

Fellowship of Christian Cowboys
Annual Team Roping Camp and Jackpot
Olds, Alberta – August 23 and 24, 2019

The annual FCC team roping camp and jackpot hosted by the McCarroll's was a huge success again in 2019. The venue changed to Olds Rodeo Grounds this year and it was a great facility to accommodate the events. A big thank you goes out to Buck Thompson and the crew at Olds for being very reasonable, helpful, and hospitable. Also, a huge thank you to Duane and Brenda Robins who supplied all the cattle and office help for the weekend/jackpot. We could not run the event without supporters like you.

It has been awesome to change venues and meet a whole new crew of students. Some people seem to make their way to this annual event no matter where it is held, which is a testament to the quality of event that the FCC puts on. Others, attend when the venue is local and it is a blessing to get to meet new faces and share the Good News of the Gospel with new folks.

There were 67 students registered in the team roping school this year. The school was taught by Brett, Justin, Dirk McCarroll, and Orrin Ellis. The school included a dummy roping. Coy McCarroll was the champion 8 and under and Rance Coates won the 9-12. The "Lil' Red Jackpot" got partially rained out Saturday night, but Halle McCarroll and Keaton Martz braved the elements to be victorious. The Heel-O-Matic jackpot champions were Coy McCarroll and Lane Gross. The coveted titled in the "Rope with a Pro" Jackpot was earned by Amanda Schmidt roping with Brett McCarroll. She was able to pull 3 steers into Brett's loop (which is very difficult to do!) with a smoking 20.1 on 3 steers. We (McCarroll's) had a lot of fun putting on this school and hope to see many of you down the trail.

The FCC jackpot was a big success on Sunday as well. There were 130 teams. The champions were Jim Shields and Kyle Pushie, winning \$800/man + Bibles and buckles. Both champions pledged to read the good book this year! I will be checking in on that. Second went to Murray Young and Dirk McCarroll winning \$550/man plus breast collars. Third went to Lukas Komant and Dirk McCarroll winning \$450/man plus trophy knives sponsored by the Steve and Jan Gross family.

It is the tradition to always break part way through the Sunday jackpot and have a church service put on by the FCC. Marvin Engel and his crew did an amazing job leading us in music and story telling. The main message was based upon who we are as the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys. 1. We fellowship – one of our main goals as Christians, as the church, is to be a light in this world. As Christians, it does little good to huddle together and push the big bad world out. We are called to be in the world and fellowship with others. In our case, we choose to bring the gospel to the rodeo/cowboy community. This is who we are and what we do. Each Christian is responsible to do the same in their own particular walk of life, whether that be at the office, job-site, school, or wherever.

2. We are Christian – to be Christian is to trust Jesus as Saviour and also to obey Him as Lord. Being a Christian is two-fold; a) To be saved from our sins because of Jesus' reconciling work on the cross, defeating sin and death and reigning victorious so as to give us salvation - new life and eternal life, b) being a Christian is to live as Christ lived, bringing hope and peace to this world. Being a Christian is about our individual salvation, yes, but that is not the end of it. We are called to participate with God in his redeeming work in this world. When we live obediently to the teachings of Jesus, we are agents of God's kingdom work here in the world.

3. We are cowboys – the western lifestyle is unique and values things such as neighbourliness, hard-work, peace, quiet, care for animals, care for creation, and having fun. All of these characteristics correspond well with characteristics of the kingdom of God. So, we can be God's kingdom workers here and now in the way we live out our western lifestyle. If you think of the really big picture, did you choose to be born in western Canada at this very time in history? Of course not! None of us chooses this. But, God certainly chose this for you and I. Therefore, we are responsible to live out God's purpose in and through our lives.

If I am reading/interpreting Scripture well, I believe that we (the church) are called to redeem this world. In an ultimate way this work is already accomplished through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. However, God, in his perfect way, decided to have us be his co-workers in this work of redemption. This redeeming work is "done" in an ultimate sense but it is also not fully realized. The kingdom exists "already but not yet" in its fullness. Therefore, we work *WITH* God to bring the gospel of love and peace to this world. Our goal is not to escape this world and be beamed up into some otherworldly heaven. That is a hyper-individualistic view of salvation which places the focus on "me" the individual. I become the center of the universe, the "point of it all." This is not what the Bible teaches. Scripture always point to God as the only One worthy of worship, the point of it all. God, in his love and mercy, does extend His grace to humans but we are not of utmost importance. At the end of the Bible in Revelation 21, we read about how Christ will return one day to redeem all things on this earth. The end of the story is that Jesus returns to be *WITH* us again, ushering in a new age of peace and human flourishing.

With the above ideas in mind, I would like to challenge you with a couple ideas. Do you fear the outside world or feel like you need to live in such a way as to escape it? Do you avoid anything secular or non-Christian? If your answer to these is "yes," then I would challenge you to begin seeing things a bit differently. Perhaps we have an amazing message to share (Gospel) with the world, with our rough and tough neighbour, with that people group that scares us. We are called to transform the parts of this world that are not reflective of God's kingdom. People and systems are part of this process. So, rather than longing for the day when you can escape this big bad world, perhaps you could begin looking forward to each day that you get to live *WITH* God in the here and now as His co-worker. What an amazing opportunity it is to have a real relationship with Jesus and have a real purpose now. I am convicted strongly that we get the opportunity to do the things now that we will get to do for eternity (worship God by carrying out our purpose which is to participate with Him in His kingdom work).

And, friends, this work is never alone and it is not burdensome. Jesus says in Matthew 11, ²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” I am grateful for the FCC and what they stand for. To fellowship, to be Christian, and to be cowboys is a great calling from our Lord and Savior. I pray that you are encouraged to not live in fear of the world in any way shape or form but begin living passionately and joyfully unto the end for which you were created; to be *WITH* God both now and forever, enjoying your relationship *WITH* Him, doing good and meaningful work.

God bless you this year,
Brett McCarroll



Caleb Fawcett and Keith Johnson winning FCC sponsored breast collars at Duane Robbins summer series. Duane and his crew were very thankful for the donation..

Winners of FCC Jackpot



Team Roping Camp Pictures

