



WINTER 2015.16

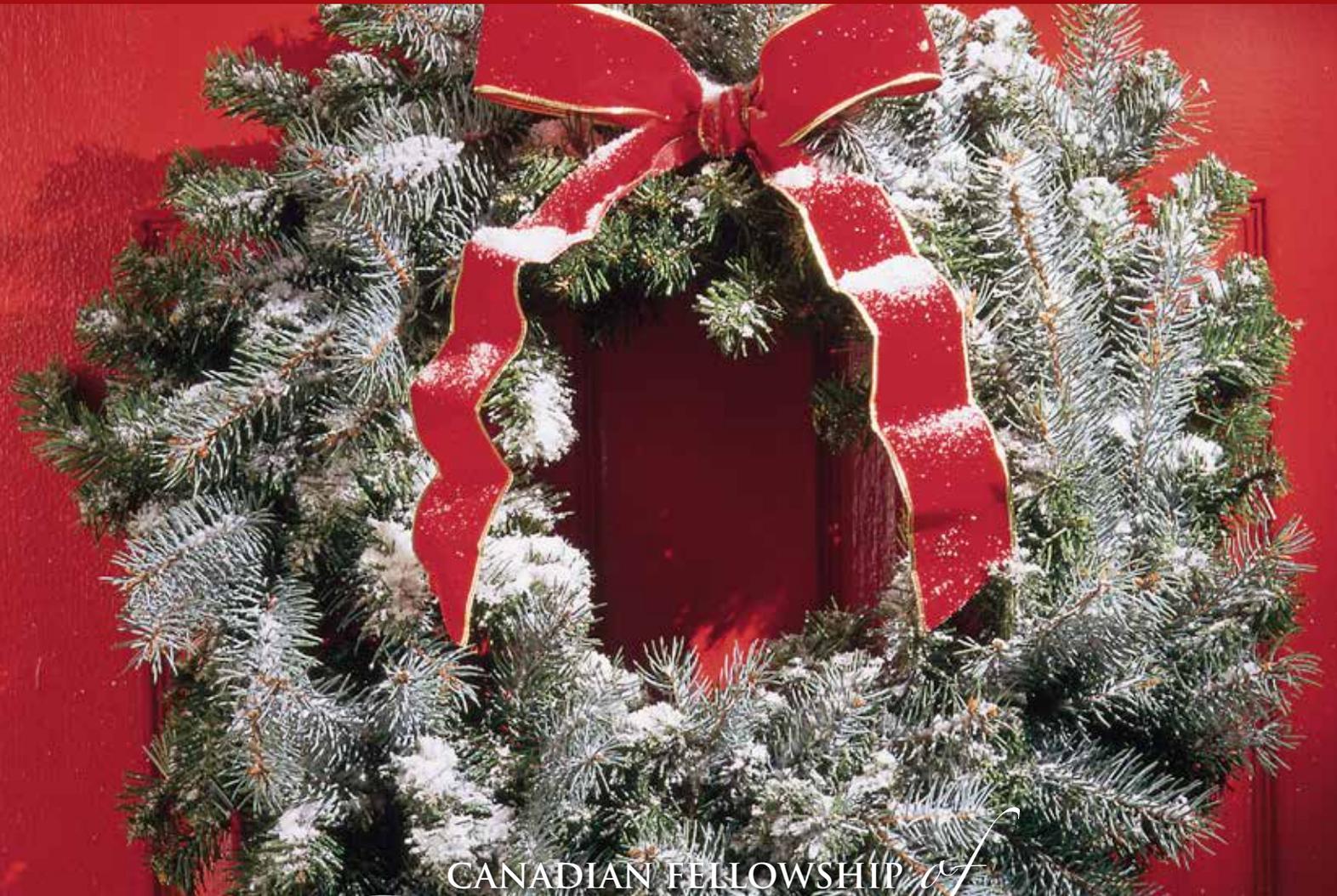
FELLOWSHIP *of* CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

BRETT MCCARROLL | PAGE 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT | PAGE 4

CHINOOK COUNTRY | PAGE 8

CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TO THE COWBOY WORLD



CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP *of*
CHRISTIAN
COWBOYS

STORY OF BRETT MCCARROLL

www.canadianchristiancowboys.ca



TABLE OF CONTENTS

this **month's** issue:



BRETT MCCARROLL AT THE CANADIAN FINALS RODEO.

Success: What does it really look like? by Brett McCarroll	1&2
Report from John FitzHerbert	3
Greetings from Manitoba by Terry Baker	4
Up Coming Events & News	5
Benefits of Giving by John FitzHerbert	6
Miss Rodeo Canada	7
Chinook Country Corner by Debbie Graham	8

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."

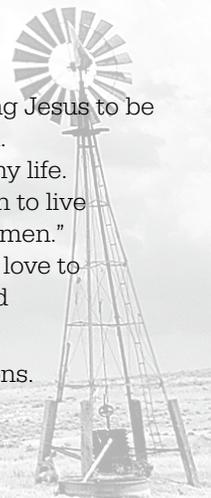
If you've prayed this prayer, please contact anyone listed on the Directory at the back. We would love to pray with you and send you a free Cowboy Bible and some literature to help you get started on this exciting journey."

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 March 30th, 2016





SUCCESS: WHAT DOES IT REALLY LOOK LIKE?

BY BRETT MCCARROLL

To begin, a little bit about myself. I am 29 years old. I have competed in 11 Canadian Finals Rodeo's winning 2 Canadian Championships. I currently work as a horse trainer at Anchor J Ranch in Camrose, part-time as a Youth Pastor at our local church, a Professional Rodeo Cowboy, farrier, and have a teaching degree. Together with my wife Renee, we have a son Coy (age 3) and a daughter Emmie (age 1). Life is busy but we love it. We are incredibly blessed by our loving Savior and strive to live our lives for His Kingdom purposes. The struggle to feel entitled is real and it is a constant battle to obey God rather than seek what is self-fulfilling. We are far from perfect.

We certainly live in a world that is changing rapidly. I was once a kid that drank from a garden hose, slept in a crib with lead-based paint, and rode a bike (and everything else for that matter) without a helmet. Today, I look around at a troubled generation, seeking fulfilment in virtual reality, social media, and consumerism. I am not saying the sky is falling by any means. One could argue that an addiction to technology is less harmful than chewing on lead-based paint but we shall leave that to the scientists and researchers. Every generation faces different and evolving problems. For our purposes, we will label these problems "temptations."

Perhaps one of the biggest temptations in our world today is the allure of success and the misinterpretation of what it means in a Biblical context.

The idea of success is something that has confused me in the past and certainly has wreaked havoc on many who deem themselves as failures. A right perspective on success can truly help an individual live a more peaceful, hopeful and purposeful life. Many struggle with entitlement; the feeling that we think we deserve this or that. Biblically, we know what we deserve. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death..." Therefore, we all have sinned and the one thing that is common to all humanity is that we deserve death. That's all we truly deserve. Theologically then, whenever we think we deserve anything in life, whether we have worked for it or not, we are not obeying God. Everything good thing that we have in life is because God has allowed it to be so. Our response to blessing ought to be pure thankfulness with an accompanying degree of responsibility to love God and love neighbor. Even where we live and the opportunities that we have are because of God's sovereign choice for us to be born in North America. We live in a place where we are taken care of for the most part. Our needs are met. "We have all won the birthplace

continued next page...

SUCCESS: WHAT DOES IT REALLY LOOK LIKE?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

lottery” as Warren Buffet once said. So, how does success fit correctly into a healthy Biblical worldview?

The truth of our human existence is that if we have truly acknowledged our need for Christ and have put all of our faith and trust in Him to reconcile us back to God and overcome our sin problem, we have absolutely nothing else to worry about. Making yourself into a “somebody” is an idea that our society pushes heavily. Therefore, success gets measured by economic status, athletic abilities, your IQ, your accomplishments etc. I think that a healthy understanding of knowing what it means to be successful is fully understanding your true identity as a child of God. ALL of our identity ought to be formed in Christ. Therefore our only true purpose in life is achieved by obeying God. We are made right with God through the sacrifice of Jesus and the only things we can do of any eternal value here on earth are those things that are done in obedience to Christ. Most importantly, loving God and loving neighbor are our biggest mandates. I think we all struggle enough with these two concepts that we need not go off on too many other theological rabbit trails. Therefore, whether we are rich or poor, smart or not so smart, accomplished or a nobody, we are all somebody to God. We are all loved unconditionally by God no matter what we have done or do on a daily basis. There is nothing we can ever do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can ever do to make God love us less. God’s love is unconditional. God has a purpose for each and every one of us in His Kingdom that is present both now and in the future. Death has been defeated! The crux of the matter, then, is what we make of Jesus Christ in our lives. Are we making Him known by our actions and daily routines? We sure ought to be.

Since our identity, purpose, and value are rooted in Christ, we have little to worry about in terms of success. I used to think that success defined who I am. I am excited to learn that God defines who I am and it is my privilege to get to “...take up my cross daily and follow Him” (Luke 9:23). By becoming less, Christ can become more through me. It is not about what I can make of myself in the rodeo arena or anywhere else in life but rather what I make of Christ in my life for my own salvation and for others to see that counts. I think that I have allowed my rodeo successes to define me in the past. That was a big mistake and led to a construed worldview. I now measure success in my own life based upon the Bible’s truths. These include: how well am I

obeying Jesus on a daily basis? How much effort am I putting into my relationship with God? How prevalent are the fruits of the Spirit in my life? How am I treating others? Treating family? These are the things/actions here on earth that are everlasting. Our bank accounts, trophies, titles, accomplishments, and buckles become absolutely nothing when we die. They are of no eternal value. This truth is something that gives me hope. When I compete, I am no longer concerned with accomplishments. Do not get me wrong, I am perhaps the most competitive person I have ever met. There are few that compete harder at anything. But, my motive for training and competing hard is to use my God-given abilities and to generate income to support my family. I am more concerned now with how I compete and am focused more on balancing my time between work, ministry, and family in attempts to be a disciple of Christ and a Godly leader for my family.

The Lord has been so good to our family. Justin and I are currently 2nd in the Canadian standings and we look forward to some time off in the next stretch of rodeos as we take some vacation time and I will be taking our church youth group to Ensenada, Mexico to serve in an orphanage. We look forward to hosting the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys team roping jackpot on August 30 and a free school on August 31. It is a great way to spread the Good News to the rodeo world.

God is good all the time, no matter the circumstances. As Christians, we are called to be a joyful people. Joy is not dependant on circumstance. Joy is something we are called to be and is wholly dependant on our faith. If we are assured of our salvation how can we worry and how can we not be joyful? I urge you to examine how successful you are Biblically and look to rid yourselves of entitlement and measuring success by how the world defines it. Climbing the worldly ladder of success always results in emptiness and the need for more. We can never achieve enough. On the contrary, in Christ, we have everything we need! John 16:33 Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

God Bless,
Brett McCarroll

REPORT

FROM JOHN FITZHERBERT

HI FOLKS!

We have had a near normal fall in Southern Alberta, very dry with lots of strong South West winds. Through out my life this is the kind of weather we expect, we can get a lot of work done with no snow and no frost in the ground. Climate change people are making lots of noise that it is getting warmer, but I don't see much change and they don't have the numbers to prove it.

Terrorists are bringing fear to people in different countries and I wonder how many we will be bringing into Canada disguised as refugees. Turkey and Russia are making threats against each other, Arabs are fighting Arabs. Muslims are fighting Muslims. Wars and rumors of wars are what we see on the news casts today. I don't think we have seen a situation like this before, even in the days of World Wars 1 and 2. We know that someday all the guns of the world will be pointing at Israel. That's when our God will intervene and defeat all those who war against His chosen people. Also 1 Thess 4:16 tells us that we (that is the people who have Jesus as Lord and Savior) will be caught up into the clouds to meet Jesus so we shall always be with the Lord. Praise his name.

Since we have had two elections and changes of government in Alberta I thought I will give you some history. In 1932 (that was before I was born) Alberta had a UFA Government. The people were mostly broke with no jobs, there was very little rain, consequently no crops and not much grass for cattle or horses. My dad told me about those dirty thirties as probably some of your parents did and they were terrible. They had an election that year and elected a new Social Credit Government. The Premier was a born again man, William Aberhart, who preached in a church every Sunday. Most if not all his cabinet were Godly men. Alberta was bathed with prayer, before

any decisions were made. Changes did not come quickly, 1935 saw some rain but in 1936 the mountains were on fire from the deep south to long way north, smoke and ashes covered the land. Also in 1936 oil was discovered at Turner Valley, people came from all across Canada to work in the oilfields. The rains came and Alberta blossomed to become the richest province in Canada. William Aberhart gave way to Ernest Manning, another Bible man who continued this legacy till he retired, non Christians took over the leadership and this Government was defeated by the Conservatives. The Manning Government left Alberta with no debt and money in the bank. We only have to look at the Old Testament to see how God prospered the land when they had a Godly King and how he took his hand from them when their leaders worshiped other gods. Alberta is now billions in debt just like other provinces and Canada itself. Pray for our leaders who as far as I know are not God fearing people. He can still do a miracle.

We had a busy summer again, going to rodeos and other places. There seems to be lots of opportunities to present the Gospel but there is getting to be fewer of us to go and do it. I think taking this magazine out of the mail and putting it online has caused a lot of people to forget about this fellowship. I have talked to people all summer, asked them how they like the magazine and they have said we don't get it anymore, when I tell them it is online they say "Oh I read that notice and didn't do anything, I forgot." I think we will send emails to the people that we have addresses for, it might get some interest. The Alberta Chapters' Annual meeting is in Strome again. Saturday January 23 2016, 2:00 PM. Please try to come, we need some new faces around the table.

Our finances are in good shape thanks to you folk who keep on giving, God bless you for it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GREETINGS FROM MANITOBA

TERRY BAKER

What a great fall we have had, can't recall too many years where we are dealing with mud in the third week of November. It sure has been a blessing not having to start the tractor, to haul hay to the cows.

Not as busy feeding cows this fall, but always busy with ministry. Back in October, we set up our FCC booth in Brandon for the MRCA finals. FCC has had a booth there for many years, I know the Saskatchewan chapter brought one until Manitoba formed a chapter in 1997.....so it has been a long time. This year, things were a little different, as the trade show was way down and the only thing scheduled on Sunday was a Cowboy Church. After much prayer and consideration, we decided to go forward with the booth and church service, trusting that this was where the Lord wanted us to be. As it turned out. It was an Awesome weekend.....we had lots of activity around the booth and one of the biggest crowds at Cowboy Church. This reminds me that we need to be operating in obedience, continuing to move forward in doing the work of the Lord, even when things appear very bleak. What an opportunity we would have missed, if we had relied on our own feelings and instincts. Our next event will be the Manitoba AGM and winter gatherin'. The date has been set for January 9, 2016 at the Evangel Worship Centre in Rapid City. More details will be posted on the website (or you can contact me) as they are finalized. So keep the date open as we always appreciate your support and would love to see y'all.

This summer, my focus has been to encourage folks to love the Lord with all their hearts just as it states in Mat 22:24, "Jesus said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your soul and with all your mind." We need to do whatever it takes to have a deeper walk with the Lord.... to have God's word in our hearts. We need to be doers of the word, not just hearers just as it tells us in James 1:22. To be a doer means you participate and as a hearer you are just an observer. I often think of team roping when I am reminded of this verse. For me, it's a lot more fun to rope (being a doer) than just

watching (an observer or hearer). Whatever is in your heart is usually the thing you will want to do.....nobody cowboys unless it is in their heart. This desire within your heart will cause you to make the time to catch your horse and spend the many countless hours it takes to make him into everything he can be. When we love the Lord with all our heart, it will become our desire to share Him with others. Just think of the impact we would have, if we were more passionate in devoting our time to sharing Christ with others, instead of focusing on and perfecting our own interests. I like to go visit folks and encourage them in the Lord, but often wish I had more time to do this.....so I know it can be a struggle. Another struggle folks have shared with me is that they feel uncomfortable, kinda like when they get on a horse without doing enough groundwork beforehand. If you love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind, then your will have that desire to get to know Him better, causing you to dig into His word, and thus will give you enough groundwork to share Him with all the folks you meet. Christmas is like no other time of year as people's hearts are often softened, giving us the perfect opportunity to share its true meaning.

On a personal note.....As I write this, we are expecting the arrival of our first grandchild any day, so probably by the time you read this, we will be holding a bouncy new baby!!! Katelynn and Jordan are now living just 3 miles away.... what a great joy and blessing to have your children and grandchildren so close.

WE WISH Y'ALL A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
MAY HIS EVERLASTING
LIGHT SHINE THROUGH
YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

Up Coming Events & News

FCC Manitoba Chapter AGM & Winter Gatherin'

January 9th, 2016 at Evangel Worship Centre in Rapid City

AGM 3:00 PM

Supper – 5:30 PM

Evening Program (music & guest speaker) – 7:00 PM

*Children's Ministry provided during AGM & Evening Performance

*Supper \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 5-10

Contact: Terry & Donna Baker to confirm attendance by January 2nd, 2016

Alberta FCC Chapter Annual General Meeting

Strome Seniors Center, Strome Alberta

January 23rd - Meeting @ 2:00 PM Guest Speaker

followed by Supper and Fellowship

January 24th Breakfast and Cowboy Church starting at 9:00 AM

Everyone Welcome

Please Contact: Terry Leslie 780-376-3599, John FitzHerbert 403-652-1377 or

Debbie Graham 403-652-8996 Email: oldwomanabu@gmail.com

For more information or to confirm you will be attending so we can confirm dinner and breakfast numbers with caterers by January 15th.

Magazine/Webpage Update

I have been compiling an e-mail send out list for the Spring issue of the magazine. If you have not sent your e-mail to me please do. Email: oldwomanabu@gmail.com. Please feel free to send any stories, songs or poems, pictures anytime. I would like to have information to update the webpage with as well. John FitzHerbert met with a fellow last week who came all the way from Ontario because he had read about us on the the webpage. I can do a mass email out to people whenever anyone is having an event (Cowboy Church etc.). My goal is to be able to send out much more information on a regular basis. I am currently working on FCC business cards (with webpage info & logo & a few words) for people to use at events.

God Bless Debbie

The Benefits of Giving

by John FitzHerbert

Every time I give a Cowboy Bible to someone I write a scripture reference under the cover. *The Scripture is 2 Tim 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* I have used this verse many times over the years in various situations, some involving me and some other peoples problems. While we are waiting on God to answer our prayers doubts can start to come in, we start to lose faith and the next thing that comes is fear. What if God doesn't answer this one? We have to go to that and other scriptures to find the fear we have does not come from God. Fear is an enemy to faith, and we either operate in one or the other.

One time I was hauling grain with a big truck. I had to go down a long hill with a bridge at the bottom. I felt I was going to fast at the top of the hill so I geared down one gear, nothing happened to slow me down so I tried the brakes and I had none, something caught my eye in the mirror, it was smoke, the bearing had gone and my hind wheels came out and rubbed on the box. I could see them out about a foot from where they should be. When will they come off, what will happen when they come off, these thoughts raced through my mind. I was almost blind with fear. I called out the only thing in my mind and that was JESUS. As fast as the fear came it was gone, I could see, I could think, I steered the runaway truck all the way down the hill until just before the bridge, the wheels left me and I crashed to the pavement, it cut a ditch in the road but I was parked on the wrong side of the road. Praise the Lord. The wheels went for a quarter of a mile before they stopped. They had a lot of speed !!!!

Last year I met a couple who came here from Africa, they are of Dutch or English descent. They were forced off

their land by the blacks, not legally but pushed off with nothing, no cattle, food, or clothes, just get out or you will be beaten or killed. They managed to get out to High River where they have a daughter and family. They have applied to the Canadian Government for papers that would allow them to stay in Canada, but to no avail. If they are forced to go back to Africa they will be persecuted severely or even killed. Every application they make to Canadian authorities comes back with a no. He could not work legally for a while but was finally given a work permit. Their faith that God can take care of this is getting really weak. Last week they were told they will be deported, this hit them so hard that fear has just about paralyzed them. I still believe that God can turn this around,

The Bible is full of stories that can build up our faith, with the one that come to my mind right now is in 1 Kings:17. Elijah has told the king that there will be a very severe drought, it would not rain till he said so. The Lord told him to hide from the king because he would be killed. So he went where the lord directed and ravens brought him food and he drank from the brook till it dried up. The Lord told him to go and live with a widow, but when he got there she was making the last meal for her and her son, then they would die because they had no food. Elijah told her to feed him first and not fear the Lord would provide for them till the rains came. They both had a problem but God brought them together and solved it all.

This time I wrote about what God has not given next time what he has given.

Gods Blessing till next time.





Miss Rodeo CANADA

Miss Rodeo Canada wishes to thank you for your sponsorship of the Miss Rodeo Canada 2016 pageant. It is with a huge thank you to you, for your commitment, that the pageant was such a wonderful success! Our contestants were kept busy throughout the week competing for the grand title of Miss Rodeo Canada 2016! You can view their events through the pictures taken by Nicole Marie Photography at <http://www.nicolemarie.photo/client-gallery/miss-rodeo-canada-2016/>.

Miss Samantha Stokes, Miss Grand Prairie Stompede 2014, was awarded the Miss Rodeo Canada 2016 title and we are happy to send you a picture of her with your sponsored item. A signed photo will follow if you so wish. Please send us your address so we may forward it to you.

It will be a fun-filled year promoting the sport of rodeo and carrying on the western heritage tradition for our First Lady of the Rodeo!

Thank you once again for the wonderful leather bound bible for our Miss Rodeo Canada 2016, and for the gifts to our contestants and visiting royalty as well. They are very treasured items!

And thank you for supporting the Miss Rodeo Canada program!

Pauline Briggs, Vice President
MISS RODEO CANADA
23127 Twp Rd 572
Sturgeon County AB T0A 1N5
Phone: 780-422-697
Cell: 780-940-0965
www.missrodeocanada.ca

Birth Announcement



Congratulations to Terry & Donna Baker and Families.

We are thrilled for the safe arrival of our 1st grand-baby, Tobias Robert Klassen born Dec 8, 2015. He weighed 9lbs 8 ounces and 21 1/2 inches ... proud parents Jordan & Katelynn Klassen and another grandson for Ike & Martha Klassen. Great-grandparents Doug & Linda Baker and a 1st great for Shirley Stoetzel.



Chinook Country Corner

Last week I attended a professional development work day with-in our School Division. The parking lot was jammed packed with three-hundred or more new modelled trucks, cars and SUV's of every colour, size and description. Upon entering the hosting schools' foyer I was delighted to see the festive decorations of red poinsettias, white lit up reindeer and gold garland strung around real fig trees that were growing almost up to the skylights. The Christmas music of Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer was playing quietly over the intercom system .

I breathed in the strong aroma of freshly brewed coffee and could hear the chatter of about four-hundred people in the next room. A fine breakfast buffet of fruit, muffins and cinnamon rolls were laid out on two long tables with people milling about heaping their plates with goodies and talking about the up and coming Christmas break.

I filled up my Christmas decorated paper plate with fresh strawberries, grapes, watermelon, and cantaloupe and then carefully placed a hot cinnamon bun on top. With fresh coffee and plate in hand I joined in the friendly conversation all around me. The most common topic of conversation was centered around "What to buy for Christmas" for friends and loved ones.

At nine we were to go to the gym and listen to the keynote speaker talk about being positive and happy. Upon going through the gym door every one was given a a clear plastic bag containing a sparkling blue Christmas ornament and two Lindor chocolates. The next forty five minutes was spent learning "How to be Happy". For the rest of the morning we broke off into various groups taking a workshop of your choice pertaining to personal and professional growth.

For lunch we all joined once again in the common room where we shared a hot meal consisting of lasagna, salad and fresh buns. Again sharing more food, fun, and laughter.

The afternoon was spent in various workshops and courses. It was a great day!!

On the way home I began to wonder about my great day and thought "How many people went hungry this morning? How many people do not need to worry about what perfect gift to buy for someone because they are thinking about where they will find food to eat today? How many people will not get even one Christmas present or have someone to love on Christmas morning ? How many people do not have warm clothes, hats or boots to wear? How many people slept in a cold old car only wrapped in used newspapers hoping to keep warm? To how many people will Christmas day be just another day brought with unbeatable challenges of sorrow and grief? Who will teach these people to be happy?

I pondered the question of happiness for a long while. We do not need to be taught to be happy. The answer is simply believe in Jesus, Trust in the Lord. How you live your life, no matter what your circumstance may be if you believe and follow the teaching of the Lord you will be happy.

Have a safe and happy holiday, but remember those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Sometimes just a warm friendly smile is a beautiful gift. Praise The Lord.

Love, Light and Laughter

Debbie Graham

403-652-8996

oldwomanabu@gmail.com



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 Street West, High River, AB T1V 1B1		403-652-1377
Directors	Cliff Paul Box 526, Rivers, MB R0K 1X0	cjpaul@mts.net	204-328-7748
	Dirk McCarroll Box 1391, Camrose, AB T4V 1X3	anchorjarena@hotmail.com	780-608-1625 cell 708-608-8448
	Joel Hamm Box 98, Glaslyn, SK, S0M 0Y0	jchamm@sasktel.net	306-342-4547
	John Baker Site 3, Box 28, Station Main RR#8, Calgary, AB T2J 2T9	403-931-5749	
	Karl Allen R.R.#5, Simcoe, ON N3Y 4K4	shadyLANECOWS@hotmail.com	519-426-0405
	Terry Leslie Box 99, Strome, AB T0B 4B0	terles@syban.net	780-376-3599
	Marcell Vermette, Box 342, Outlook, SK, SOL 2N0	raftervranch@gmail.com	306-867-2012 cell 306-867-7650
Web Page Manager	Debbie Graham Box 32, Longview, AB T0L 1H0	oldwomanabu@gmail.com	cell 403-652-8996
Magazine Editor	Debbie Graham Box 32, Longview, AB T0L 1H0	oldwomanabu@gmail.com	cell 403-652-8996

ALBERTA CHAPTER

President	Terry Leslie Box 99 Strome, AB T0B 4H0	terles@syban.net	780-376-3599
Vice President	Dirk McCarroll Box 1391, Camrose, AB T4V 1X3	anchorjarena@hotmail.com	780-608-1625 cell 708-608-8448
Manager	John FitzHerbert 1012 - 9th Street West, High River, AB T1V 1B1		403-652-1377
Directors	Brett McCarroll Box 971 Camrose, AB T4V 4E7	bcm2@ualberta.ca	780-608-1671
	Dan Bremault Box 39 LaCorey AB T0A 2T0		780-826-2185
	Marvin Engel Box 7, Site 12 RR2, Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0		403-335-3238
	Romeo Beaulieu Box 1348, Jenner, AB T0J 1W0		403-898-2435

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

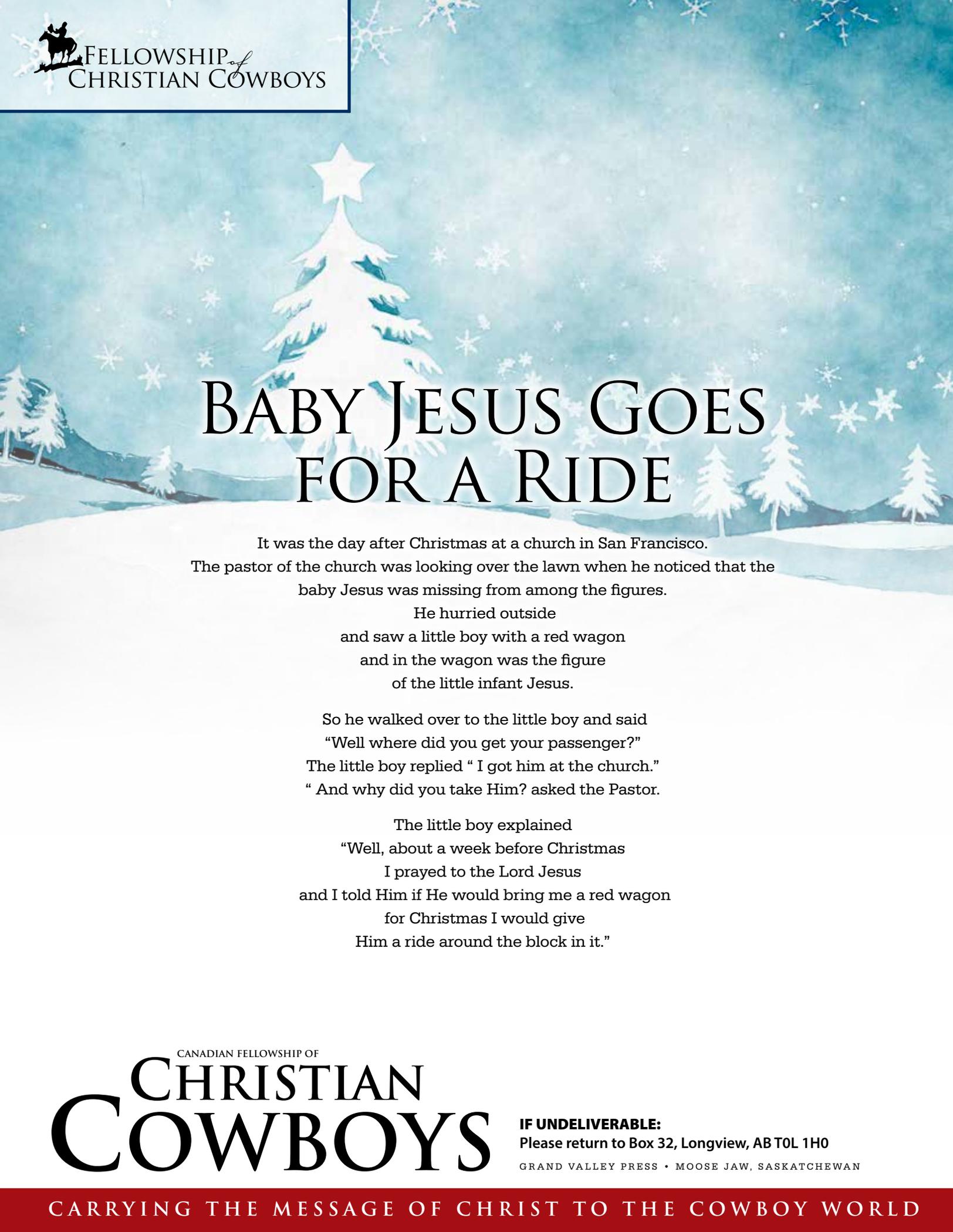
President	Joel Hamm Box 98, Glaslyn, SK S0M 0Y0	jchamm@sasktel.net	306-342 4547
Vice President	Ryan Stein Box 315, Avonlea, SK S0H 0C0	localhammer@gmail.com	306-530-9859
Treasurer & Website	Mark Bencze Box 70, Christopher Lake, SK S0J 0N0	mbencze@sasktel.net	306-961-9137
Directors	George Widdifield Box 253, Lanigan, SK S0K 2M0	gwiddifield.wbdc@pami.ca	306-365-2443
	Neal Haaland	Contact information will be posted	
	Russell Schwer Box 262, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0		306-468-2760
Secretary & Nominating Committee	Marcell Vermette, Box 342, Outlook, SK SOL 2N0	raftervranch@gmail.com	306-867-2012 cell 306-867-7650

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		204-835-2014
Sec-Treasurer	Donna Baker Box 187, Newdale, MB R0J 1J0	tdbaker2012@gmail.com	204-849-2154
Directors	Cliff Paul Box 526, Rivers, MB R0K 1X0	cjpaul@mts.net	204-328-7748
	Trevor Knight Box 716, Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0	tmknight@mts.net	204-534-6894

ONTARIO CHAPTER

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



BABY JESUS GOES FOR A RIDE

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco.
The pastor of the church was looking over the lawn when he noticed that the
baby Jesus was missing from among the figures.

He hurried outside
and saw a little boy with a red wagon
and in the wagon was the figure
of the little infant Jesus.

So he walked over to the little boy and said
“Well where did you get your passenger?”
The little boy replied “ I got him at the church.”
“ And why did you take Him? asked the Pastor.

The little boy explained
“Well, about a week before Christmas
I prayed to the Lord Jesus
and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon
for Christmas I would give
Him a ride around the block in it.”

CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP OF
**CHRISTIAN
COWBOYS**

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