engines to locate Cowboys for Christ Official Website. This will help us keep our ranking in the search engines.  
[www.cowboysforchrist.net](http://www.cowboysforchrist.net)

### CFC E-Mail Addresses

[cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net) —General mail account and e-mails to Ted Pressley.

[ranchman@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:ranchman@cowboysforchrist.net) —Submit Articles, send your testimony or subscribe to The Christian Ranchman newspaper.

[cfcorder@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cfcorder@cowboysforchrist.net) —Questions regarding products ordered from the paper that have not been received or product related questions.

[cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cfcmail@cowboysforchrist.net) - Office, Mailings, Paperwork,

**CFC Bible Studies and the Prayer and Praise area are now online.**

Alabama

**Circuit Riders CFC, Ohatchee**

Tony Crosson, President, 256 419-3140; Jason Yates, Vice-President, 256 490-3549  
Email: [hatcreekboys@yahoo.com](mailto:hatcreekboys@yahoo.com)

**Cowbyn' for the Son CFC, Athens**

Cynthia Baughn President, 256 771-1826; Roger Weakley, Vice-President, 931 309-9758  
Email: [baughbcg@gmail.com](mailto:baughbcg@gmail.com) - Website: [www.cowboynfortheson.com](http://www.cowboynfortheson.com)

Alaska

**Mat-Valley Cowboys for Christ, Wasilla**

Tim Avritt, President, 907 376-2370; Chuck Abbott, Vice-President, 907 376-7007

California

**Southern California Cowboys for Christ Ministries, Torrance**

Fr Ricardo Rodriguez, President, 310 938-2786; Rev. Tami Wall, Vice-President, 310 938-2786  
Email: [wishelder3@aol.com](mailto:wishelder3@aol.com)

Colorado

**Durango Chapter, Durango**

John Beranek, President, 970 247-8288; Chris Swift, Vice-President, 970 533-9797  
Email: [swiftcreekbranch@aol.com](mailto:swiftcreekbranch@aol.com)

Florida

**Soncoast Cowboys for Christ, Nobleton**

Barbara McKenzie, President, 352 568-1507; Nancy Ramirez, Vice-President, 352 569-5318  
Email: [cfcsoncoast@aol.com](mailto:cfcsoncoast@aol.com) - Website: [www.cowboysforchristfl.com](http://www.cowboysforchristfl.com)

Illinois

**Christian Cowboys Outreach Cowboys for Christ, Pontoon Beach**

Gary Wagoner, President, 618 580-6372; Dan Boone, Vice-President, 618 797-1021

Indiana

**Northern Indiana Cowboys for Christ, New Paris**

Ted Schowengerdt, President, 574 831-5764; Willie Hosletler, Vice-President, 574 575-0451

**Central Indiana Cowboys for Christ, West Newton**

Phil Fatch, President, 317 266-9065; Derek Hornaday, Vice President

Kansas

**Clay Center Cowboys for Christ, Morganville**

Chuck Smith, President, 785 632-5841; Dean Stockert, Vice-President, 785 761-5242  
Email: [dalexander@twinvalley.net](mailto:dalexander@twinvalley.net) - Website: [www.claycentercowboysforchrist.org](http://www.claycentercowboysforchrist.org)

# COWBOYS FOR CHRIST CHAPTER DIRECTORY

For more information about activities, meeting dates, times and locations, etc., please contact people listed for the chapter nearest you, or our website at: [www.cowboyforchrist.net](http://www.cowboyforchrist.net)

**The Rugged Cross Cowboys for Christ, Conway Springs**

Darrin Green, President, 620 456-2203; Brian Strange, Vice-President

**Kingdom Riders of Southeast Kansas**

Sarah Lowe, President, 620 212-4097; Eddie Henley, Vice-President, 620 537-7137

Kentucky

**Ridin of Faith Cowboys for Christ, Shepherdsville**

Pamela Thompson, President, 502 931-4853; Jessica Davis, Vice-President  
Email: [pthompson0012@insightbb.com](mailto:pthompson0012@insightbb.com)

Michigan

**Great Lakes Cowboys for Christ, Coopersville**

Jim Hansen, President, 616 450-4887; Harlan Smith, Vice-President, 616 837-6432  
Email: [jimhansen2@netzero.net](mailto:jimhansen2@netzero.net)

**Heavenly Hoof Beats, Dansville/Perry**

Ron Squires, President, 517 675-1540;  
Email: [trailrider@cowboyway.com](mailto:trailrider@cowboyway.com)

**Michigan Cowboys for Christ, Midland**

Pat Murphy, President, 989 832-9092; John Oelberg, Vice-President, 989 708-0090

Mississippi

**Circuit Riders, Hazlehurst**

Scott Biggens, President, 601 672-4262; Jack Foster, Vice-President, 601 894-3809

Missouri

**Capital Region Cowboys for Christ, New Bloomfield**

Tom Shands, President, 660 849-2149; John Hunter, Vice-President, 573 310-1293  
Email: [timberline2@earthlink.net](mailto:timberline2@earthlink.net)

**Pony Express Cowboys for Christ, St. Joseph**

Matt Wagner, President, 816 238-7503; Glenn Spencer, Vice-President, 816 685-3210  
Email: [miwestcfc.com](mailto:miwestcfc.com)

**Green Hills Cowboys for Christ, Green Hill Area**

Tom Bennett, President, 680-342-3403; Pat Scott, Vice-President, 660-226-5351

New Mexico

**Cowboys for Christ (New chapter forming), Los Lunas**

Bryan Chavez, 505 720-2142

North Carolina

**NC Foothills, Statesville**

Craig Deal, President, 704 873-3421; Andrew Sams, Vice-President, 704 880-3661  
Email: [craigdeal@bellsouth.net](mailto:craigdeal@bellsouth.net)

**Heart of Carolina Cowboys for Christ, Garner**

Cliff Lee, President, 919 553-6726; Jerry Sprague, Vice-President  
Email: [cleeconstruction@embarqmail.com](mailto:cleeconstruction@embarqmail.com)  
Website: [www.heartofcarolinacfc.com](http://www.heartofcarolinacfc.com)

**Mid-East Chapter, Grifton**

Jack Keel, President, 252 525-8519; Lennis Freeman, Vice-President, 910 358-9723  
Email: [daystarjrseministry@yahoo.com](mailto:daystarjrseministry@yahoo.com)

**Tri County, Marion**

Bill Queen, President, 828 73-8485; James Nations, Vice-President, 828 738-4343  
Email: [mckinneywalkers@yahoo.com](mailto:mckinneywalkers@yahoo.com)

**Cape Fear CFC**

John Millican, President, 910-840-1402; Gary Caswell, Vice-President, 910-874-0613.  
Email: [anthonyrich@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonyrich@yahoo.com)

**Jacksonvill Home of Camp Lejuueune**

Carol Godfrey, President, 910-324-7137; Athina Williams, Vice-President, 910-799-9529.  
Email: [jbclaze@embarqmail.com](mailto:jbclaze@embarqmail.com)

**Twin Counties Chapter**

Alfred Tyson, President, 252-459-6091; Sue Armstrong, Vice President, 252-443-4434  
Email: [donnaptyson@aol.com](mailto:donnaptyson@aol.com)

North Dakota

**Dakota Cowboys For Christ**

Karen Hook, President, 701-391-4271; Loren Wetch, Vice-President, 701-663-5424  
Email: [khook@nd.gov](mailto:khook@nd.gov)

Oklahoma

**Central Oklahoma Chapter, Norman**

Steve Womack, President, 405 872-7329; John Payne, Vice-President, 405 396-2738

**Cowboys for Christ in Sand Springs, Sand Springs**

Phil Schwartz, President, 231 670-9851  
Email: [arabiansfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:arabiansfarms@yahoo.com)

Pennsylvania

**West Keystone Cowboys for Christ, New Castle**

Dale Brenneman, President, 724 924-2830  
Bob Steffler, Vice-President, 724 758-6255  
Email: [westjetstibecfc@yahoo.com](mailto:westjetstibecfc@yahoo.com)

Texas

**Cowboys for Christ Office, Newark**

Ted Pressley, Founder, President, 817 236-0023  
Hank Sinatra, Assoc. Editor  
Dave Harvey, Executive Director  
Email: [cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net)

**Southeast Texas Cowboys for Christ, Kountze**

A. H. Elmer, President, 409 246-8985; Sneed Elmer, Vice-President, 409 246-8985

West Virginia

**Ridin' for Brand, Victor**

Elbert Horrocks, President, 304 658-5730

Wisconsin

**Lighthouse Chapter**

Janet Kent, President, 920 517-3845; Mary Harris, Vice-President  
Email: [churchoreopeach37@yahoo.com](mailto:churchoreopeach37@yahoo.com)  
\*If your Chapter isn't on here call 817 236-0023



## A Cowboy's 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

By Pete Crisswell

The lord is my cowboss.  
He outfits me with everything I need.  
He puts my bedroll down in pastures deep and green.  
He drives me beside still waters pure and sweet.  
When I drink I am refreshed, the waters restore my life.  
He causes me to ride the trails of righteousness.  
Not so I can brag on myself but to honor the name of His brand.  
Yes and even though I ride through the deep sunless valley of the shadow of death  
I'll not be afraid for you are with me, stirrup to stirrup and I ride easy.  
He has fixed my evening meal on the very table of my enemies.  
He has caused my face to be washed in his love.  
He has anointed my head with oil.  
He has put so much in my cup that it spills over.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow my trail all my life.  
And I'll live on His home range forever.  
AMEN



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## Alabama

**Circuit Riders CFC, Ohatchee**  
Fellowship: Friday's at 6pm

**Cowbyn' for the Son CFC, Athens**  
Fellowship: LuLu's Restaurant 1st  
Thursday each month at 6:00pm  
Website: [www.cowboynfortheson.com](http://www.cowboynfortheson.com)

## Alaska

**Mat-Valley Cowboys for Christ, Wasilla**  
Fellowship: 2nd Monday at 6:30pm  
Call Debbie Avritt at 907 376-2370

## California

**Southern California Cowboys for  
Christ Ministries, Torrance**  
Fellowship: Each Wednesday at 11am

## Colorado

**Durango Chapter, Durango**  
Fellowship: Animas Valley Grand Hall on  
Thursday's at 7:00pm

## Florida

**Soncoast Cowboys for Christ,  
Nobleton**  
Fellowship: Call Barbara at 352 568-1507  
for date and location  
Website: [www.cowboysforchristfl.com](http://www.cowboysforchristfl.com)

## Indiana

**Northern Indiana Cowboys for Christ,  
New Paris**  
Fellowship: Trail Ride 3rd Saturday each  
month

**Central Indiana Cowboys for Christ,  
West Newton**  
Fellowship: Call Phil at 317 266-9065 for  
date and location

## Kansas

**Clay Center Cowboys for Christ, Clay  
Center**  
Fellowship: see website for information or  
call Chuck at 785 632-5841  
Website:  
[www.claycentercowboysforchrist.org](http://www.claycentercowboysforchrist.org)

## Kentucky

**Ridin of Faith Cowboys for Christ,  
Shepherdsville**  
Fellowship: 1st Thursday of each month at  
7p and call 502 931-4853 for location  
Michigan

**Great Lakes Cowboys for Christ,  
Coopersville**  
Fellowship: Call Jim Hansen at 616 450-  
4887 for date and location

**Michigan Cowboys for Christ, Midland**  
Fellowship: Call Pat at 989 832-9092 for  
date and location

## Mississippi

**Circuit Riders, Hazlehurst**  
Fellowship: Thursday's at 7pm at J & M  
Saddlery

## Missouri

**Capital Region Cowboys for Christ, New  
Bloomfield**  
Fellowship: At Timeberline Stables; 1st  
Friday - Music Jam 2nd Thursday Meeting  
3rd Saturday Trail Ride

**Pony Express Cowboys for Christ, St.  
Joseph**  
Fellowship: 1st Tuesday at 7pm at Poney  
Express Club

**Green Hills Cowboys for Christ, Green  
Hill Area**  
Fellowship: 3rd Thursday at 7pm call Tom  
at 660 342-3403 for location

**Salvation Riders, Lamar Area**  
Fellowship: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 6pm at  
the Memorial Hall in the basement

## New Mexico

**Cowboys for Christ, Los Lunas**  
Fellowship: August 21st at 9am at the  
Valencia County Community Expo in  
Entertainment Tent

## North Carolina

**NC Foothills, Statesville**  
Fellowship: Call Craig at 704 873-3421 for  
date and location

## Go To Chapter Directory (pg. 6 ) For Contact Info.

### Heart of Carolina Cowboys for Christ, Garner

Fellowship: 2nd Thursday at Corolina  
Barbecue at 6:30pm  
Website  
[www.heartofcarolinacfc.com](http://www.heartofcarolinacfc.com)

### Mid-East Chapter, Grifton

Fellowship: Call Jack at 252 525-8519  
for date and location

### Tri-County, Marion

Fellowship: 1st Monday at 7pm at  
Providence Farm

### Cape Fear CFC, Clarkton/Whiteville area

Fellowship: Call Anthony Rich at 910  
876-2589 to find where 3rd Saturday of  
the month meeting/ride to be held

### Jacksonville, Home of Camp Lejueune Richlands

Fellowship: Contact Carl Godfrey at 910  
324-7137 for time and location of  
fellowship

### Twin Counties Chapter, Rocky Mount

Fellowship: 4th Thursday each month  
at 7pm at Englewood Assemble of God

## North Dakota

**Dakota Cowboys for Christ, Mandan**  
Fellowship: 2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm (CT)  
at KIST Livestock Arena

## Oklahoma

**Central Oklahoma Chapter, Norman**  
Fellowship: 1st Tuesday at Remington  
Place

### Cathedral of Praise Cowboys for Christ, Sand Springs

Fellowship: Last Sunday of the month  
6pm at 5846 S 209th W Ave., Sand  
Springs

## Pennsylvania

### West Keystone Cowboys for Christ, New Castle

Fellowship: 1st & 3rd Sundays at  
6:30pm at Brenneman's home

## Texas

**Cowboys for Christ Office, Newark**  
Fellowship: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 3011  
FM 718, Newark 76071

### Southeast Texas Cowboys for Christ, Kountze

Fellowship: 3rd Saturday at 7pm at CFC  
Barn

## Wisconsin

### Lighthouse Chapter

Fellowship: Last Saturday at 5:30pm call  
Janet 920 517-3845 for location

**\*If your Chapter isn't on here call 817  
236-0023**

## 20 Beautiful Godly One- Liners

- 1 - Give God what's right — not what's left.
- 2 - Man's way leads to a hopeless end — God's way leads to an endless hope.
- 3 - A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
- 4 - He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
- 5 - Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
- 6 - When praying, don't give God instructions- just report for duty.
- 7 - Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
- 8 - We don't change God's message— His message changes us.
- 9 - When God ordains, He sustains.
- 10 - WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
- 11 - Plan ahead—it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 12 - Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
- 13 - Exercise daily—walk with the Lord.
- 14 - Never give the devil a ride—he will always want to drive.
- 15 - Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
- 16 - Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
- 17 - He who angers you controls you.
- 18 - Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
- 19 - Be ye fishers of men—you catch them and He'll clean them.
- 20 - Read the Bible—it will scare the hell out of you.



# Cowboys For Christ General Store



*American made Poplin  
cotton jackets!*



## Specialty Items

### The Following Items Are Free:

#### Tracts Qty.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Your Entry Fees Are Paid
- \_\_\_\_\_ Need a Lift?
- \_\_\_\_\_ FREE Professional Tips to a Winning Ride
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Race Is On
- \_\_\_\_\_ Just a Short Ride Across the Arena
- \_\_\_\_\_ Five Steps to Become A Top Hand
- \_\_\_\_\_ God, Cowboys and Reining Horses

#### Other Materials Qty.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bible Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry Brochures
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bumper Stickers: Cowboys For Christ
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offering Envelopes
- \_\_\_\_\_ CHRISTIAN RANCHMAN newspapers

## The Following Items Are For Sale

Qty.	Item	Color	Size	Price
_____	Cowboy Angel	24K Gold Plated		\$ 4.50
_____	CFC Jacket	Blue/w Logo		
		Cotton Poplin	S-M-L-XL	\$34.00
_____	T-Shirts	Blue	S-M-L-XL-XXL	\$10.50
_____	Ball Caps	White, Khaki or Black		\$14.50
_____	Belt Buckle	Antique Bronze		\$35.50
_____	Belt Buckle	Silver w/24k Gold Plate		\$50.50
		Inlaid-Royal Blue, White & Green in Shield & Letters		
_____	16 OZ Travel Mug	Royal blue with white print		\$ 5.00
_____	CFC Flags			\$50.00
_____	COMPLETE (Palm Size) Bible	<u>WHILE THEY LAST</u>		\$ 6.50

Include S & H cost posted to the left....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out quantities. Fill out check/money order for sale items.  
Fill out portion below and mail to:

CFC, P.O. Box 7557, Fort Worth, TX 76111

### United State Shipping & Handling Cost

From	To	Rate
\$0.01	\$40.00	\$6.50
\$40.01	\$100.00	\$8.50
\$100.01	\$250.00	\$10.50
\$251.00	and up	\$12.50

### International Shipping

From	To	Rate
\$0.01	\$200.00	\$25.00

## NOTICE

Contributions, gifts, bequests and legacies of money or property, made to Cowboys For Christ, for any phase of its ministry, are tax deductible. Cowboys For Christ ministries include evangelism to the livestock industry, missionary outreach, publishing The Christian Ranchman, tract outreach, personal counseling, preaching, praying and writing. A Tax deductible receipt is issued at the year's end, for every gift.

Checks should be made payable to: Cowboys For Christ

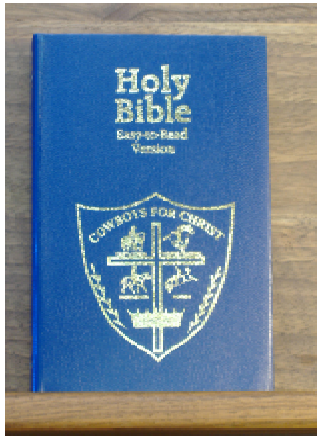
*GOLD Guardian Angels (with cowboy hats) just \$4.50 each.*

*SILVER Guardian Angels (with cowboy hats) just \$4.50 each.*



*CFC Headquarters  
has these 2  
different bumper  
stickers  
and 1 window  
sticker that you can  
get FREE of  
charge....just ask for  
them!*

## COWBOYS FOR CHRIST ENTIRE BIBLE



This wonderful Bible is the Easy-to-Read version by the World Bible Translators, prepared especially for CFC. It's the Old and New Testaments with beautiful CFC colors—royal blue leather imprint with expensively striking gold inlay on the cover. It is 4-7/16 inches wide by 6-5/8 inches high, perfect size to fit in your coat pocket, yet designed with type size—very easy to read. Printed on thin crystal white onion skin paper, making it beautiful, flexible and very readable.

This awesome Bible brings an easy and new flare to Bible study. It's a must for your spiritual life! Order yours now, they make GREAT gifts!!!! See order form.

**Only \$6.50 each  
+ Shipping &  
Handling**



**Palm Size  
Case Lots of 40 -  
\$220.00 + S & H**

## COWBOYS FOR CHRIST BELT BUCKLES



**SILVER WITH GOLD PLATE,  
ROYAL BLUE INLAY**

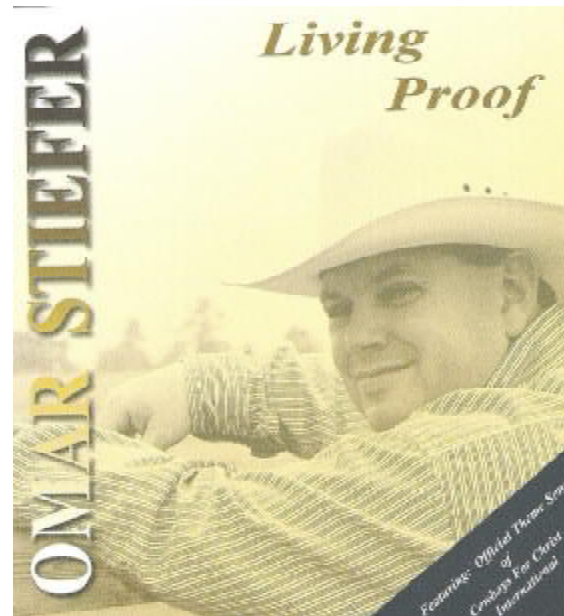


**ANTIQUE BRONZE**

**THESE ARE WONDERFUL FOR MEN OR WOMEN.  
ANYONE WOULD BE PROUD TO HAVE ONE!!!**



**THEY'RE HERE!  
CFC FLAGS THAT WAVE IN THE WIND  
SPECIAL PRICE \$50.00 PLUS S&H**



**CDs Now Available  
through Cowboys for  
Christ - Order Yours  
Today!!!**

**Living Proof by Omar  
Stieffer - \$15 +  
shipping  
This CD features the  
Official Theme Song  
for Cowboys For  
Christ**

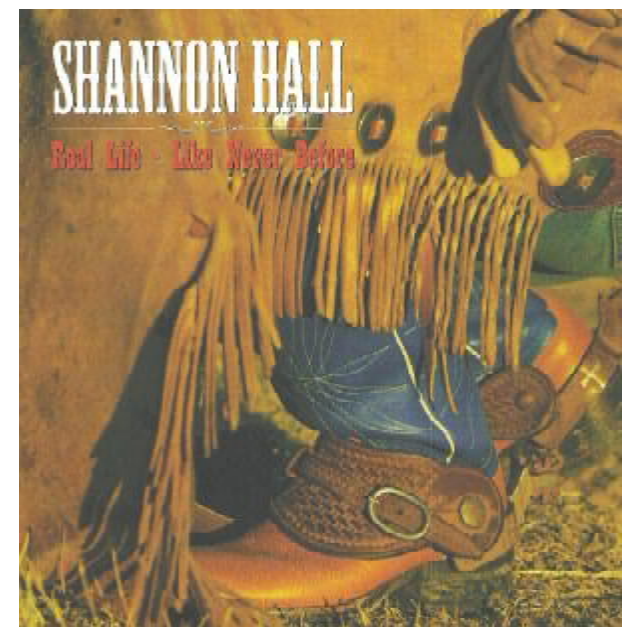
**16 OZ  
CFC  
Travel Mugs  
\$5.00 EA +  
S&H  
Royal blue  
with white  
print.**



**New and Larger**

**Real Life – Like  
Never Before by  
Shannon Hall - \$15  
+ shipping  
NCHA Hall of  
Fame Member**

**Shannon's music  
will lift your spirit  
and touch your  
heart.**



*Howdy Cowboys for Christ members  
From the Cowboy' for the Son Chapter,  
Athens, AL*

Below you will find the activity information for the remainder of the year. Please note the schedule for new officer nominations and elections. We all hope to see you on a ride or at a meeting in the near future. Remember to use our gatherings as an outreach opportunity to share Christ with someone. Please note that we will not have a December monthly meeting but will start in January as usual on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00 at Lulu's restaurant.

It is that time of year again where we need to nominate and elect new officers. Please prayerfully consider serving in an officer position if you feel the Lord is calling you. Nominations are open now through our Christmas dinner on 17 December. Elections and/or confirmations will occur at our January 5, 2012 meeting and new officers will take office at that time. The officer positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Reporter, and Chaplain. Please contact any of the current officers with your self-nomination or nomination of another for one of these positions.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:  
President: Cynthia Baughn (256)656-1838  
[baughncg@gmail.com](mailto:baughncg@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Roger Weakley (931)309-9758  
Sec/Tres: Steve Olney (256) 233-5316  
Chaplain: Ken LeSueur (256) 771-1826, (256)503-6792  
(Cell) [klesueur@charter.net](mailto:klesueur@charter.net)

**Purpose Statement** - The purpose of the Cowboy' for the Son chapter of Cowboys for Christ is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and promote Christian fellowship and discipleship through equine activities that are family oriented and fun for everyone.

Website: <http://www.cowboynfortheson.com/>

**Saturday 10, December 2011** Horse Whisperer Demonstration by Stan Smith at 2-S Arena  
Time: 11:00

Stan will start a horse from untouched to finished rideable mount during the course of the demonstration  
Price: \$3 per car.

**Directions:** Take I-65 Exit 361, Go 2.5 miles East on Thach Road. Look on left for signs to Cowboy Church of Limestone County (26155 Thach Road)

**Saturday 17, December 2011**-CHRISTmas Party at Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo Banquet Room  
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Food: Bring your favorite Chili, Soup, or Stew and a dessert and drinks for your family.

Other Activities: We will play "Dirty Santa", if you would like to participate, please bring a horse or farm related gift (\$15 limit).

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors for a wonderful CHRISTmas celebration.



*News Update from the Sand Springs  
Oklahoma  
Chapter of Cowboys for Christ*

WOW, mission survival camp was way more than I expected! By the grace of God and His mercy - WE SURVIVED! It was 5 days of learning to submit, work as a mission team to solve problems and s-t-r-e-t-c-h what we thought we were physically capable of doing, whether it was backpacking into a campsite after dark without using marked trails, rappelling down a 90' cliff, or zip lining across a wide and deep river chasm! It was one of the toughest weeks of my life.

A couple of weeks later, we drove to Nashville Tennessee after work on Friday to meet with Bishwa and Ramila Karmacharya and two other couples involved in ministry in Nepal. We have been communicating with Bishwa and Ramila for over a year now and have been invited to join them in Nepal for ministry. So, it was a great chance to meet them in person. We were greatly encouraged by the meeting; they are warm, humble Christians doing the Lord's work in a place that needs the Gospel.

And last, but not least, we will be doing our mission internship in Hong Kong, China for about 6 weeks in the end of March and all of April 2012. Talk about being stretched, we are a couple of country-type, small-town folk being sent to work for the Lord on an island of about 9 million people! As we find out more of the details, I will be sharing them with you.

Please keep this work, Cowboys for Christ, and your local congregation in your prayers-God IS listening!  
Phillip & Marilyn Schwartz

*What is JOY?*

*By Matt Thomas*

*Capital Region Cowboys for Christ*

As I have been studying, God has focused me on learning about the joy that comes from our relationship with Jesus Christ. I just wanted to share a little something from my study bible. What is Joy? Joy is an integral part of our salvation in Christ. It is an inner peace and delight in God the Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and in the blessing that flows from our relationship with them. It does not come automatically but is experienced as we maintain an abiding relationship with Christ. Our joy becomes greater when the Spirit mediates a deep sense of God's presence and nearness in our lives. Jesus taught that the fullness of joy is inseparably connected to our remaining in his Word, loving others, obeying his commands, and being separated from the world. Joy as a delight in God's nearness and his redemptive gifts cannot be destroyed by pain, suffering, weakness or difficult circumstances. (Life in the Spirit, NIV study bible, page 1870 Note: 1:4) As we see, staying in the word of GOD and loving people is the biggest part to us maintain joy in our lives.



*LET HIM SET YOU FREE*

By Matt McGarity

Recently, I caught a documentary on solitary confinement in a U.S. prison. The show captured inmates in a maximum-security prison who were confined in solitude because of the terrorizing thought of having to endure such conditions for any period of time. I was especially alarmed to learn most of these inmates have incredible trouble behaving well enough to be released from the solitary confinement cell block. In fact, many of the inmates interviewed had been in solitary confinement for years. They all seemed to have the same story. They almost completed their time, then they just "popped" and did something or said something that extended their sentence of confinement.

My heart ached for these prisoners. I felt a deep sense of compassion for them, realizing that anyone in those circumstances would probably find themselves in the same perpetual state of psychological strain. Most of the inmates interviewed admitted they have come to accept that they may never get out of solitary confinement. The thought of prison is scary. The thought of solitary confinement is terrifying. We were created for community, to live life in relationship with others.

I recently visited a minimal-security penitentiary, where a friend of mine serves as a chaplain. He was donating a portable baptistery to Relevant Church. After checking in with the guard, the uniformed officer directed me to drive around the barbed-wire-fenced facility. At the gate, my friend and two inmates stood waiting for me. My friend unlocked the gate, and the inmates helped load the baptistery on the trailer, which was out in the parking lot. What a stark contrast to the documentary I had viewed. These inmates were very low risk, most of them permitted to leave the facility for work-release programs. When the grass needs to be cut, you will see inmates riding lawnmowers around the property, even outside the fence.

Penitentiaries, regardless of the level of security, are places designed to bring a law-breaker to repentance. The levels of security are generally matched with the levels of infraction. The hope of the system is that many who are incarcerated will come to truly repent of their wrongdoing. Repentance means "to turn away" from your wrongdoing. It's not enough the penalty is paid or the time is served, it's about coming to a place where the prisoner turns from ever committing the crime again. Sadly, for most inmates, their time in prison has made them hard. Their sentence has done little to promote repentance and more to creating enemies of the state and the law. This is what prison does to a soul.

The Bible teaches that Christ has come to proclaim freedom for the prisoners (Luke 4:18). Many people find themselves imprisoned by their sinfulness. For so many, the ability to repent seems impossible. Maybe it's hardheadedness, pride or the illusion that your sinfulness is not imprisoning you at all. Whatever the excuse, the prison of sinfulness often creates unrepentant hearts. The key to unlocking that prison door is to turn from your sins and to follow Christ. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed!" (John 8:36)

Matt McGarity is lead pastor of Relevant Church in Lake Wylie, SC and a former bull rider.

## Joseph's Letter Home - A Christmas Story

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson  
Submitted by Kit Pharo

Dear Mom,

We're still in Bethlehem – Mary and I and little Jesus.

There were lots of things I couldn't talk to you about last summer. You wouldn't have believed me then, but maybe I can tell you now. I hope you can understand.

You know, Mom, I've always loved Mary. You and Dad used to tease me about her when she was still a girl. She and her brothers used to play on our street. Our families got together for supper. But the hardest day of my life came scarcely a year ago when I was twenty and she only fifteen. You remember that day, don't you?

The trouble started after we were betrothed and signed the marriage agreement at our engagement. That same spring Mary had left abruptly to visit her old cousin Elizabeth in Judea. She was gone three whole months. After she got back, people started wondering out loud if she were pregnant.

It was cloudy the day when I finally confronted her with the gossip. "Mary," I asked at last, "are you going to have a baby?"

Her clear brown eyes met mine. She nodded.

I didn't know what to say. "Who?" I finally stammered.

Mom, Mary and I had never acted improperly – even after we were betrothed.

Mary looked down. "Joseph," she said, "There's no way I can explain. You couldn't understand. But I want you to know I've never cared for anyone but you." She got up, gently took my hands in hers, kissed each of them as if it were the last time she would ever do that again, and then turned towards home. She must have been dying inside. I know I was.

The rest of the day I stumbled through my chores. It's a wonder I didn't hurt myself in the woodshop. At first I was angry and pounded out my frustrations on the doorframe I was making. My thoughts whirled so fast I could hardly keep my mind on my work. At last, I decided just to end the marriage contract with a quiet divorce. I loved her too much to make a public scene.

I couldn't talk to you – or anyone, for that matter. I went to bed early and tried to sleep. Her words came to me over and over. "I've never cared for anyone but you.... I've never cared for anyone but you...." How I wished I could believe her!

I don't know when I finally fell asleep. Mom, I had a dream from God. An angel of the Lord came to me. His words pulsed through my mind so intensely I can remember them as if it were yesterday.

"Joseph, son of David," he thundered, "do not fear to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

I couldn't believe my ears, Mom. This was the answer! The angel continued, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The angel gripped my shoulders with his huge hands. For a long moment his gaze pierced deep within me. Just as he turned to go, I think I saw a smile on his shining face.

I sat bolt upright in bed. No sleep after that! I tossed about for a while, going over the words in my mind. Then I got up and dressed quietly so I wouldn't wake you.

I must have walked for miles beneath the moonless sky. Stars pricked the blackness like a thousand tiny pinpoints. A warm breeze blew on my face.

I sang to the Lord, Mom. Yes, me, singing, if you can imagine that. I couldn't contain my joy. I told Him that I would take Mary and care for her. I told Him I would watch over her – and the child – no matter what anyone said.

I got back just as the sun kissed the hilltops. I don't know if you still recall that morning, Mom. I can see it in my mind's eye as if it were yesterday. You were feeding the chickens, surprised to see me out. Remember?

"Sit down," I said to you. "I've got to tell you something." I took your arm and helped you find a seat on the big rock out back. "Mom," I said, "I'm going to bring Mary home as my wife. Can you help make a place for her things?"

You were silent a long time. "You do know what they're saying, don't you, son?" you said at last, your eyes glistening.

"Yes, Mom, I know."

Your voice started to rise. "If your father were still alive, he'd have some words, I'll tell you. Going about like that before you are married. Disgracing the family and all. You... you and Mary ought to be ashamed of yourselves!"

You'd never have believed me if I'd tried to explain, so I didn't. Unless the angel had spoken to you, you'd have laughed me to scorn.

"Mom, this is the right thing to do," I said.

And then I started talking to you as if I were the head of the house. "When she comes I don't want one word to her about it," I sputtered. "She's your daughter-in-law, you'll respect her. She'll need your help if she's to bear the neighbors' wagging tongues!"

I'm sorry, Mom. You didn't deserve that. You started to get up in a huff.

"Mom," I murmured, "I need you." You took my hand and got to your feet, but the fire was gone from your eyes.

"You can count on me, Joseph," you told me with a long hug. And you meant it. I never heard another word. No bride could hope for a better mother-in-law than you those next few months.

Mom, after I left you I went up the road to Mary's house and knocked. Her mother glared at me as she opened the door. Loudly, harshly she called into the house, "It's Joseph!" almost spitting out my name as she said it.

My little Mary came out cringing, as if she expected me to give her the back of my hand, I suppose. Her eyes were red and puffy. I can just imagine what her parents had said.

We walked a few steps from the house. She looked so young and afraid. "Pack your things, Mary," I told her gently. "I'm taking you home to be my wife."

"Joseph!" She hugged me as tight as she could. Mom, I didn't realize she was so strong.

I told her what I'd been planning. "We'll go to Rabbi Ben-Ezer's house this week and have him perform the

ceremony."

I know it was awfully sudden, Mom, but I figured the sooner we got married the better it would be for her, and me, and the baby.

"Mary, even if our friends don't come, at least you and I can pledge our love before God." I paused. "I think my Mom will be there. And maybe your friend Rebecca would come if her dad will let her. How about your parents?"

I could feel Mary's tiny frame shuddering as she sobbed quietly.

"Mary," I said. I could feel myself speaking more boldly. "No matter what anyone says about you, I'm proud you're going to be my wife. I'm going to take good care of you. I've promised God that."

She looked up.

I lowered my voice. "I had a dream last night, Mary. I saw an angel. I know."

The anguish which had gripped her face vanished. She was radiant as we turned away from the house and began to walk up the hill together.

Just then her mother ran out into the yard. "Wait," she called. She must have been listening from behind the door. Tears were streaming down her cheeks.

"I'll get your father," she called, almost giddy with emotion. "We," she cried as she gathered up her skirts. "We," she shouted as she began to run to find her husband. "We... are going to have a wedding!"

That's how it was, Mom. Thanks for being there for us. I'll write again soon.

Love, Joseph

\*\*\*\*\*

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

"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." (John 3:16)





## From The Desk of Dave.....

### GIVING THANKS

Being thankful is a wonderful attitude that we can all assume at times, especially when everything is almost perfect (I say almost perfect, because things will never be perfect this side of eternity with the LORD). Now, I am sure that we all enjoy saying "thank you" to someone close to us for some reason, or for something that they have done special for us. Those "thank yous" are easy to declare and make us feel good, too. In fact, it's pretty easy to be very genuine and loving at a time like that, and we sure appreciate the thoughtfulness and love.

When we are not so enthused about the situation or the person, the "thank you" is a little harder to joyfully give out. Now, in those cases, we all tend to say "thanks" but even though there is a "thank you," there is also an element of "thanks, but now I feel like I owe you." Many times we have that feeling of indebtedness whether the other party feels owed or not. I guess we could classify those "thank yous" with having strings attached, or at least we are left with that feeling. There are many instances of that type of thank you or attitude in GOD'S HOLY WORD, as well as, answers on how to deal with this situation in our daily lives.

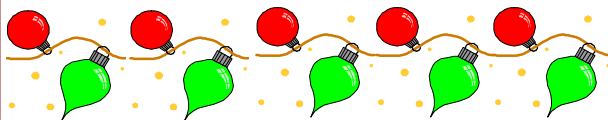
Cowboys and Cowgirls, what about being thankful for all the LORD has given us and really having and revealing that to HIM and living our lives so others can see it in us. 1 Chron 16:8 Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. KJV There is no human way to count or itemize the gifts and blessings that the LORD pours out on us daily. 2 Cor 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. KJV Whatever the circumstances in your life right now, you still have completely uncountable items that you should be extremely thankful for and should give the LORD a great big "thank you" for each one. 1 Thess 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. KJV Every one of us should have an attitude of "thank you" every day, all of the time, because the LORD is blessing us even though we may not choose to recognize those blessings.

Now, I know we cannot name each one of those blessings, because we can't even count them to start with. There is an attitude that we should have as we go before the THRONE OF GRACE that reveals a thankful heart, which the LORD can certainly recognize. Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; KJV First, we must have that thankful heart, and I'm sure that in many cases that thankful heart is really hard to develop and maintain. I'm afraid that most of us run to the THRONE OF GRACE with our troubles, trials, and worries with an attitude of gimme, gimme, and gimme right now. We are there to really cry out our wants and needs, but when those prayers are answered we forget to give the LORD a "thank you," actually it is really hard for a lot of us to even remember to thank HIM at all.

Cowboys and Cowgirls, just as we have a special time each day to approach the THRONE OF GRACE with our requests, concerns, and petitions (you do have that special time, don't you) we also should bow down before the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY and lift up thanks for all of the uncountable gifts and blessings the HE gives out daily. 1 Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. KJV Many years ago I made the statement, "the tallest cowboy or cowgirl you will ever see is one on their knees giving thanks and praising the LORD." In fact, we should be on our faces to lift up a heartfelt "thank you" to HIM, and not just a simple "thanks." And that thankfulness should continually rise up in our hearts as we go through our daily lives, joyfully acknowledging HIM as SAVIOR, PROVIDER and LORD.

During this season of Thanksgiving and the time we celebrate the birth of our LORD, we must remember that there is only one GOD, and only one LORD, and only one HOLY SPIRIT, and They have given you life, all that sustains that life, and all good things that have brought you to this time and place. Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; KJV Daily come before HIM with a thankful heart and tell HIM "THANK YOU." And may we all develop and maintain an attitude of thankfulness throughout the year, and know that HE gave all for our eternal salvation and the gifts and blessings that we enjoy every day. Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. KJV I pray GOD's blessings on you and your loved ones and may we all have a thankful heart and joyfully lift up a "thank YOU" to the LORD JESUS CHRIST daily.

In CHRIST,  
Dave



## A WORD

by Phill Schwartz

"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your love oh Lord, endures forever. Do not abandon the works of your hands." Psalm 138:8

As with so many of the Psalms of David, this one includes the same two elements. David, in verses 1 to 7, praises his Lord with statements like v. 3 "when I called, you answered me.." or v. 7 "though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life," and he asks for continuing preservation in v. 8 "do not abandon the works of your hands."

But there is a curious statement in the middle, "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me.." David recognized that he had a purpose to fill in God's eternal plan. He was to be a great king over Israel and, more importantly, he would be the lineage that produced our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Every Christian has a purpose. We call our purpose by different name; some call it "our calling," some call it "our gifting," but we are all part of God's eternal plan of salvation for the whole world. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the WORLD..."

We know we are to come together to worship as a church body; we know we are to come to God in prayer; we even know about good works, tithing and offerings, but there is a bigger purpose, which I would call it a mandate from God. Webster's defines mandate simply with one word: command. Jesus made it a command or a mandate to reach the whole world with the gospel. It is recorded in Matthew 28 and Mark 16. It is our mandate, or, as David said in Psalm 138, "His purpose for me.."

I have come to understand and to firmly believe that every Christian has the mandate, command or obligation to be involved in evangelism worldwide. This does not mean that every Christian has to leave home or go to the far ends of the earth, but every Christian has to either go or be involved in sending. We need to realize that our Christian faith is not just an hour or so on Sunday and grace said before meals. We need to make our faith the focus of our lives, not just one piece of the pie we call life. Cowboys for Christ is one avenue with which to participate in the mandate; there are others. Support your local church's outreach programs and get involved! Support missionaries through your local church or find a missionary to support; he or she is taking your place overseas.

Revelation 22:12-14 "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into that city."

And verse 21 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."



## “FAITH BE TWIXED”

By Peter Tjoelker

In the darkness of a Colorado night at Camp Redland, Lake City, Colorado, God used a Palomino gelding to teach me pure faith.

I had my camp set securely in the aspens next to a mountain meadow. I had already made my first mistake. I let my horse loose too long to graze. A head wrangler saw the horse drifting too far north of camp. He decided to hop on Fox and chase the horses closer in towards camp. He did just that. The horses thundered past our tents and decided since they were going in the direction toward home anyway that they may as well continue and let someone else take their saddles and kids home. Somehow we managed to flag down all but three who quickly covered the few miles down the trail to the barn. After a few moments of indecision, I saddled Devereaux and headed down to the barn myself to help two other staff lead the stray brethren back to their saddles. Darkness was coming quickly. Could we make it back up the draw before total darkness would set in?

Quickly we caught the horses by the barn and headed back up to camp. I hurried, not because of time, but because I didn't want the rest of the staff to know some horses had gotten away from us. About half way back up with the more dangerous parts of the trail yet ahead, I realized that darkness was going to overtake us before we made base camp. In my hurry and anger, I had forgotten to get a flashlights while I was at the barn.

I began pushing some tired horses but Twix wouldn't be pushed. Yvonne was ahead of me on Twix and Twix simply stopped. I traded Yvonne horses and immediately loosened Twix's girth. It had been pulled way too tight and it was cutting off his air supply. I began leading him so that we could keep going. We did make it up the steep part above the Beaver Pond. If light would hold out 15 more minutes we'd make it. I could still see the trail. We got just where the trail divided several places right on the edge of a draw. I couldn't see a thing.

Now, I have always known that a horse could see in the dark but I had never had to ride a horse in the blackness of night. I was mounted again by this time. I stopped Twix for a moment, mentally gave Twix the reins of my life, and committed my life to Twix's ability to see in the darkness of night. I held the reins so loosely that Twix knew I was not guiding him. Once, I thought I knew where the trail divided, and, so, I snatched Twix up to guide him one way. He knew I was wrong. He just stopped until I again released the reins to him. He then walked down the correct trail. Soon I saw the other horses now tied to trees and the campfire under the aspens. We were home by "Faith be Twixed".

I have reflected on this experience many times. How many times have I snatched reins from God? That's what worry and unbelief are. It is snatching the reins from God in the darkness of night. Think of it! If we can trust a camp horse in the dark certainly we can trust God in the dark. After that night, somehow, I always found a way to smuggle that old gelding a little extra grain.

## Embracing the Heart of ABBA Father

### Our God is a Giving God

Submitted by Connie Wisman

During Christmas season it sometimes seems our whole focus is on giving. We all love to receive gifts, but our time is consumed with the task of giving. We get the list, go shopping, and look for the perfect gift. We wrap it up and mail it, or place it under the Christmas tree. We all want to give, even often beyond our monetary means. After all, isn't most retail profit made during the Christmas season?

The real focus of Christmas is to celebrate the gift God gave to us. God sent Christ to us as a baby. He became a man and lived with us. He became our sacrifice for sin and defeated death at His resurrection. Then He ascended, to return to us later.

Our God is a giving God. All that He has is ours (Luke 15:31). We have been given all good things. All spiritual blessings are ours (Eph 1:3). One reason we often miss all the things that are ours from God is we are busy trying to give to Him. During the Christmas season, we often try to give God something special: repentance, self sacrifice or denial, obedience, good works, or commitment.

But don't miss this! God wants our focus and faith to be on what HE has already given to US: the gift of His **S o n** ! God gave His only Son. The Son gave His life for our redemption. He gave the Holy Spirit to regularly remind us of this gift, and to impart to us other gifts. If we want to give gifts to other people, we cannot give a greater gift than to share the gifts God has already given us. They don't cost us a cent, and yet they are absolutely **p r i c e l e s s**.

The New Testament gospels are all about God giving us everything He has to give (Luke 15:31). 'The Parable of the Sower is all about God sowing all His good seed into our hearts, so that good spiritual fruit grows from us, and so He can complete the good work He intends (Col 1:5-6, Phil 1:6). But you cannot give a gift you do not have. To show love, you must first receive love. To share joy, you must first receive joy. In order to be forgiving, you must first be forgiven. If you desire to offer peace, or be a peacemaker, you must know God's peace in your life. The issue is not what we GIVE... but what we RECEIVE from God.

ALL that we have comes from God! Why do we spend so much time and energy looking for that "perfect" gift? The best gift you can give is to receive God's gifts - and then radiate and impart them to others. Is it really about material gifts? Is it about gifts that are often worn out, lost or discarded by next Christmas?

The greatest Giver and the greatest Gift will never perish. This season, don't fail to RECEIVE AGAIN the wonder and joy of the Christ who came to live among us. It's a cliché, but it's true: He is the reason for the season.

Isn't the season called 'CHRIST'-mas?'



*If You Need Offering Envelopes,  
send us your request and address.....*

## The Angel Was Tall

Joan Schneider

This incident happened the week of April 29, 1980 while returning from Washington, D.C. home to St. Louis County, MO. Two weeks previous to this event, I cancelled my 12 hour brain tumor surgery at Barnes Hospital after receiving a miracle of hearing in my right ear. My three children, Dave, Cheri, and Marcia, accompanied me on this momentous "Washington for Jesus March." We traveled there by bus which was filled with Christian believers. Close to a million believers were at the march, even, Christians from other countries carrying their flags and wearing their native costumes. Many well-known Christians spoke on the platform with TV cameras recording. It was thrilling.

We stayed in a nice hotel and during breakfast, my daughter Cheri, saw a waiter bringing two large glazed donuts to a lady several tables over. We had already given our orders to the waitress. Cheri remarked, "Oh mom, they look so good. I should've ordered the glazed donuts." She declined. She was watching her weight at the time. While we were still sitting there a man walked over and related that "the lady couldn't eat one donut and could you children help her out?" Well we all knew who wanted the donut.

On the way home, our driver announced that everyone should get enough food, because he was driving straight through to St. Louis without stopping for dinner. That meant that everyone had to purchase two meals for themselves to eat on the bus. The crossroads of two intersecting highways had a large restaurant selling pre-packaged foods. Cheri went inside to help me because we had to buy eight meals for the four of us. We piled the food on two trays and paid for it. At a table far from everyone we worried how we would carry all that food onto the bus. There was no possible way and the bus would be leaving soon. Quite a distance from us a man was walking towards us. He was tall, wearing a brown suit, and very attractive. I didn't actually notice him until he was about 20 feet away. He set a brown grocery bag on the table and said, "You folks look like you could use this." I thanked him and placed the food into it. He just stood there for the longest time with his arms folded, smiling down at Cheri.

She was trying to signal me with her eyes and had a strange look on her face. I didn't catch on to what she was trying to communicate. After he left, in a conspiratorial voice she excitedly exclaimed, "Mom! I wished for a donut. I got a donut! I wished for a bag. I got a bag! I'm going to ask Jesus for a car!!!" To a teenager that's the biggest thing she could think of. But look how God raised her lever of faith - from a donut, to a bag, to a car.

Without anyone prompting her, my mother gave Cheri her gold Chevy Bel Aire. Up to this time, mother had never given any of her 8 children a car and Cheri had not asked her for one. Cheri, without knowing a faith-filled prayer moves God, spoke and believed that prayer. She followed Mark 11:23-24 and she didn't doubt in her heart. Later I realized that Cheri instantly knew this was an angel. Her spiritual antenna was up. I only wish mine was at the time.

This Cheri put into action Mark 11:22-26 which states, "And Jesus answered to them, Have faith in God. Truly I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast in to the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever you desire when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have aught against any; that you Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Also, John 14:13 which says, "And whatever you ASK in MY name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ASK Me anything in My name, I will do it."



## Holiday Eggnog

From the Cowboys for Christ Cookbook

6 eggs, beaten	1 tsp. vanilla
¼ cup sugar	1 cup whipping cream
¼ tsp. salt	1 tsp. rum extract
4 cups milk	nutmeg



In a non-aluminum pan, combine eggs, sugar and salt; stir in milk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and coats spoon. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and whipping cream. Cool and refrigerate. When serving, pour in rum extract; sprinkle with nutmeg.

## In Your Heart, Not On The Cross

By Richard Kelley

Let me start by saying, I hold a Cowboy in very high esteem, especially if they know and live by the 'cowboy code'. And even higher if they are a Christian, because I imagine how hard it must be for them to fight the influences that must be around them a good part of the time. Now I own a horse, been trying my hand at learning how to train, been trying using the Tom Dorrance 'Feel' techniques that in my way of thinking has to be the closest to a Christian type of technique a person could use. But that's just my opinion, and I know lots of sayings about opinions. Anyhow, I think one of the highest honors (right under being called a Christian) would be if someone called me a cowboy. I know I'm not, but it's a nice thought. I also have been becoming more aware of the old cowboy tradition of poetry writing and that sorta intrigued me some. Plus I always enjoy the poetry I read in the Christian Ranchman; keep it coming, please.

Back just before Easter, I had been thinking about Easter coming, what it was all about, and what Jesus must have gone through. I remember thinking about different types of crosses folks have hanging on their walls, hanging around their necks and even in hanging off their car mirrors. My wife and I have a collection of crosses on our wall in our home, we try to buy a new one every year. Now, with all that said, I had noticed we didn't have any with Jesus still nailed up on any. So I gathered we must subconsciously prefer the ones without Jesus on them. Again, that got me thinking. Why?

Well, back to my story about the days just before Easter. I had decided that I needed to go out to the wilderness, like Jesus did, to really concentrate on speaking with and listening to God. I wanted to go somewhere without all of the white noise of life or of the world-just Him and me. So I drove out to the ranch where we keep our horse and mule, I hiked out to the farthest point from any touch of civilization and read my bible, prayed, and listened for God. The next morning this came to me. I hope you like my first poem and what I like to think is a God inspired one.

I call it:

### 'In Your Heart, Not On The Cross'

I see you show Jesus still on that cross  
The way I see it, that's such a loss  
For Jesus was taken down off those pieces of a tree  
And ascended into heaven to set us free  
Yes He once was nailed up there  
after being humiliated, scourged and enduring all  
things unfair  
But He knew it had to be  
to set those who would believe in Him free  
He did not die on that cross to provide a temporary  
reprieve  
but assurance of eternal joy for all those that believe  
In my heart I know I am free  
because He's still not nailed up on that tree  
God allowed His only Son to endure all those wicked  
things  
for the salvation to those who believe in His Son it  
brings  
kneel down my friends and let Him into your heart  
from earthly desires set yourselves apart  
for in your heart is where Jesus wants to be  
So for eternity you will know peace, joy and be free.

### Testimony

By J Mathis

When I was younger and in middle school, I remember we would go out for P.E., and, many times, we would gather to play football. People would choose teams, and older boys would usually be picked first, the other good ones. I was not a first round choice, nor was I chosen in the second; I was usually the last person by default. Perhaps it may have been because I was short, and my family was poor. I wore hand-me downs, clothes from garage sales, or maybe my build played a part. I wasn't stocky or the athletic type, just a poor average boy from East Texas. Now the team that had to take me made the experience humiliating, and I wasn't too fond about playing again.

## TESTIMONIES!



Revelation 12:11  
says,  
"They overcame  
him by the  
blood of the  
Lamb, and by  
the WORD of  
their testimony."

Have you shared His Word lately?  
Send us your testimony today!

As an adult, now, I was glad to read Jesus's wonderful words about choosing His team of disciples. In spite of my shortness, my weak build, my old clothes, or any other limitations, Jesus invited me to be a member of His team. Now, that experience has changed my life forever, and with that, I am forever grateful. The good news is that Christ hasn't just chosen me; He has chosen each one of us who is reading Christian Ranchman paper. He chose us first, will you come and be a part of his team today? I have, and I hope you do too.



### A Message from God

By Margaret Worley

I'm here above  
Your work is great  
Keep up the love  
Despite the problems that prevail

After every storm comes a rainbow  
If you keep the Lord in sight  
Problems will evaporate  
Everyday brings a new light

Watch over the dove  
You'll conquer and achieve  
All your prayers will be answered  
If you continue to believe

Keep the faith  
And trust in the word  
For I've sent you help  
From above

I hope you understand  
I'm with you all the way  
I know sometimes life may seem overwhelming  
But for the job you are the man

## Will You Help Us...

Will you help us get the word out about CFC? If you have E-Mail, you can send an E-Mail to ten of your friends and acquaintances about what CFC is and what CFC does. Then you can ask those ten to send it to ten people they know. **This will have a snowball effect and will get the gospel message out and "Fill the Kingdom."**



**SAMPLE EMAIL:** CFC is a 38 year old ministry to the livestock industry. We reach out to where the cowboys and cowgirls are and bring them into the Kingdom. For more info, a free subscription to The Christian Ranchman, or free tracts, contact Fort Worth Headquarters:

**COWBOYS FOR CHRIST**

PO BOX 7557  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76111  
(817) 236-0023.

EMAIL: [cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net)  
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

### NOTICE

Contributions, gifts, bequests and legacies of money or property, made to Cowboys For Christ, for any phase of its ministry, are tax deductible. Cowboys For Christ ministries include evangelism to the livestock industry, missionary outreach, publishing The Christian Ranchman, tract outreach, personal counseling, preaching, praying and writing. A Tax deductible receipt is issued at the year's end, for every gift. Checks should be made payable to: Cowboys For Christ

## Become a Partner with Cowboys for Christ Be Part of the Blessing & Share in the Blessing

The Christian Ranchman is distributed to approximately 20,000 homes each month FREE of charge. Cowboys for Christ also provides tracts to pass out at events FREE of charge to anyone who asks. Brother Ted and other leaders in Cowboys for Christ chapters preach, teach and speak at many local events FREE of charge.

Would you consider partnering with us with a monthly donation to help with this vital ministry to the lost and hurting? All donations are tax-deductible and are used to spread the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Currently we need your help in the following

1. Laptop for ministry
2. New or well-kept vehicle for ministry travel

Want more information about local chapters, upcoming events & Cowboys for Christ? Visit our website where you will find

- The Christian Ranchman
- Bible Studies
- Rule Book Talk
- General Store
- Prayer & Praise Reports
- Comments

WEBSITE: [www.cowboysforchrist.net](http://www.cowboysforchrist.net)



### A Living Memorial

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

Service in the name of Christ can also live on, even though the servant has gone to his heavenly reward.

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

## Memorial Gifts Cowboys For Christ P.O. Box 7557, Fort Worth, TX 76111

*This donation is in memory  
of:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

DONOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support Cowboys for Christ as they build God's Kingdom by:

Monetary Donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ included by \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security Code from back of card

Check, Cash, Credit Card -( MC/Visa Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ )

designated for:

Publication

Evangelism

Radio/TV Ministry

Missionary Work and Printed materials

Youth Ranch

You may also donate online at [www.cowboysforchrist.net](http://www.cowboysforchrist.net)

Land, stocks/bonds, livestock, vehicles, jewelry, computers, services, other gifts

Specified as : \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Support (Pray for us as we pray for you)

Prayer Requests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (For Credit Card Users only)  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out and mail

*Have You Moved or are You  
Planning to Move? Please  
notify COWBOYS FOR  
CHRIST of your new  
mailing address.*



# RULE BOOK TALK

By Ted K. Pressley

## Contracts

In every area of life, we operate under the conditions of contracts. Every contract has its rules and regulations to which the contracting parties are obligated. In competitions such as rodeo, showing or racing horses, exhibiting cattle or any type of livestock, there are rules. These are written in rule books, and are actually contract condition books. In business deals, such as purchasing or leasing land, selling livestock or producing a rodeo, there are legal contracts under which the contracting parties must operate.

Legal contracts are like rulebooks – they keep the folks who are making business deals informed of what they can and can't do. Some

contracts are signed and embossed with a legal seal; some are completed with a handshake; still others are made on a man's word. However casual or professional they are, they are still contracts!

Rulebooks are provided to keep contracting parties within the bounds of their agreement, competition, or law. Rulebooks are sanctioned by a person's name, an organization or the seal of the same. The Bible, God's Rule Book, is no different. It is guaranteed by Jesus Christ's name, and it is sealed by His blood. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:13 NKJV, "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been made near by the blood of Christ." Are you a contracting party to God's Rule Book? Or, are you still far off, as the above scripture says?

It's so easy to enter into an eternal contract with God. The Rule Book says in Acts 2:21 NKJV, "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." In other words, just ask God to save you "in Jesus' Name." By doing this you have just become a contracting party with God, and all your rights and benefits are written out in His Rule Book, the Bible. Your contract, the Bible, will tell you how to live with peace, health, happiness, financial blessings and many other benefits that you receive along with eternal life.

Some of you have entered into that contract with Christ already, and you find yourself in financial bondage, bad health, or bound down with oppression or depression. The Rule Book's contract reads like this in John 14:14 NKJV, "If you ask anything in My Name, I will do it." Please look at two things: "ask ANYTHING" and "I WILL do it." Now that's part of your contract!

Some have made a verbal contract with God, but have never read the contract conditions to find out how to live. Ignorance, or lack of knowledge, does not cancel the conditions of the contract. Others have made the verbal contract, read the conditions, and then refused to obey the contract rules. There will come a payday for those who willfully break God's contract conditions. Still others have refused God's contract, and without the Jesus you receive in God's contract, you cannot enter heaven. John 14:6 NKJV, "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Have you read your contract lately?

For further information about Cowboys for Christ, to receive a free subscription to the Christian Ranchman, or for other free literature, please write or call:



**Cowboys for Christ**  
PO Box 7557  
Fort Worth, TX 76111  
(817) 236-0023



email: [cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net](mailto:cwb4christ@cowboysforchrist.net)

## CHRISTMAS TO A COWBOY

By Patty Munford

Winters in Montana can be might white.  
Ice crackin' on the river sounds like rifles in the night.  
It's a lonesome kind of feelin', ridin' line alone.  
But as long as God is with me, everywhere I go is home.

Christmas to a cowboy can seem mighty strange,  
To ordinary folk who don't love to ride the range.  
But Christmas to this cowboy is just another day to mark,  
For every day is Christmas when Jesus is in your heart.

Christmas to most people means gifts and Santa Claus.  
But if you're truly born again you know that's not the cause.

It's givin' out of love cause my Savior tells me to.  
And not just things, but all of me, just like He used to do.

One of these days I'll settle down with my family.  
We'll build a cabin by the creek where the wind whispers thru the trees,  
But till the Lord provides it all, I won't be hard to find.  
Just look me up on the J Bar J, you'll find me ridin' the line.

Yes, every day is Christmas when Jesus in in your heart.

