

SPRING **2017**



FELLOWSHIP *of* CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

BRAD DYCK TESTIMONY | PAGE 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS | PAGE 4+5

CHINOOK COUNTRY | PAGE 8

CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TO THE COWBOY WORLD

HOW GOD CHANGED ME

TESTIMONY OF BRAD DYCK

CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP *of* CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

www.canadianchristiancowboys.ca



TABLE OF CONTENTS

this month's issue:

How God Changed Me	1-3 + 7
Greetings from Manitoba	4
Greetings from Saskatchewan	5
Benefits of Giving	6
Hi Folks	7
Chinook Country Corner	8
Magazine Contributor's Bios	Insert
Talking Pots	Back Page



Follow us on Facebook.

Search Canadian Fellowship of Christian Cowboys

How to subscribe to this magazine (paper or e-mail copies).

Contact Debbie at oldwomanabu@gmail.com or 403-652-8996

There is no cost to receive this magazine.

We do appreciate donations to cover the cost of printing and shipping.

@ Canadian Fellowship of Christian Cowboys

View our webpage at www.canadianchristiancowboys.ca

SALVATION PRAYER:

"Will I go to heaven when I die? Can I have peace and blessing in my life? The answer is YES - by asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. Pray a prayer like this... "Dear God, I am a sinner, separated from You.

I am sorry for my sins and I ask you to forgive me. I accept Jesus as my Savior and the Lord of my life.

Thank you Jesus for dying for me on the cross so I can have peace in my life and a home in heaven to live forever with You. Help me Holy Spirit to live a life pleasing to God, my Father. In Jesus name, Amen."

If you've prayed this prayer, please contact anyone listed on the Directory at the back. We would love to pray with you and send you a free Cowboy Bible and some literature to help you get started on this exciting journey."

The Canadian FCC Magazine is published quarterly. We will gladly accept written submissions. All submissions are subject to comply with the FCC Magazine Guidelines.

Layout and printing: Grand Valley Press • Moose Jaw, SK

Editor: Debbie Graham

Box 32, Longview, Alberta T0L 1H0

Email: oldwomanabu@gmail.com

Phone: 403-652-8996

or John FitzHerbert 403-652-1377

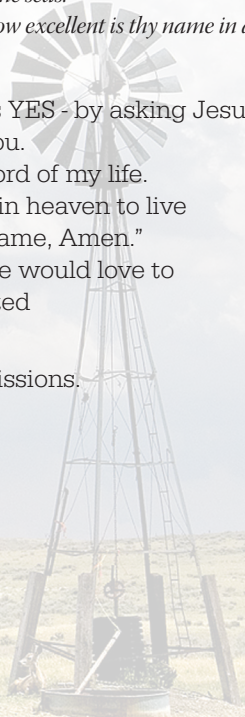
Submission deadline for next issue is June 30th, 2017



A reflections on the life thus far with Brad Dyck.

Psalms 8:3-9

- 3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
- 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
- 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
- 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
- 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
- 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
- 9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!





How God Changed Me

“WHAT IS THE ONE THING IN YOUR LIFE THAT IS HINDERING YOU FROM BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?”

BY BRAD DYCK

Before I nod my head here, I would like to get one very important detail straight. The compilation of words you are about to read is not a biography of how I, Brad Dyck have been faithful to God, no rather this is a testimony of how God has been faithful to me! I'm hoping that first statement helps you understand a little about how I believe, plus I hope it reminds you, the reader of the importance of God's saving Grace since we as wretched human beings are in such a desperate need of it! Being blessed with this opportunity to share my life's happenings put me in a bit of a predicament ... where do I start? Well, since I didn't know, I decided that I would start at the beginning. So, without wasting anymore paper let's get this anthem sung and crack some chute gates.

I was born into a conservative but loving Christian home that had nothing to do with horses or any cowboy stuff, but ever since I was about eight I knew I wanted to be one. I dreamed about taming the west with my six gun, but as I got older I realized it was about as tame as I wanted it, so I drifted over to the next best option which happened to be rodeo. Backing up the story a bit, when I was ten my Ma and Pa helped me pay for a little four-month-old filly with a skull thicker than mine, but I eventually got her half broke. Along with her and other colts people brought me to break I began to develop a craving for wild rides, an itch that brought me to

the rodeo arena for scratching! Unfortunately there was one big problem, I wasn't old enough and my Ma and Pa were not going to sign any kind of papers that would permit me to rodeo. Before I get to carried away with the rodeo trail I should insert that when I was thirteen I had an unusually terrifying experience that forced me to get on my knees and pray the sinners prayer, followed with a baptism at age sixteen. As God reveals His truth to me regarding the topic of "one losing his salvation" I wonder at times if I actually was truly saved at that time. Since I'm uncertain as to where I stand on that theology just yet, I'll say that I DID accept Christ into my heart, I just hadn't had my eyes opened to completely surrender at that time.

Alright back to the part where my parents did not approve of rodeo. At the time I didn't even ask them if they would let me rodeo because I knew what the answer would be as I'd heard enough from their mouths about what they thought of it. In their defense the only rodeo cowboys they had ever heard of were the cussin, chewin, fightin, drinkin, drunken, womanizing type and that was no place for a Christian!! You and I, and yes my parents know as well now that is not always the case. Unfortunately, they were right for the most part.

continued next page...

How God Changed Me

continued...

When I turned 18 I bought my first (HRA) card and hit my first rodeo in St. Claude MB. I double entered in the saddle bronc riding, made one qualified ride and pulled a bit of a check! When I think back on my rodeo beginnings, it just blows my mind how God works. What I didn't know at the time was how that first rodeo was gonna take me down an incredible road of grace that I would take all over again in a heartbeat.

In my first year of rodeo I got frustrated with the reality that I seemed to ride them saddle broncs best on my head and being the cheap Mennonite that I am, I hated paying an entry fee just to pick sand out of my teeth. So the next year when I was nineteen I switched to bareback, which really proved itself in a hurry. I had found my calling. Arm jerkin, chin poppin and spurs singin was my kind of a pay check!

It was at about this time that I started to believe the lie that I could not be a Christian and rodeo. I was on the road every weekend which meant very little church and a lot of temptations. Since I wanted to be a world champ so bad and there was no way I was gonna quit rodeo, I decided to put God on the shelf. You know God doesn't like to be put on the shelf and rightfully so, I mean He created me and the horses I loved so why not glorify Him in that! Since I didn't understand that at the time I just walked away from Him and His love, seeking to fill a God shaped hole in my heart with earthly pleasure. I really believe God allowed the next few years to happen to me for four main reasons. One; to open my eyes to how empty life is without Him, two; to show me how disgusting my flesh is and how desperately I need His saving grace, three; to get me out of the legalistic (works based) religion that I was trapped in and four; to bring me to a biblically sound youth pastor in Twin Falls Idaho who had a genuine love for Jesus, a love that I had never seen before.

I think I should take some time here (with out to much detail) to explain a little about my second reason. Even though I was not an immoral and corrupt person in the eyes of the world I do know that I did a lot of things that did not bring glory to God in the least. I firmly believe that whether you're the most infamous serial killer to ever walk the face of this earth or the goody little two shoes that grew up in the choir, you and everyone in between needs Jesus! Me putting God on the shelf was evil enough and worthy of eternal damnation.

In August of 2011, my fifth year of rodeo when I was twenty-three I got a full ride scholarship at CSI (College of Southern Idaho) in Twin Falls. I know, it's not that impressive that it took me five years to get to a college level but in my defense a few of those years were spent healing up, you know the usual... compression fractures to T11 and 12 (my lower back) and a broken foot from being stupid on my dirt bike, plus a

busted leg in a town called Elbow, apparently that bareback bronc didn't get the memo (wrong body part) and of course each accident happened in different years which caused a lot of down time and a lot of missed finals in the HRA the MRCA and CCA.

The day I left for a college in a different part of America was a day I don't think I shall soon forget. Most of my large family came to see me off. Since I was the baby and the black sheep of the family they didn't want to miss it. Maybe they wanted to try one last time to persuade me to stay while showing me they cared for and loved me. As I crawled into my rodeo rig my Ma asked me to promise that I would find a church "down there" which is a promise I'm so glad I kept!

At the time I had no idea what I put my Mother through with my rejection of God and my leaving the Great White North, not only did I break God's heart, I broke my Mother's heart as well. Even as I write this my eyes are being opened to that reality and I can promise you that my Ma and Pa spent many a hours on their knees with tear filled eyes because of me.

College was wild with a completely new world of people that knew nothing of my upbringing or my conversion at thirteen, and since I had no accountability and no one to "fake my religion" in front of I slipped farther and farther away from anything to do with God! I hated the taste of most alcohol and I couldn't stand the thought of having my mind muddled by any kind of controlling or intoxicating substance so drinking, drugs or parties weren't a struggle for me! I was focused and had one thing in mind, I was gonna be a world champion bareback rider and nothing was gonna get in my way. I spent at least three hours in the gym a day beating my body into the shape of champions, practicing my skill in the rodeo arena along with a lot of mental preparation.

Despite my zeal for rodeo I couldn't forget about the promise I had made to my Ma and so I searched for a church. Three weeks after I started college God had me stumble across a church building called Amazing Grace Fellowship which was packed with a Spirit filled people. Even though there was about three hundred and fifty people there so many of them noticed me and made me feel welcome. It was something I wasn't used to and it felt nice so the next Sunday that I wasn't busy I decided to go again. This time I met Pastor Josh the youth pastor and he wanted to know everything about me and where I was at with God.

So through a series of coffee meetings which included deep conversations, P. Josh informed me that the lie I was believing; about not being able to be a Christian and rodeo was such a farce. He went on to explain to me how God has no problems with rodeo however He does have a problem with rodeo coming first. In order to live a Spirit filled life and to be a disciple of Christ God NEEDS to be number one in our lives. That initial conversation with P. Josh was the seed being planted in my heart that was going to be watered by various people over the next year.

My next eye opening event that happened a few months after my conversation with P. Josh was the 2011 CCA finals in Regina SK. Which I had qualified for and had made the trip back to Canada for a week. I had finally made the finals!!! I had just healed up from an exploded wrist that had caused a three month

down time. It happened when a big yellow horse call Peace Pipe bucked me down and hung me up in a real bad way causing me to lose my chaps, pants and underwear all while taking multiple laps in front of a horrified Mormon audience in Cedar City Utah displaying a full moon in the middle of the afternoon! Talk about making a name for yourself! But that's not the eye-opening event I was referring to. No this was much more devastating, not in a physical way but mentally and emotionally. From the time I started rodeo I had hoped against hope that I would one day win the CCA final and as my scores began to add up over the five performances the light at the end of the tunnel got brighter and brighter as my chances increased with great broncs and consistent rides. I had been in the lead off and on throughout the first four performances and I was leading it going into the fifth round. I remember praying for the first time in a long time that if I could just somehow win this thing, I wanted it so bad! I remember thinking how great it would feel to be crowned the champion, how this win would give me the name I was looking for and the fuel to keep me driving for that ultimate goal of world champ. With all this hype you're likely wondering, "what actually happened?" Well I'm so glad you asked that question because my dream came true, I was crowned the 2011 CCA bareback champion with a trophy saddle to prove it. "So what's so devastating about that you might ask?" I am so thrilled that you have asked that question as well since this was the day my eyes were opened to the reality that earthly goals and accomplishments could NOT fill the God shaped hole in my heart that I mentioned earlier. You see all the feelings I thought I would feel didn't really happen. Sure I was on cloud nine for a few hours and I think I might have even had tears in my eyes when they announced that I was the champion but none of that lasted. By the next day I felt just as empty as I had before and it really got me thinking, "Suppose I put my nose to the grind stone and grit my teeth through all the hoops it would take to be world champ and after all those years of pain I feel the same as I do know"! I believe that was the start of God slowly changing my desires by opening my eyes to the error of my ways of walking according to my flesh.

Over the next few months I wrestled with these thoughts but continued to rodeo. In the spring of 2012 I bought my first pro card (CPRA) and pulled a check almost everywhere I went. There was a chance I was gonna make Canadian finals until July when I hit a CCA rodeo on the way to a pro rodeo, got on a colt that ran into the fence and broke my right leg for the second time. That really took the wind out of my sails, it was a bad break that had me on the couch for a few months and out of the arena for about eight months. I lost my second year of scholarship through the confusion but then bought my PRCA card and headed south again in February back to Twin Falls to travel with my college coach Cody Demers.

For reasons I didn't know at the time, I just could not get back in the groove. I rode alright but nothing outstanding, I'd flop my way around the arena, sometimes pulling a check at little rodeos by nothing worth writing home about. I remember slowly losing my zeal for rodeo, sensing that there had to be more to life than this! I remember one time specifically when Cody and I were in Casper Wyoming spending the night in a travel van when Cody asked me "Brad what's going on in your head"? I told him exactly what I was feeling, I told him how frustrated I was because the

life I had dreamed about and craved and wanted so bad for so many years was the life that I was currently living yet I had no ambition, desire or zeal to get on another bronc or go to another rodeo! It was around that time within a few days That God had P. Josh ask me an unusual question "Hey Brad would you be willing to be a cabin chaperone for a week at our church camp in a month and a half". At first my answer was a big NO, I had no clue of what the job description would be plus I had planned on going home since I was sick of rodeo and the U.S. anyhow. Well as it turned out God helped me make up my mind through a series of events and so I agreed to do it! Wow was I in for a surprise!

The camp speaker had such a powerful message. I found myself incredibly intrigued by the words that came out of his mouth, words that God was speaking through him as he shared his passion for Christ. His main topic all week was the question; "What is the one thing in your life that is hindering you from being a disciple of Christ?" And every time he would say that, "rodeo" would pop into my mind! God was revealing Himself to me and drawing me to Himself by convicting me of my sin in the area of breaking the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me." Rodeo was my God and that needed to change! The last day the speaker did something different, he said "At the back of the chapel is a wheelbarrow of sticks. I want each of you to go grab a stick and with a sharpie or a pen write on your stick what that one thing is in your life that needs to change" and so I did that. Then he said "Outside some guys have started a huge fire and I want each of you to go out there, throw your stick in the fire and watch it burn because this is going to be the end of whatever it was you wrote down!" I remember standing there with tears streaming down my face as I watched all of my earthly dreams and desires dissolve into ash while the smoke carried my promise of surrender up to God. I remember the freedom that came with that surrender, freedom that I had never felt at any other point in my life prior to this. It was not the freedom of "Now I can do whatever I want", no it was the freedom to do what I was created to do, worship the one true God! I had been released from the slavery of sin and self worship, I was free!! And worship God I did!! God filled my heart with a joy I had never felt before, the God shaped hole in my heart was now overflowing with eternal things like grace, peace, love and mercy!

Now you might be reading this thinking, this sounds like a Cinderella story. But I can assure you that my life is far from it. Sure, God does lift me up to a lot of mountain top experiences in my life but He leads me through a lot more prairies and valleys where life is lame and hurts, then to mountain tops. Sometimes life just sucks, the pain is real and the temptations are everywhere. Jesus told us in His Gospel that we are to expect hard times, in fact I would say my life has gotten even harder after God saved me. But I'm okay with that because suffering is just one more way to be like Christ who suffered far more than any of us ever will. Plus "The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Now I have a purpose, now I have a hope, when the world tells me I have nothing, that's when I know I have everything because I have Jesus. Jesus is my savior and I am not ashamed of the gospel.

continued Page 7

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GREETINGS FROM MANITOBA

TERRY BAKER

We had one of the worst storms roll through here in early March; something we haven't seen in a very long time! Started out with rain, turning into freezing rain then came the heavy wet snow with 70 miles an hour winds. It snowed for a least two days dropping about a foot of snow. We even set a new record for the longest duration of a winter storm.... if that's any consolation. Many folks were stranded not only on the highways due to zero visibility, but also in their farm yards and houses due to the very high snowdrifts. I spent most of my time outside tending to the cattle and horses which were looking like big snowballs because of the snow freezing to their rain drenched bodies. Most of the calving was done, so there were lots of young babies to look for in the zero visibility conditions. I did manage to find them all and got them sheltered out of the weather. PTL. I finally came in the house at suppertime, only to discover that we had no electricity and wouldn't until the storm passed and roads were plowed and opened. Despite the 16hr. power outage, we were OK and just did like they did in the old days.... went to bed early and did the cooking and coffee makin' on the wood stove.

I also found out that two friends of mine (former bull riders) were hit by a semi as they were on their snowmobiles taking food and water out to the stranded motorists who had spent two days parked along the highway. Amazingly, they both survived!!!! The truck driver went around a roadblock in zero visibility and was clipping along at a good speed when he hit them. To top that off, our son, Codie decided to take his snowmobile out (after the storm had passed) to check out the conditions of the roads, went up a big snowdrift and ended up crashing his snowmobile on the other side. He hurt himself and needed to go to the hospital. This proved to be a challenge, but thanks to my dad and a neighbor

cleaning out the heavily blocked roads, we were able to get Codie to the hospital. He hurt his back and ended up with a minor concussion, so he will have to spend sometime at home to recover. His machine is wrecked, and I hope it stays that way!!!

We all know that March is the month of unpredictable storms and snowfall, but it does get us closer to spring and the warmer weather which I am looking foreword to! It's the time of year when we start to brush out the horses, trim up their feet and go over our tack in prep for the summer's workload. As we are getting things ready for summer, we also need to be praying and preparing for the ministry opportunities that come our way. Eps 6:15, "and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace." We in this ministry need to be seeking after the Lord for guidance and direction so we have the confidence to share God's truths and plan of salvation with all of those we cross paths with. Rom 10:14,15, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things." Yes, we do have many in this ministry who are called to preach to the cowboys, but also so many others who are equipped with different abilities in getting this done. Be it through work or contact at a rodeo, we all need to be sharing the message of the cross. So, don't just leave it to the preachers; instead use your own unique God-given gifts, and be an encourager to the lost just as the Lord tells us to.

*Tears in
His Bottle*

*They're mine to share with Christ alone
Each stinging tear each heart-felt groan
I'll not entrust them to a man nor share them with a so-called "friend"
Only Christ will sympathize, Only he shall dry my eyes
When all my sorrows I've laid bare 'Tis Christ alone I'll trust to care*

~ Author unknown

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GREETINGS FROM SASKATCHEWAN

BRIAN HUNSTAD

My name is Brian Hunstad. I am currently the president of the Saskatchewan FCC. We had a few changes with our meeting this year. The biggest being no three-day family weekend at Dundurn. That was greatly missed by all. The facility that we had been using has been sold and no facility could be found with the appropriate family space. For those not familiar with the Saskatchewan FCC, most of the member families are not going with the Canadian birth rate of 2.2 kids (Lots of suburbans and passenger vans parked outside). The search is on for an appropriate place for the 2018 AGM weekend. If anyone has any ideas, please let one of the board members know since it is something we want to keep going.

Of the things discussed at the AGM, I would say the strongest theme there and at the board meeting afterward was an intense desire to get out and share the gospel clearly at whatever event the Saskatchewan FCC would do. We live in a time where "every man does what is right in his own eyes" and a weak or fuzzy gospel will not cut it.

An exciting project to keep in your prayers is a new "Cowboy" Bible. The folks who print the current one are shutting it down so we as a board and some other individuals are looking at doing another one. This is a big task so we sincerely covet your prayer and support on this on.

We were blessed to have a booth at the Saskatoon equine expo again. Attendance was down but we were able to hand out tracts, Bibles and do a church service. For whatever reason God has placed a lot of Christians in places of influence there and so we are making use of that while He allows it. Some of the clinicians they've brought in have been Christians. A long with some in the trainer's challenge. In the trainer's challenge this year two out of the three were born again Christians, but by Sunday we found out the third guy was too. A shout out goes to Jesse Rempel, a trainer's challenge participant, for doing a super job on sharing his testimony at the church service this year.

Since we didn't have a weekend this winter to gather, we will be getting together this September at the Rafter V Ranch for a fellowship weekend with maybe some horse riding and roping. Stay tuned for more details.

In closing, on behalf of myself and the board, we would like to encourage you this spring and summer to meditate

on the great gift you've been given, God's grace. That when you were in rebellion to Him, He came and bore your punishment so that you may have life everlasting. Mercy poured out upon those who did not deserve it. As you think on that, may it drive you to share that good news with others this summer.

In Christ ~ Soli deo Gloria

Announcements

SASKATCHEWAN ANNUAL RETREAT

September 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2017

@ Rafter V Ranch

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Watch for more information as it becomes available

ALBERTA COWBOY CHURCH

Teepee Creek Hall

2nd Sunday of the month - 10:30 am

Barb and Kevin Quist: 780 568 3510

COMMUNITY COWBOY CHURCH

Niton Junction Hall

Every Tuesday - 7:00 pm

Ron Deleeuw: 780 728 9088

MIGHTY PEACE COWBOY CHURCH

Eureka Hall

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month - 7:00 pm

Ginger Patton: 780 834 6551 - Blue Hale: 780 494 2062

VIKING AUCTION MART

Viking, AB

Last Friday of Each Month - 7:30 pm

Terry Leslie: 780 376 3599

SUNRISE PLACE

High River, AB

4th Sunday of Each Month ~ 1:00 PM

Contact John FitzHerbert: 403 652 1377

We are now on Facebook!!!

Search Canadian Christian Cowboys

Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba held their AGM's in January and February. The Chapter Directory on the last page reflects the changes in various positions.

The Benefits of Giving

**THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF POWER
HE HAS GIVEN US.**

by John FitzHerbert



As we read the Old Testament, we see many, many miracles that God did through his mighty power. I wrote about just a few of them in the last issue. Jesus did things a bit different in the New Testament, mostly he taught the word, healed the sick and cast out demons still using the mighty power of God after the Holy Spirit came upon Him - Matt 3:16. We read in Luke 5:17 where Jesus was teaching to a full house, that the power of the Lord was present to heal them. The only one that was reported healed was a man on a stretcher who was let down through the roof. The word tells us that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law from every town of Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem there, not to be healed but to find fault with Jesus and possibly stop Him from healing people.

I am amazed when I see thousands of people in Africa and other countries stand to hear an evangelist preach the word and the power of God comes and thousands are healed from all kinds of diseases and just as many receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. We don't see that happening here in our more affluent society. Someone told me it's because we have modern medicine and doctors so we do not need the Lord to heal us as often. I don't believe that; just look at how many people have incurable diseases. I think it is something to do with our faith.

I have been doing Cowboy Church at rodeos for a long time. I have seen and felt the power of God and I have also seen Satan try to stop us. You will see this in the story I am going to tell.

A few of us went to a small place called Delburn, Alberta for Cowboy Church at their amateur rodeo. It was a beautiful warm morning in June. The bucking horses were bunched

up in the middle of the arena and the bulls were laying down close to the fence where we had a sixteen-foot flat deck trailer. They were so peaceful; most of them were just chewing their cud. There was no grandstand, just a hill with a hamburger stand at the top. People were sitting on the hill, some of them on blankets to take in the service. We got started and sang a few songs. I saw that there were many Christians there so I said, "Would somebody like to come down to us and share a bit about the Lord?" A big guy with red hair who was lying on the ground beside the hamburger stand jumped up and come down that hill taking steps about ten feet long! I thought this would be good but while he was still a long way off he shouted, "I want you to stop this Jesus Christ stuff and I want you to stop it now! Me and my buddies been partying all night and we want to sleep and you're blasting that Jesus Christ stuff right in front of us!"

By now, he was standing right in front of me. I was standing on the trailer and he was just about as tall as I was. To tell the truth I didn't know what to do, but the Holy Spirit sure did! I put my finger right in his face and said, "You go back up that hill and bring your buddies down here and we will see if there is enough of you to shut us down." His answer was "These Canadians won't fight." I said, "You get behind this trailer right now!" I pointed to the trailer and he went. My wife Elona was there and he told her his story. He came from Ireland and had seen all the fighting between the Catholics and Protestants and that made him very bitter. I talked to him later and gave him a Cowboy Bible. He handed it back to me and said, "It's no use, I won't read it." I told him to take it back to Ireland as a souvenir from Canada. He went back up the hill and pretty soon we could see him and his buddies passing it back and forth amongst themselves. This is just one instance, there have been a few. If the Holy Spirit had not come at that instant and given me the power and boldness to stand up to that man, I guess we would have been shut down.

Some of you can probably think of times when you needed that power from God and it was right there. Thank God, for this wonderful gift he has given us!!

More next time,
John FitzHerbert

Since God changed my life I moved back to Canada where I've been living and serving and worshipping God. I continued to rodeo for the next couple years with the focus of "How can I glorify God with my talent" and it truly has been rewarding. It's forced me out of my comfort zone a lot of time, whether it's sharing the gospel with someone behind the buck chutes or at the gas pump, sometimes praying with someone going through tuff times. God's always asking me to do something wild and crazy so I can assure you my life is far from boring. 2016 was the first year I didn't compete so I guess you could say I kinda hung up my riggin. I might get on again someday but not likely. God has changed my desire from riding crazy horses to children's ministry which has me serving at Valley View Bible Camp as the head wrangler. I get to put kids on horses that have never seen or touched one. Plus I get to share with them how much God loves them by what Jesus did for all of us when He died on the cross.

God continues to bless me and love me in all kinds of ways so on October 2nd, 2016 the most beautiful greenish-blue eyed lady with the softest heart said "yes" and on July 22nd, 2017 we're gettin hitched!! More importantly though then Karissa's outward beauty is her inward beauty and her love for Jesus. We met at the Bible camp as I mentioned earlier so it's pretty easy to figure out that Karissa loves kids just like I do and after marriage we plan to serve full time (year around) at the camp. Where God's gonna take us after that is a mysterious thought . . . although I can guarantee you it'll be mind blowing because the God we serve is in the business of blowing minds!

Since I don't have any eloquent words to finish off the happenings of my life I've decided to close with something God said a long time ago but is just as real today as it ever was. Throughout my life God has proven that He is always faithful by the way that He protected me and led me through a series of events that opened my eyes and brought me back to Himself. God kept His promise. Deuteronomy 31:8 "It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Brad Dyck

REPORT

FROM JOHN FITZHERBERT

Hi Folks.

Here it is, the end of March and we hope winter is over. Right now, it is pretty dry in Southern Alberta. The snow we had in December and January has melted and gone into the ground, no run off.

Annual meetings are all done. In Alberta we had a beautiful weekend at Strome, AB, the snow was a melting a few puddles of water on the streets. We had a few new faces around the table and a few changes on the board. Joe Simpson was elected to both the Alberta Board and the Canadian Board. We are glad to have him in this Chapter, he is a Christian naturally, a team roper and an oil patch worker. Joe lives south of Sundre with his wife Maureen who helps out at some of the Cowboy Churches with her wonderful singing voice. Together they make a team – Moe and Joe. They presented Trophy Bibles to the Cowgirl (Bailey Hunn) and Cowboy (Chad Gullick) of the year at the intercollegiate rodeo finals in Calgary the last weekend of March.

Terry Leslie has retired from both boards after being active for probably thirty years (I didn't ask him). We won't let him drop right out because he still has Cowboy Church at the Viking Auction Marker the last Friday of every month. Terry is also looking after the Trophy bibles, buying them and getting the leather work done. Oh, I forgot, he likes to go to hospitals and Senior Citizens Home, not to stay, but to tell them about the Lord and bring some songs they might like to hear. Thank you, Terry, for all that you have done and are going to do for The Lord and FCC. God's Blessings.

Another thing that was discussed was the need for a benevolence fund to help injured or sick cowboys and their families. We are looking for some organization who has this kind of info. This was an Alberta Board discussion but I am sure we could cross provincial boundaries with it. This is something to pray about, as it is not really in place yet.

The U.S. Chapter has put out a new "They Way for Cowboys Bible". The cover is different and there are some new teachings and testimony pages. The Bible is the same NIV version. I have a few on hand so please call if you are in need of copies. The U.S. Chapter is working on a complete Cowboy Bible that would include both the old and new testament, which they hope to have ready this summer. I have been asked for financial help to get it done, the board has yet to make a decision. If you would like to personally donate just let me know. We will be sending something to them soon.

Some of you will be getting this magazine snail mail and some are getting it e-mailed or off our web page. Those of you who get it in your mailbox can read it or throw it away (and believe me, I talk to people who do one or the other). I have talked to others who say, "I don't get your magazine anymore, did you stop printing it?" I tell them "You didn't return the form we sent you to receive the magazine in the mail, so we assumed that you would get it off the internet). The answer usually is, "I forgot." Our list of people who get the magazine is growing. I often wonder how many read it or even look for it. I think Deb Graham is doing a good job along with Grand Valley Press, so please let them know how you feel about it.

Rodeo season is here again. Our first rodeo Cowboy Church was April 9th in Medicine Hat. They always treat us very nice there and they give us an arena-sized room where they hold the dance and beer garden on Saturday night. It is always clean and ready to go when we get there. Some years they have even helped us move tables and chairs. We always have a good crowd for the service.

This is the time of year when we buy most of our trophies, Bibles and book, but our bank account looks good. Thanks to all who give so generously.

God's Blessings, John FitzHerbert

The Bible

“The most popular book in the world.”

I was thinking “What do I know about the creation of the Bible?” The Bible is translated into many different languages, and many different versions. It has been and will always be Gods words. Many people have found peace and salvation from reading and living the Word of God. I did some research on-line in regards to “The King James Version” of the Bible and would like to share a few interesting facts:

The bible is the most popular book in the world with the KJV being the most popular Bible translation. (Estimated one-billion copies published thus far.) The 1611 King James Bible is described as one of the most important publications in history. King James I of England brought together the greatest religious scholars and linguists of the time to work on the Bible translation in order to establish the most accurate and most dignified English translation to date. Upon completion, the King James Bible was printed for the first time in 1611 by Robert Barker.

- 80 books were included (39 in Old Testament, 14 in Apocrypha, and 27 in New Testament) 6
- Contains 788,258 total words, of which 14,565 are unique 7
- The title was not originally called the “King James Version”, but “THE HOLY BIBLE”
- The original book was very large: approximately 17” tall, 30” wide when opened, and it weighed up to 30 pounds 10
- The first 1611 Bibles were expensive and were chained to the front pulpit of churches, to prevent them from being stolen 11
- A committee of 54 translators worked for 7 years to complete the King James translation 15
- 1814 A.D. is the earliest recorded date of it being called “King James Version” or “Authorized Version” 9

Matthew 5:3-12

- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Thank you to everyone for sending your bio's and photos. We are still missing some but hope to have them for future issues. We are now on Facebook. I am new to this social media platform but am fortunate to have a good mentor - Marty Gilfillian (from the Alberta Chapter) helping me out. At last look, we have 89 followers. Thank you Marty.

Our next issue cover story will be the testimony of cowboy truck driver and musician Jim Dixon from Stavely, Alberta.

A reminder: The rodeo season has started in many places. If you will be having Cowboy Church at these events (or any other places) please forward me the information and I will post on Facebook as well as the website.

Love, Light and Laughter

Deb Graham

oldwomanabu@gmail.com

References:

1. <http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org/files/kjbt-booklet.pdf> .com/1a2/prophet1/holybiblepictures.html
6. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_books_of_the_Authorized_King_James_Version
7. [../Popular-Bible-Words.php](#)
9. Ibid.
10. <http://www.greatsite.com/facsimile-reproductions/kingjames-1611.html>
11. <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/>
15. <http://www.npr.org/2011/04/18/135437890/king-james-bible-now-400-still-echoes-voice-of-god>



NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 30TH, 2017

CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

CANADIAN CHAPTER

President	Terry Baker Box 187, Newdale, MB R0J 1J0	tdbaker2012@gmail.com	204 849 2154
Vice President	Mike Housek Box 279, Beechy, SK S0L 0C0	mchousek@yahoo.ca	306 859 2268
Sec-Treasurer	John FitzHerbert 1012 -9th St West, High River, AB T1V 1B1		403 652 1377
Director	Cliff Paul Box 526, Rivers, MB R0K 1X0	cjpaul@mts.net	204 328 7748
Director	Dirk McCarroll Box 1391, Camrose, AB T4V 1X3	anchorjarena@hotmail.com	780 608 7489
Director	Karl Allen R.R.#5, Simcoe, ON N3Y 4K4	shadyLANECOWS@hotmail.com	519 410 5235
Director	Marcell Vermette, Box 342, Outlook, SK, S0L 2N0	raftervranch@gmail.com	306 867 2012
Director	Steve Gross RR#4 Ponoka, AB T4J 1R4	cowboystevel@live.ca	403 704 6846
Director	Brian Hunstad Box 5, Hanley, SK S0G 2E0	sole.solutions@live.ca	306 544 7976
Director	Joe Simpson Box 34, Site 11, RR#1 Sundre, AB T0M 1X0	colstineholdings@xplornet.ca	403 638 1881
Webpage/Magazine	Debbie Graham Box 32, Longview, AB, T0L1H0	oldwomanabu@gmail.com	403 652 8996

ALBERTA CHAPTER

President	Dirk McCarroll Box 1391, Camrose, AB T4V 1X3	anchorjarena@hotmail.com	780 608 8448
Vice President	Marty Gilfillan #334 9008 99 Ave. Edmonton Ab T5H 4M6	mgilfillan@nclclyde.com	780 831 4399
Manager	John FitzHerbert 1012-9th St West, High River, AB T1V 1B1		403 652 1377
Director	Brett McCarroll Box 971 Camrose, AB, T4V 4E7	bcm2@ualberta.ca	780 608 7489
Director	Dan Bremault Box 39 LaCorey AB, T0A 2T0	dgbremault@gmail.com	780 826 0848
Director	Marvin Engel Box 7, Site 12 RR2, Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0	marvinengel7@gmail.com	403 556 0787
Director	Joe Simpson Box 34, Site 11, RR#1 Sundre, AB T0M 1X0	colstineholdings@xplornet.ca	403 638 1881

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

President	Brian Hunstad Box 5, Hanley, SK S0G 2E0	sole.solutions@live.ca	306 544 7976
Vice President	Ryan Stein Box 315, Avonlea, SK S0H 0C0	localhammer@gmail.com	306 530 9859
Secretary	Gerald Mack Box 476, Kerrobert, SK S0L 1R0	glmack@sasktel.net	306 834 9110
Treasurer	Mark Bencze Box 70, Christopher Lake, SK S0J 0N0	mbencze@sasktel.net	306 961 9137
Director	Jody Tondell Box 4238 Melfort, SK S0E 1A0	jdtondell@sasktel.net	306 921 7289
Director	Marcel Vermette Box 341 Outlook, SK S0L 2N0	raftervranch@gmail.com	306 860 7650
Director	Neil Haaland Box 476, Hanley, SK S0G 2E0	neilhaaland@yahoo.ca	306 544 7703
Director	Kevin Hepburn Box 1572 Moosomin SK S0G 3N0	kevinhepburn@sasktel.net	306 434 8833

MANITOBA CHAPTER

President	Terry Baker Box 187, Newdale, MB R0J 1J0	tdbaker2012@gmail.com	204 849 2154
Vice President	Dwayne Whitehead Box 159, McCreary, MB R0J 1B0		204 835 2867
Sec-Treasurer	Donna Baker Box 187, Newdale, MB R0J 1J0	tdbaker2012@gmail.com	204 849-2154
Director	Cliff Paul Box 526, Rivers, MB R0K 1X0	cjpaul@mts.net	204 328 7748
Director	Trevor Knight Box 716, Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0	tmknight@mts.net	204 534 6894
Director	Heath Butler Box 1592, Roblin MB R0L 1P0	butlergh@gmail.com	204 937 2087

ONTARIO CHAPTER

President	Karl Allen RR.#5, Simcoe, ON N3Y 4K4	shadyLANECOWS@hotmail.com	519 410 5235
Director	Daniel Dennison 265 Normandy St N Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L1		519 323 3928
Director	Jason Korobka 182 Washington St., Waterford, ON N0E 1Y0		519 443 7490
Director	Jeremy Schott 23 Erie St S, Selkirk, ON N0A 1P0		519 776 5869

Talking Pots

There is an interesting analogy that God uses in scripture and that is of a potter and pots. He uses it to describe how a potter takes a chunk of clay and has then the right to mold or do whatever he wishes with that piece of clay. We see it described in Jeremiah 18:5-7 where God describes His right over nations or kingdoms. We see it in Isaiah 64: 8 where Isaiah acknowledges God's right or ownership over us. Lastly, in Romans 9:20-23 where Paul is addressing people who are questioning the fairness of God in His sovereignty.

In our home the question of people's worldview comes up a lot. Ask my kids, it's a definite theme. The worldview of our culture has changed a lot in the last 20 years and the cowboy world has not been immune from the affects. If you were to ask people say, 65 and up, if they believed there is a God? The majority of them would say yes and that all other gods in religions were false. This does not mean they obey God, just that they acknowledge He is there. To use the pot analogy, the pots all recognise the potter, that there is just one potter, but do not agree or obey with what He says.

If you took that same question and asked people in the age range of 15 – 35, you may get the same answer, of yes there is a God but if you dig a little deeper you will find the worldview is very different. If you ask a few probing questions you will generally find a belief that whatever you believe is fine. On the other side of that is whatever the other person believes is fine also. No recognition that there is an outside authority, but that each person determines what is right in his own eyes. The fancy term for this is "post-modernism." Again, with the pots, we see the pots determining who or what the potter is, or if the potter even exists. Which ultimately puts the pots in charge.

By now you're probably wondering what in the world does all this pottery have to do with being a cowboy? Good question, ultimately it has a great bearing on how we share the gospel. You see before the post-modern mindset you could share the gospel starting at the Cross because people recognised their accountability before their maker. They understood the potter had a right over the pots. With the shift to a post-modern mindset if you come to someone saying, believe in Jesus, they will simply look at what it has to offer and if that will improve their life. Because of their belief, that you determine what is true, they accept or decline something simply on the basis of where they like it or not. There is no understanding of a maker and subjection to that maker.

Our gospel message needs to start at the mindset of the culture and then run to cross. We need to show people "that the heavens declare the glory of God. Ps 19:1" "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and divine nature, have been clearly seen Ro 1:20." The creation itself is telling of the maker, thus showing His right over the creation. Once people are confronted with the reality that they don't determine their reality, we can rush them to the cross where true hope is found.

Our call as Christian cowboys in the culture right now is to be "Talking Pots." To take the message to the other rebelling pots of the potter. Proclaiming that the potter is good and kind. That although we as pots rebelled against Him, He with every right to break us, cared enough to send His Son to redeem us as broken pots and use us for His noble purposes (Romans 9:23).

Brian Hunstad

CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
COWBOYS

IF UNDELIVERABLE:

Please return to Box 32, Longview, AB T0L 1H0

GRAND VALLEY PRESS • MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN

CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TO THE COWBOY WORLD



Hello all, my name is Brian Hunstad. It is my privilege to be the current president of the Saskatchewan FCC. I live in Hanley, Saskatchewan with my wonderful wife Aimee, and our children, Jessica, Stephanie, Christine, Gunnar, Iver and Thorin. At Hanley we run a sheep ranch and a farrier business. I tease the board that God must have wanted to teach them humility since He put the sheep farmer in charge of the cowboys. I count it a joy to serve with these men as we endeavour to share the gospel to a lost and dying world.

BRIAN HUNSTAD

Saskatchewan Chapter FCC President/
Canadian Director



Shelley is my wife and we have three sons and daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren, six girls and two boys. Our sons, their spouses and children are Cody and Trina, Brook, Dylan, and Aubrey Della; Justin and Kendra, Halle and London; Brett and Renee, Coy, Emmie and Avery. We're blessed to have all our sons and their families living nearby.

Horses have always been a big part of my life. I participated in gymkhanas and

raced pony chariots and chuck wagons in my younger days and then began team roping in the 1980s. About this time I realized my need for a Saviour and asked Jesus to forgive me and guide my life. My life has been so much better since being born again and I like to tell others about Jesus. I love to team rope and go to jackpots regularly. I train team roping horses for a living at Anchor J Ranch located five km west of Camrose. We gave the ranch this name because Jesus is our anchor.

BRETT MCCARROLL

Alberta Chapter FCC President/Canadian Director



Hi. My name is Jody Tondell. I am married to Denise and we have two children a thirteen-year-old girl, Saige and a twelve-year-old boy, Payton. We live near Melfort Saskatchewan and with the help of my parents we run a cow/calf operation on the Tondell century old farm that was homesteaded by my Great Grandmother in 1911. We attend an AGC church in Melfort, Saskatchewan and for the last few years I have had an urge to share Gods message with the Western

Community. For that reason, we decided that I would accept an invitation to be on the board of the SFCC.

We trust God will lead us down this trail for his honor.

JODY TONDELL

Saskatchewan Chapter FCC Director



I live on a mixed farm in the heart of the Chinook Belt south of Longview, Alberta with my husband Neil and son Darryl. I am blessed with two wonderful children and two perfect (in Gramma's eyes) grandchildren. I work at the Longview School as an office administrator. Serving God through the FCC is has allowed me to meet many wonderful people and share His word through stories and music.

DEB GRAHAM

Canadian FCC Chapter - Webpage/
Magazine Editor/Facebook



I was born and raised on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan. After finishing high school, I moved to British Columbia and started cowboying out there. I was saved in 1999 while in BC. The cow boss of the ranch I was working on at the time was a Christian and lived for The Lord seven days a week, not just on Sunday. He was the first church going Christian that I had met who lived his life differently all week instead of just on Sunday. I became very interested and decided to investigate this further.

I married my beautiful wife Lehla in 2002. Since that time we have worked on various places in Alberta and Saskatchewan and have had five children. We moved back to Saskatchewan again in 2009 and have been ranching at Kerrobert ever since.

GERALD MACK

Saskatchewan FCC Chapter Secretary



As a young child, growing up around Airdrie, there was always lots of horses around. We had trail rides, gymkhanas, rodeos, horse racing and chunk wagons, so it was easy for a young guy to fall in Love with horses. I believe God gave me these experiences to have a better understanding of how small we really are. God gave me the Gift of Faith to get me through some hard times as a young man so many times He has delivered me from danger. I bring some good skills to The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys and a strong love for The Lord.

JOE SIMPSON

Alberta FCC Director / Cdn FCC Chapter



I was born and raised on a mixed farm in south east Sask. Home is twenty-five miles north of Prince Albert near Christopher Lake. I have been on the board of the Saskatchewan FCC Chapter for six years, the last two years as the treasurer. I manage several pastures in the north and summer graze yearlings and pairs. Home church is Prince Albert Baptist Church.

MARK BENCZE

Saskatchewan FCC Treasurer

**CHRISTIAN COWBOY
MEMBER'S**
Bios



I joined this Fellowship in 1978. The Alberta Chapter at that time was known as the Canadian Chapter because we were the only one in Canada. That soon changed as Saskatchewan and BC came on board, followed later by Manitoba and then Ontario. It is really great to see we're still going and growing after almost forty years.

Praise The Lord

JOHN FITZHERBERT

Alberta FCC Chapter Manager,
Canadian FCC Chapter Sec-Tres



My name is Marcel Vermette. Together with my wife Jolie and our three boys we run Rafter V Ranch. The Lord has blessed us with a place to do the things we love and to share it with many who cross paths with us. We attend a small country church and are into home missions. The FCC has been a good outlet for me to share Christ with the lost that are in our "back yard". I have been on the Saskatchewan board since 2010.

MARCELLE VERMETTE

Saskatchewan FCC Director/Canadian Chapter Director



My parents worked on different ranches and at auction markets as I was growing up. Not a Christian family, but very good moral values. I started working at Modern Livestock in 1978. At this time I was also riding bulls in the LRA, NRA and CCA. Married my wife Camilla in 1985, settled down and started raising a family. Nilsson's bought Grande Prairie Livestock Market in 1990 so with two small boys Camilla and I moved to Grande Prairie. My brother Murray and I managed the

market and we were both blessed with four children. Murray's wife Liz was attending People's Church and her consistent invitations brought us through the door. With busy schedules created by managing a business and raising four boys we saw a commitment to attending Sunday services as an opportunity to do something as a family. After years of trying to understand one day the Lord brought John 6:29 to my attention and my eyes were finally opened. I give thanks to God for Camilla, Liz, People's Church and the many Christian ranch families that He used to save me. The death of my brother, BSE and several droughts challenged my faith over the next decade, but He always carried me through these challenges. In 2014 Nilsson's shut down GPLM and sold their market at Clyde to Len Hrehorets. Len asked me to come and work with them at North Central Livestock so Camilla and I moved to Edmonton where three of our four boys live. Ethan, Sadie and our first grandson Heath live in Sexsmith. Camilla and I are currently attending and serving at Mill Woods Assembly. God has blessed me with so much. I look forward sharing my gifts, talents and experiences to support and encourage other believers through the opportunity that I have been given to serve with The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys.

BE FRUITFUL; MARTY GILFILLAN

Alberta FCC Chapter Vice-President



My wife Karen and I live on an acreage just outside Didsbury, Alberta. We have been blessed with a son and a daughter and a grandchild. The Lord has travelled many miles with us as we minister at rodeos and Cowboy Church. In my younger days, I was a pick-up man at rodeos, now my wife and I play music, sing and pray for cowboys.

MARVIN ENGEL

Alberta FCC Chapter Director



Terry and Donna Baker reside just outside of Newdale, Manitoba. Their children and grandson live close by Codie (28), lives in a house trailer in their yard and Katelynn and Jordan Klassen (Both 25) and their sixteen month old son, Tobias, live on a small acreage just three miles down the road. "What a real BLESSING to have all our family so close!" Terry has been involved with the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys since Manitoba formed a chapter in the fall

of 1996; sitting on the board as a Director. Since then he has served as the Vice-President and this marks the thirteenth year he has served as the chapter's President. Terry has also sat on the Canadian board since 1998, serving as a Director, Vice-President and going on to the fourth year as the President. Donna took on the Secretary/Treasurer position in 2002 and continues to keep the paperwork, the books and the guys in order!! They both know the importance of this ministry and are faithful in serving through Terry's sharing of the word and Donna's ministry through music. You can find them ministering at many Cowboy Churches and in their local communities. They enjoy spending time with folks, sharing the Love of Christ, over a cup of coffee. "Or better yet", as Terry states, "off the back of a horse." For more testimony, see the Summer 2014 edition of magazine.

TERRY BAKER

Canadian FCC Chapter President/Manitoba Chapter President

DONNA BAKER

Manitoba FCC Chapter Secretary/Treasurer



My wife Katie and I live on a ranch at Hanley, Saskatchewan which is about an hour south of Saskatoon. We have been blessed with one son and two daughters. They have given us a total of seven grandchildren with one more arriving this fall. Our kids and grandkids are our greatest joy. My son and I run a year-round custom purebred cow calf operation along with grazing yearlings during the summer months. For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is a gift of God not as a result of works that no one should boast. Ephesian 2: 8 and 9.

NEIL HAALAND

Saskatchewan FCC Chapter Director