



WINTER 2017

FELLOWSHIP *of* CHRISTIAN COWBOYS

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CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TO THE COWBOY WORLD

THE GOSPEL EXPLAINED

TESTIMONY OF JOEL HAMM



CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP *of*
CHRISTIAN
COWBOYS

www.canadianchristiancowboys.ca



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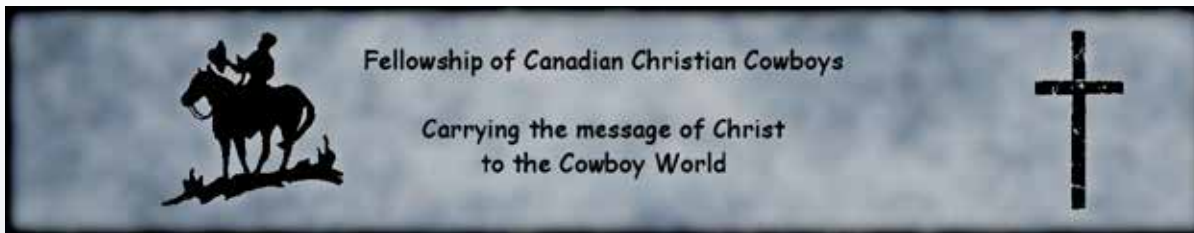
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ABC's of being a Christian

- A Admit You are a Sinner – Romans 3:23
- B Believe Christ Died for You on the Cross – John 3:16
- C Confess Christ as Your Saviour – Romans 10:9-10



Joel Hamm's testimonial on his life experience.



 Lord
I pray
to be Led to
and by you

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."

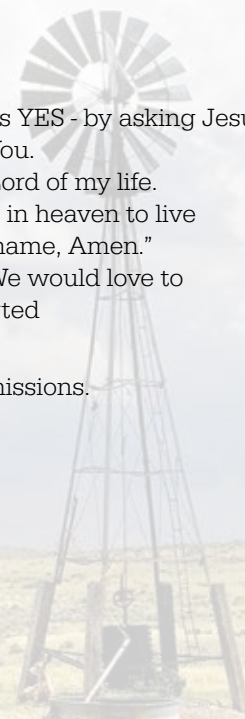
If you've prayed this prayer, please contact anyone listed on the Directory at the back. We would love to pray with you and send you a free Cowboy Bible and some literature to help you get started on this exciting journey."

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

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Submission deadline for next issue is March 31st, 2017





The Gospel Explained

THE LAW OF GOD REVEALED TO ME JUST HOW SEPARATED FROM HIM THAT I WAS...

BY JOEL HAMM

For those that don't know me or my family I will start with the introductions. My name is Joel Hamm. My wife Carla and I have 6 children. Will our oldest is 9, then Wade 7, Reed 4, Ira and Clara are our 2 year old twins, and Josey, our newest, is 6 months old. 4 boys and two girls. I never pictured having a large family of my own, yet here we are at six amazing children so far.

I have been a part of the Saskatchewan FCC board for the last 6 years where I am currently serving as president, and I've also been a part of the Canadian board for the past two years.

I was born in 1987. I have two older sisters and our parents raised us in a loving home and I had a wonderful upbringing, but church was not on our agenda. Like a lot of people reading this, I was raised in a ranching family. My parents place is south of Perdue about seven miles. It was, and still is a mixed farm. Mom and dad had a bit of grain land, Purebred and commercial Charolais cows and also raised some real good quarter horses. From quite a young age I wanted to own my own ranch, it was all I ever envisioned myself doing.

When I graduated from High School that ranch was on my mind. Somehow I ended up in northern Saskatchewan working on a service rig and seemed to accumulate a few dollars. Though the idea of buying one of those brand new diesels was a big draw for a young kid, I had other priorities and bought what I thought would be my forever home when I was nineteen years old. I had my ranch. A half section and ten cows may not sound like much to some but I figured I was running the Douglas Lake. That same year my first son was born and it was not long before I realized I was in a pinch. I wanted desperately to be home with my young family but as the months went by I had barely been there except for a few days here and there. My son was eight months old and I am not sure he would have recognized me. I decided that something had to change and gave up my oilfield job to be home more. In the spring of 2008 I took a job at the local community pasture and kept building that ranch that I loved so much.

Some reading this will remember the safety schools that the PFRA and the Saskatchewan community pasture program

continued next page...

The Gospel Explained

continued...

put on every couple years in Moose Jaw SK. It was a way for some of the seasoned hands to teach the new employees how to handle cattle safely and improve their skills, while at the same time satisfying the Occupational Health and Safety committee. I figured I was decent with a rope but there were two men there teaching the ranch roping clinic, and my eyes were opened to a whole new world. I wanted to learn these skills and a few hours just weren't enough for me. I approached Brian Hunstad and Peter Gonnet after the clinic and asked them if they put on any more clinics throughout the summer and to my delight they had told me of a clinic coming up in a couple months and beyond that it was free! I called the number they had given me and registered on the way home.

Come July, Carla (a full nine months pregnant), Will, and I found ourselves driving up the lane to Dale Clearwater's place where the clinic was being held. After getting parked I headed over to register and get the agenda for the three days. Now up until this point I hadn't realized who was putting the weekend on. My guts nearly hit the ground when I saw it was the Spring Creek Christian Cowboy Fellowship; there was a church service and all! As I said before, I wasn't raised in a Christian home. I don't recall ever being to church up to this point and I believed that Christianity was not for me. I had "prayed" to God before but only out of selfish ambition... I didn't know Him. I was more than a little uncertain how the weekend would go. I was a bit nervous that I would not fit in with this crowd. I only came for the cowboy skills and I am sad to say that was my attitude as I walked back to the trailer to get my horse.

The next few days were eye opening for me, not only in the arena but also as I got to know nearly everybody that was there. I couldn't get over the hospitality; the way all the organizers and their families went above and beyond for all the participants, the way the clinicians talked about their faith openly and honestly, and how they had a servant heart toward me and my family that weekend even though they knew I wasn't following Christ.

Sunday morning was the church service. I nearly skipped it but I figured that would be pretty rude, and given how wonderful my new friends were I decided we should go. I wasn't sure who they would have for a preacher but to my astonishment, Brian Hunstad was speaking. That morning changed the direction of my life, and my family's life, forever. It was the clearest explanation of the Gospel that I have ever heard.

The heart that I possessed, full of seemingly good intentions, was full of wickedness and sin. I realized then that I could try all I wanted to be a good human being but that I will never escape the sin nature that I inherited before I drew my first breath. The law of God revealed to me just how separated from Him that I was, that God is holy and just, and I was Guilty on all accounts. Then Brian spoke of Christ and what His suffering on the cross really meant. I needed to understand that Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and was the only one that could have made the sacrifice on my behalf; that Christ was crucified as the spotless Lamb, died once for all and rose again on the third day, defeating sin and death. He paid the penalty for my sin, took it upon himself, died my death, clothed me in His righteousness and reconciled me with the Father. I spoke to Brian afterward while everyone was having lunch. We prayed together, that the Lord would continue to reveal Himself to me, and over the next few days He did.

We left for home that afternoon and on our way home Carla decided that we should maybe stop at the hospital. Good thing she suggested that because I guess we were having a baby. It was likely brought on by rolling her up into the front of a truck camper for three days. That evening was the first time I had ever really prayed. Holding my wife's hand I prayed hard, most of the night I prayed and early the next day, Wade was born.

I don't know if we'd even gotten settled at home yet before I found myself at the foot of my bed, praying for forgiveness. Sometime over those last few days God had shattered my hard calloused heart and made me a new creature. I knew then that I could never live for any other reason than to serve my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God hadn't granted me redemption for anything that I had done, He saved me to reveal His Glory and because of his purposes. Over the next few years I devoted myself to Christ and to ministry. I became part of the FCC and decided that I would dig out the guitar again and learn to play some hymns so I could help with worship at some of the church services.

About three years ago, I again began to feel that same pinch I felt when I was working in the oilfield and wasn't able to be with my family as much as I should. The cow herd had grown dramatically and now I was running about two-hundred and fifty head and there was always too much to do. I had already quit working at the pasture and become a full time rancher. That dream had come to fruition and oddly it was not near as sweet as I had envisioned it as a boy. The "go big or go home" mentality that seems to rule ranching these days had sucked me in and I was sacrificing family and God to make it go. Quite often my chair was empty at meal time and I was generally stressed with one thing or another, I wasn't that pleasant to have around anyway. If there was a FCC church service I often did the music and I found myself forcing it. Going there and rushing to get home as quick as possible, I felt I had to get back to the ranch. On one of many nights that I spent praying over our situation, God revealed to me that I had created an idol. I had put the

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REPORT

FROM JOHN FITZHERBERT

Hi Folks.

As usual I will give you the weather report. Just before Christmas we had a cold two weeks. Temperatures were minus 20 degrees Celsius and a bit below but the winds seemed to blow gently every day making it really cool. On Dec 18th a cold Chinook blew in with winds up to one-hundred KM per hour. The temperature went up to zero degrees Celsius but the wind was very cold and about one inch of snow moved all over the place. Still lots of crops not harvested, not in southern Alberta but from Calgary all the way north. Combines will be running in the spring!!!!

We had a really good crowd in Edmonton for our Cowboy Church at the CFR. People kept coming so they brought more chairs even then quite a few had to stand. People came from all over western Canada to see that rodeo. I talked with folks from Saskatchewan and BC as well as the Alberta crowd. We had some really good musicians and people responded to the service very well. Another good thing, no snow or ice in Edmonton this year.

I thing the surprise of the year was to see Donald Trump get elected as President of the USA as everything pointed to a Clinton victory. I wonder if the Lord intervened? Somebody told me five years ago that we would see Trudeau as the Prime Minister of Canada and Clinton as President of the USA and that they would both withdraw their support of Israel. That would fulfil the prophesy that all nations of the world would be against Israel paving the way for the battle of all battles. Canada does not support Israel very much now, but I am sure that Trump will be a helper to Israel in a big way. I think we will have to wait a bit longer to see the prophesy unfold.

Annual meetings are coming up in the three prairie provinces. There is info about them all on the web, this magazine, and notices have been sent out via e-mail. In the past I have sent letters to about fifty people inviting them to the meeting, with poor results. So this year I will not be doing that because it is well advertised. Notices are also posted throughout this magazine on all the AGM's.

It is a bad situation in Eastern Alberta and Western Saskatchewan with TB being found in that large area. We need to pray that this will not close the borders off to exporting our beef again as it did during the BSE outbreak. We also need to pray for the ranchers and people affected as their herds are under quarantine and cannot be sold or moved.

There are a lot of people unemployed here because of the downturn in the oil patch. Many are willing to do anything for a job but there just doesn't seem to be many jobs available. Churches and ministries are experiencing short falls on their budgets because of the high unemployment. Here in the Alberta Chapter we have never had so much money being given as in this past year. I have to wonder what the Lord has in store for the Fellowship. In Alberta we give our tithes to the Canadian Chapter, who in turn give the tithe to parent US Chapter. This is scriptural so that is reason enough for us to have plenty. I know a pastor who believed in tithing personally and did so but he said no where in scripture does it say the church must tithe so his church did not tithe on their income. Guess I don't have to tell you his church closed. One of the reasons among others was no finances. Thank you to all who have given your tithes and offerings to the Fellowship. I know God will bless you abundantly.

As we get into a new year it seems like a time for people to make resolutions like getting rid of old habits. I think it is a good time to make a new resolution. One I can suggest is to get up a half hour earlier in the morning and read at least a chapter in the Word and then pray for fifteen or twenty minutes. If you get your body in agreement with this it will become a habit and I know your walk with the Lord will grow and you will be blessed.

Gods' Blessings
John FitzHerbert



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GREETINGS FROM MANITOBA

TERRY BAKER

Back in May, I went to work for Dwayne as a rider in a community pasture. I have always enjoyed doing this, wishing I could do more of it. This year I had the opportunity. Even though it made the rest of my life really busy, it was well worth the experience. I enjoyed getting up early and tying the horses in the barn (on some occasions I would even beat the boss). I did however, not enjoy the rooster that would make his presence known at anytime of the day. I really didn't appreciate all his crowing at two or three in the morning.

Despite the night's sleep interruption, there was still a job to do!! We would ride no matter the weather and there were lots of nasty days. But we ride knowing that's all part of the job; riding and looking after the cattle that have been entrusted to the pasture. There is no doubt that I love cowboying, but I also saw this as an opportunity to be a witness to the other riders. I know Dwayne's heart also leans that way. I spent many morning coffees in my trailer and noon lunches in the barn with the young rider that rode with us...so I had lots of time to share the Lord with him; not only what the Lord has done (and continues to do) in my life, but also what the Lord could and would do for him and his family. Ps. 119:2 says, "Blessed are those who keep continued His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart."

It was really hard to get through to this young cowboy, he would listen and agree with what I said, but I'm not sure if he really received what the Lord had for him, as he just carried on with all his worldly choices. Because of his choices, he could not experience the faithfulness of God. He's not alone as there are a lot of people in that same place, who miss out on God's faithfulness because of the choices they make. Ps. 37:3, "Trust in the Lord, and do good. Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness." It's God's faithfulness that sees us through, not our own doings. Our hope comes from the promises of God not from what the world offers. Ps. 119:105, says that God's word is a lamp onto our feet and a light onto our path. So, if God's word is directing your trail in life, you will see His faithfulness in all areas of your life.

We learn to trust and keep our hope in the Lord. Christmas is a very special time of year, it is a season of hope as we see and sing about the baby in a manger. Jesus came as a

baby to bring hope, but He didn't stay that way. He became our Savior, our redeemer, our healer and our provider!! Before Jesus went to sit at the right hand of God, He told us that He was going to leave us a helper.....the spirit of truth known to believe as "The Holy Spirit". John 14: 16-17, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you."

With Holy Spirit living in us, we will be a thankful people looking for the good in everyone and everything. By trusting in the Lord with all that we do, we will experience true peace. We hear a lot of peace on earth at Christmas, yet we can clearly see there is no peace in this world. Peace is not an earthly thing, it's a heart thing that can only come from knowing and having a relationship with our Lord and Saviour. John 14:27, "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

It takes more than simply agreeing with the Lord, you need to be walking the walk, to experience God's faithfulness working in your life. Reading His word faithfully and believing it to be the truth as John 17:17 states, "My word is truth", is an absolute must. Put your hope in what the Lord will provide, not in your own abilities or what you think the world can give you and be thankful for what you have. All the material things we have or think we need to have, will not give us peace. We need to seek after God's purpose for our lives then we will have the peace we so desire and will be able to trust in the Lord for the days and years ahead of us.

Our AGM and Winter Gatherin' will be on Saturday January 14, 2017 @ Evangel Worship Centre in Rapid City. AGM starts @3:00, supper @ 5:30 and evening program @ 7:00. Bruce Ewanyshyn will be leading the worship and Heath Butler will be doing the sharing. Supper is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for kids 6-10. We look forward to see Y'all and will need to know numbers by January 9, 2017

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord
Terry Baker



Upcoming Events

MANITOBA CHAPTER

AGM & WINTER GATHERIN'

(Evangel Worship Centre - Rapid City)

Saturday, January 14th, 2017

AGM 3:00pm - Supper 5:30pm - Evening Program 7:00pm

- Music Ministry with Bruce Ewanyshyn

- Guest Speaker Heath Butler

Supper: Adults \$12.00, Children 6-10, \$6.00

Contact Terry & Donna Baker for more info 204-849-2154

Please RSVP by January 9th, 2016

ALBERTA FCC AGM 2017

Strome, Alberta (at the Seniors Center)

January 28th (2:00pm AGM Meeting)

5:30pm Supper followed by Music & Fellowship

and Guest Speaker Travis Toews

January 29th - 9:00 am Breakfast

Music and Fellowship

RSVP for Supper to Terry Leslie by Jan 24th

Terry Leslie: 780-376-3599

John FitzHerbert: 403-652-1377

Everyone Welcome

FCC SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER AGM

February 4th, 2017

Johnny Boys Restaurant

Saskatoon, SK 11:00am

We encourage and appreciate attendance

from any members that are able to be present.

There are also two positions on the board that will

need to be filled and names can be submitted to

our nominating committee.

For more information please contact:

John Collins: 306-567-7872

Marcel Vermette: 306-860-7650

Ted Goodnough: 306-371-1570

The Benefits of Giving

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

by John FitzHerbert



I have been writing on the Power of God in the past few issues, I am not done yet as it is such a vast topic.

We read in the Word about how God showed His power by parting the sea so that the Israelites could go through onto dry ground, but when the Egyptian army followed they were all drowned. Later God provided good water for His children simply by telling Moses to put a tree in the water that was bitter. The next thing that God gave them was manna, a bread from Heaven along with some quail for meat. They could gather manna every morning, but could not keep any overnight except on the day before the Sabbath, that is the sixth day of the week, then they could gather enough for two days. Manna did not come down on the Sabbath Day. Further along they had no water so God instructed Moses to strike a rock and water flowed out enough for millions of people and their livestock. As they journeyed a band of Arabs came to make war with them. Moses put Joshua in charge of the fighting men while he stood on top of a hill with the rod of God in his hand. When he held the rod up Israel prevailed but when he let his hand down the Amalekites would win, so Aaron and Hur held Moses hands up and Israel won the battle. Three families rebelled at Moses leadership so God opened up the earth and swallowed them, their families, their tents, their cattle and everything they had along with two hundred and fifty men who offered incense in front of the tabernacle.

These are just a few of the miracles that God did with the children of Israel as they travelled to the land He had promised to give them. Still most of them did not believe Him even after seeing all these mighty things happening before their eyes and consequently they died in the wilderness and did not see the promised land.

The power of God is seen many times in the New Testament. Jesus operated in the power of the Holy Spirit and He

passed that power on to His disciples then later on to all who believed. So how do we get this awesome power working in our lives today? First we must be born again, that is asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour. Next we should be baptized in water, that signifying that we are giving up the old life and starting a new one. The next step I believe is we need to ask Jesus to baptize us in the Holy Spirit. This will give us a hunger for God and His word, a new awareness of Gods presence with us. We will then begin to see and experience Gods power working as we pray for people and as we lay hands for healing. There is a lot of opposition to what I have just written because our adversary, that is Satan does not want us to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit, because we then become more aware of Satan's tactics.

We read in Acts 8 where a magician named Simon was very popular with the people, they even said he was the Great Power of God. When he heard Philip preach he believed and was baptized. He continued to go with Philip and saw the signs and great miracles taking place. (Verse 7 tells us unclean spirits were coming out with loud voices and many who were paralysed and lame were healed.) He was constantly amazed when he saw people getting born again. I think he realized that the power he was working under was not of God. So when Peter and John arrived and started laying their hands on the new converts he tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit with money, so that he could use this power for his own again. Peter saw right away that his heart was not right before God and told him to repent.

It does not tell us what happened after that. If Simon repented and renounced the evil thoughts and actions he probably would go on with God and be a strong witness. But if he did not he would be very miserable with two spirits working within him. The spirit of God drawing him one way and an evil spirit drawing him a different way.

Gods gifts to man are not a commodity, they cannot be bought or sold. You can't buy your salvation and you cannot buy the power of God. It is a free gift.

Thank God for all he has given us.

More next time,
John FitzHerbert

ranch's success up on a pedestal and my purpose, my life, and my happiness depended on it. Through intense prayer, my wife and I decided that we were done with ranching. I had spent so much time focusing on this ranch that I had neglected the eternal purposes of God. I was failing to put God above all else and serve Him first. The mission that was given to us by Christ to share the gospel with the nations will not be finished until He returns. I had wanted to be able to pass the ranch onto my kids and give them something to grow into but God made me realize that if these children would be raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord, if they have a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they'll have inherited more than all the treasures in the world.

I know God has seen us through the transition. We sold the cows, sold the house, the land and equipment and let go of all our rented land. I am back in the pasture system again, living at and managing a pasture north of Hoosier, in west central SK. The Lord has also blessed the work of my hands and I am building saddles in the basement during the winter months. These kids grow so quickly and it has been a simple blessing to spend the days riding with my children and the evenings together as a family.

Our Life has changed considerably and we have somehow picked up a different lifestyle that has found us traveling a bit more. The last couple years I have picked up a bronc saddle and our family has been heading to rodeos on the weekends. With six kids packed into a 1978 dodge motor home we have traveled and camped with our rodeo family. The opportunities to share Christ have been wonderful, and the opportunity to pass out bibles and pray with fellow contestants has been amazing. I've also been blessed to have success in the arena, winning the KCRA Saddle Bronc title in 2016.

I am incredibly thankful. I owe all that I have, but most of all, all that I do not have, to God. To Him alone be the glory.

Joel Hamm



Ridin' Through

By Veera Bonner

We don't make permanent camp here,
We're only ridin through -
The dusty road of earth, one day,
Will end for me and you

When the going's good and friends are near
and the view around is fine,
We sometimes think that we'd like to camp
and stay for a long, long time

But there's no use picking a home site out
Where the grass is green and new
For you can't unsaddle and stake a claim -
We're only ridin through

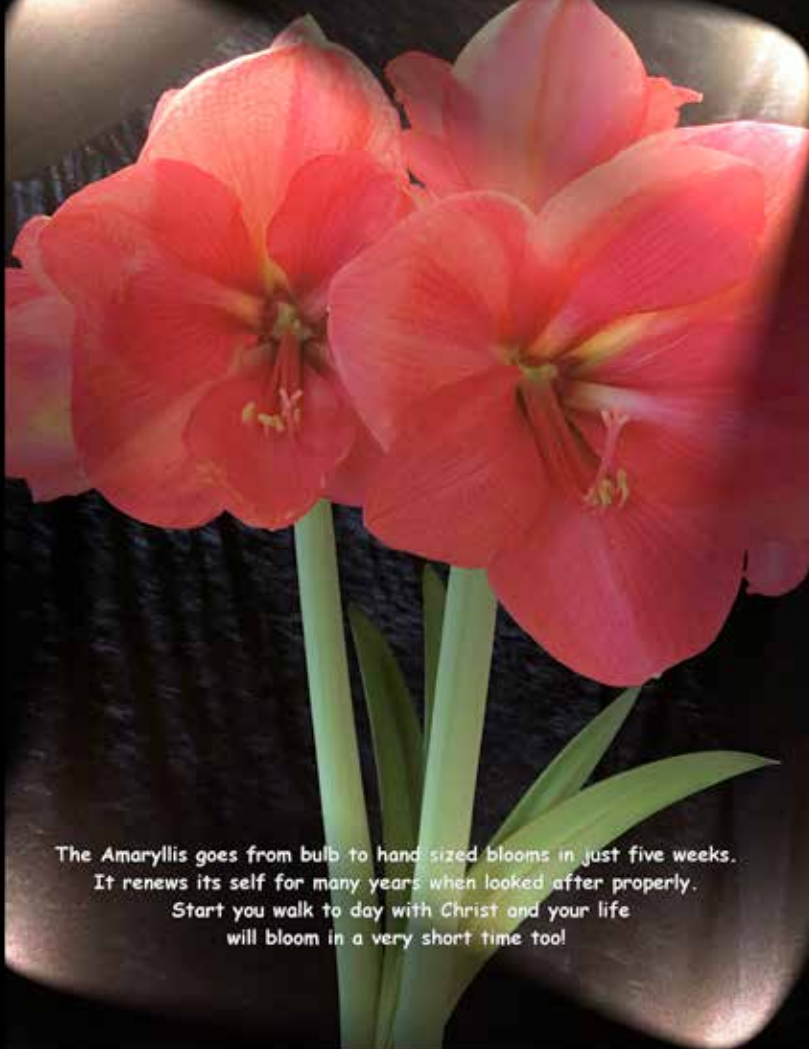
When the way is rough and the hills are bare
and storms shut out the sun,
When we face the awful night alone
as the stars die, one by one;

It helps a bit to remember then
That skies will be bright and blue
In that other land where the master waits
We're only ridin through.

We can not tell how long the trail
Nor what the terrain will be,
But we know through faith in Jesus there's an open gate
At the end for you and me

This world is not our home
We're only ridin' through





The Amaryllis goes from bulb to hand sized blooms in just five weeks.
It renews its self for many years when looked after properly.
Start you walk to day with Christ and your life
will bloom in a very short time too!

Chinook Country Corner

Proverbs 25:21

*If thine enemy be hungry,
give him bread to eat:
and if he be thirsty, give him
water to drink.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew Pratt of the Grand Valley Press in Moose Jaw for his expertise and dedication in printing this magazine for many years. Andrew has moved on from his position at the press and is now working at the Moose Jaw Funeral Home. Andrew taught me so much about what goes into the design and printing of a successful magazine and was also so patient with my many questions, thoughts and ideas. Andrew we wish you all the best in your new endeavour. You will be truly missed.

Magazine Updates

Thank you to everyone for your financial support towards our magazine. Our readership has gone up by another twenty more subscriptions since our last publication. This puts us well over three hundred paper copies being sent out every quarter. Praise the Lord. With all the AGM's coming up and changing of positions our Chapter Directory page will updated on the website as soon as possible.

Website

Readership statistics on website have also gone up considerably in the last year. Please continue to forward me information on upcoming events, poems, pictures etc.

It is hard to believe that the year 2017 is breaking its way in a few days. I remember as a child thinking if I would surely not live to 1985. I would be thirty years old and those people were so very very old. Hear I am, not on the pension yet but heading that way!! The Lord has been so very good to my husband and I as we are blessed us with two children, two grandchildren and a very good farm life.

I wish you all a wonderful New Year in 2017. Below are some thoughts that may help guide you in your journey with Christ.

How Can I Hear God?

Hearing God is not a formula. It is a relationship.

There are four ways to hear God.

His Word

His Voice

His Counsel

His Peace

We need to spend time with God

You will never hear God unless you start to read the Bible.

Every believer has a direct line to God.

God never intended you to live by your conscience.

He intended to you to live by his Holy Spirit

Renew your mind.

Thank the Lord for the riches of his grace.

There is nothing in the kingdom you can not have.

Be kind to one another. Forgive one another.

Let the Peace of God rule in your heart.

Godly counsel - many ask for his counsel - few heed it.

Every believer can hear God.

Love, Light and Laughter

Debbie email oldwomanabu@gmail.com



NEXT ISSUE: MARCH 31ST, 2017

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**CHRISTIAN
 COWBOYS**

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THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

My husband & I had been happily married for 5 years but hadn't been blessed with a baby. I decided to do some serious praying & promised God that if he would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart, & raise it with His word as my guide. God answered my prayers & blessed us with a son. The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, He blessed us with yet another son. The year after that we were blessed with a daughter.

My husband thought we'd been blessed right into poverty. We now had 4 children, & the oldest was only 4 years old. I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a minister once told me, "If you pray for rain, make sure you carry an umbrella." I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cribs. I was off to a good start. God had entrusted me with 4 children and I didn't want to disappoint Him. I tried to be patient the day the children smashed 2 dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks.

I tried to be understanding ...

- when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although it took me nearly 2 hours to catch all 23 frogs;
- when my daughter poured ketchup all over herself & rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog - I tried to see the humour rather than the mess;

In spite of changing over 25,000 diapers, never eating a hot meal, & never sleeping for more than 30 minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children. While I couldn't keep my promise to be a perfect mother (I didn't even come close), I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word of God. I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, & she wanted to bring a bar of soap along to "wash up" Jesus, too. Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, & my son thought it was generous of God to give us his "last wife."

My proudest moment came during the children's Christmas pageant. My daughter was playing Mary, 2 of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine. My 5-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, "We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes." But he was nervous & said, "The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes." My 4-year-old "Mary" said, "That's not 'wrinkled clothes,' silly. That's dirty, rotten clothes." A wrestling match broke out between Mary & the shepherd but was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo & lost her left wing.

I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, & it bounced down the aisle crying, "Mama-ma-ma." Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up & held it tightly as the wise men arrived. My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe & a paper crown, knelt at the manger & announced, "We are the 3 wise men, & we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense & fur." The congregation dissolved into laughter, & the pageant got a standing ovation. "I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one," laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. "For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense & fur."

"My children are my pride & joy & my greatest blessing," I said as I dug through my purse for an aspirin.

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
Had no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.
Feel honoured to serve such a Leader who loves us.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Author Unknown

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