

Christian Barrel Racer's Newsletter

"Racin' To Eternity"

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You Can Lead A Horse To Water.....

By: *Christa Conway*

We all know how the rest of the saying goes..."But you can't make him drink." There is so much truth to this old adage. There are many cartoon spoofs that follow the same premise. They'll show a man with a horse who has it's nose turned up standing in front of a water trough...you've probably seen them too. Anyway, we all know the concept...and it applies to us as humans rather than horses much more than we realize. As Christians here on earth our main purpose for God's plan is to "let our light shine," be "fisher's of men" or "lead the horse to water."

I'm sure you've all offered your horse a drink of water at one time or another and the horse has refused. The horse may not be thirsty at the time the water is offered...maybe the horse was unsure of the container the water was offered in or maybe the water itself had a new smell the horse had never been exposed to before. In all of these cases...when the horse gets thirsty enough it will drink or it will dehydrate and we know the consequences of that eventually. However, I am sure that we all would take whatever measures necessary to try to get our horse to drink. We may have to offer it in a different bucket, add Kool-aid, or electrolytes, or even offer it immediately after a run (although we couldn't let them guzzle.....) Out of all of these attempts, one would most likely work. The point that I am trying to make is that yes, we can lead our horses to water, but no, we cannot make them drink. And most importantly, we wouldn't give up on them if the refused and we knew they needed it.

I am sure you all have figured out where I am going with this.

We all have friends, acquaintances and/or family members who don't know Jesus. We all should be praying the prayer of intercession for them and witnessing to them when possible either through words or actions.

Here is the connection I am trying to make: when confronted head-on with the question

of salvation and if they know Jesus, they may say, "I don't need that!" (I'm not thirsty) Or they may look at you (the container) and not want to accept what you are offering, maybe for some reason the are uncomfortable being that open and vulnerable to you in particular. Maybe they shy away immediately, it could be the way the message was delivered...maybe you came on too strong and they get defensive or changed the subject to avoid the unfamiliar. In all these cases, it doesn't mean that they don't need Jesus. (We all need Jesus, and all horses need to drink.) Most likely they just haven't been presented with the subject in a way that they understand or that makes them comfortable. The right person hasn't been there at the right time just yet.

Here is the kicker, this is why we shouldn't give up. We *may not* be the one(s) to lead our friend or loved one to know Jesus. But if we are praying the prayer for the unsaved (at end of every newsletter) it will put things into action. The prayer may create an opportunity for someone else, which they may receive it from better, to be in the right place at the right time.

So my message this month is to lead those horses to water....keep offering the water and keep praying that others will be offering it too. One way to do that is to pray the "Prayer for the Unsaved," even if it is only once a month when you receive this newsletter. Just don't give up, because eventually, if we do our job, they will "drink."

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:37-39

Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1Timothy 4:16

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.... 1Timothy 2:1

GOSSIP AND JUDGING

BY: *Betty Rice*

Gossip and judging
Go hand in hand
Together they make
A one-man band.
They hurt and they slander
That's all they do

Tearing apart the things we do.
They judge and condemn and criticize
And yet don't they just realize
What you are judging others for
Soon will be knocking on your door.

For judging is not for us to do
Our part is to help and see others through
For as people, we all make mistakes
Some are small and some are great
But nothing is to big for the Blood
But now dear friend, your not to judge.

Have you ever walked,
in your Brother's shoes
Or felt his heart ache –
when he got bad news?

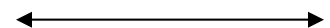
Have you ever seen his face
When his heart was about to break?
How then can you criticize
When you don't even realize
The pain that he's been going through
Day by day trying to make it through!

God loves us all , you see my Brother
And He wants us to be there for each other
It hurts Him when we judge and condemn
And this my Brother - in God's eyes is sin.

Jesus died for me and you
And together we can make it through.
So next time you see a brother fall
Reach out your hand and give him your all.

Lift him up to God in prayer
And show him how much you really care
Let's stop throwing stones at one another
And remember friend, HE'S YOUR BROTHER!

***Pray ye there one for another. The
effectual fervent prayer of a righteous
man availeth much. James 5:16***



Will there be horses in heaven?

This is a question I am asked quite often. I figured I would ask all of you people who read this newsletter your opinions on this subject and why you feel the way you do.

If you would send me your thoughts and if you have scripture to "back it up." I will try to compile enough to write about this subject in an upcoming newsletter. I am going to need your help on this one. Tell me what you think!

Keep'em coming! I have got a few responses to this question, but I'd like to hear more from you guys!

Kicks & Giggles

THE MIRACLE OF TOILET PAPER

Fresh from my shower, I stand in front of the mirror complaining to my husband that my breasts are too small. Instead of characteristically telling me it's not so, he uncharacteristically comes up with a suggestion.

"If you want your breasts to grow, then every day take a piece of toilet paper and rub it between them for a few seconds."

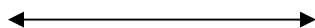
Willing to try anything, I fetch a piece of toilet paper and stand in front of the mirror, rubbing it between my breasts. "How long will this take?" I ask.

"They will grow larger over a period of years," my husband replies.

I stopped. "Do you really think rubbing a piece of toilet paper between my breasts every day will make my breasts larger over the years?"

Without missing a beat he says, "Worked for your butt, didn't it?"

He's still alive, and with a great deal of therapy, he may even walk again. Stupid, stupid man.



Coincidence is when
God chooses to remain
anonymous.

Prayer Requests

This newsletter is becoming a great way to get the word out to our horse-show family when someone is in need of prayer. If everyone would just take a few minutes when you receive your letter and pray over it and the names on this list...we may see miracles happen.

Linda & Wayne Stapleton lost Linda's mare, "**Bright Eyes**" to colic last month. Linda had formed such a bond with this mare and had come such a long way in a short time with a great four legged teacher. I know she will be sadly missed at the Stapleton home...and we will all miss watching Linda send her out of the pen after a nice run. Please keep Linda and Wayne in your prayers; it will take a special horse to fill those horseshoes.

We had a loss here at the Conway house last month. Most of you who have visited have met "**Dandy.**" Dandy was like one of the family dogs, only he was a pony. He had fee run of the property from the barn lot to the hay field. He had been with us since Garrett was a baby. Garrett and Gracie both enjoyed him while he was with us. He had been retired to a lead pony due to his health, but had lots of personality left to share. He fought a good fight, but was ready to go and we knew it. I may include the entire story of saying goodbye when I get to write about horses in heaven. In case no one has figured out...I definitely believe they will be there. The kids took it pretty hard at first, but are doing well now, and Gracie says she is going to ride Dandy when she gets to heaven!

Keep ***all military and their families*** in your prayers. They make big sacrifices to secure our freedoms.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Advertisement

The Master's Card

There are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's Master card. I'm sure you've all received their applications in the mail. However, I'm here to advertise a different card. You see, my life is a product for others to see. I'm a card carrying representative for The Master's Card.

That's right, The MASTER'S CARD. Let me tell you about it. There are no finance charges, no payments due. My bill has already been covered...it's a prepaid deal.. I couldn't afford the price, so Jesus stepped in and paid it for me.

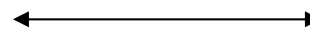
My Name is written on the card for all to see. It is accessible twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in the world.

The MASTER'S CARD has so many benefits it's hard to list them all. Let me share some of them with you...you might want to apply for a personal card yourself.

Just for starters there is UNLIMITED GRACE. That's right, there is no preset limit to the amount of grace you receive from The MASTER'S CARD.

Have you been looking for love in all the wrong places? Then, look no farther than The MASTER'S CARD. It offers the greatest rate on love that has ever been offered. The MASTER'S CARD gives you access to many "members only" benefits. Want real joy despite the difficulties of life? Apply for The MASTER'S CARD. Want a lasting peace? Apply for The MASTER'S CARD. Looking for something you can always rely on in a jam? The MASTER'S CARD is perfect for you. Another great thing about The MASTER'S CARD is that it never expires and will never be canceled. Once you're a member, you're a member for life... eternal life, that is. Membership has its privileges, you know.

So why not apply today?
It's only a prayer away.....



Remember When?

I love it!!! I am finally getting you guys to participate a little....here are a few memories....

...remember when the cowgirl hats were plastic and bent and came in every color thinkable and the rodeo queens back then would wear pant suits for competition, now they have leather dresses and horsemanship outfits with so many crystals it blinds you, and I remember pointed toe boots in rough out!!!

...remember when all the events were just "contesting" events and timed with a stop watch. That's when it was a question of how fast the timer was with his thumb? And, when there were lots of 'ties' that needed to be run off. Can you imagine running a barrel race today timed only to the tenth of a second? In a class of 100 barrel horses, it would probably be safe to say that 75% of them would run the same time!?!?! :))

Anyone else have any MEMORIES they'd like to share???
Send them to me!!!!

News From/About Friends

GOD IS AWESOME! Miracles can happen...prayers are answered!

I am including some awesome news that I received from my friend, Danette Potter this past month.

Some of you may not know, but Danette was supposed to be going in for a major surgery last month to remove a mass that the doctors thought was cancerous. They were giving her very slim odds and even a very grim prognosis. She was included in many people's prayers last month as well as our prayer requests, and I know she was praying and believing in a healing herself.

Here is a copy of the email she sent me:

I have been to Cleveland Clinic twice this week, Monday to do a stomach scope where they were to ultrasound mass through the stomach, the problem they couldn't find the mass! Today I went back to have another CT scan and to see the doctor, guess what they couldn't find the mass on the scan either, so we have went through 5 doctors and fives weeks, from dying in three months to nothing is wrong. I am 110% sure the lord directed us to Cleveland Clinic to find all this out, the wait time for an appointment is 3 weeks and we got in one day. The quality of their scan verses the first one done was like night and day. I feel all the prayers have made a complete turn around for me, and I thank everyone that prayed for me. I feel like I have been given a second chance--Thank you God. I just wanted to give you an update and let you know there will be no surgery, thank you again for everything, Danette

Hey! Loved your newsletter--I have been asked the horses in heaven question before too. I will have to look for an "email" answer that I thought was really great and see if I can find it. If so I will forward it to you. Also, the "Attitude" quote was written by Charles Swindoll. I have seen it posted anonymously several times...but he is the original author. I used to have it posted on the wall of my office. :) Just thought you would like to know where it came from--I believe that he has some Christian publications out there too. Again, thanks for the newsletter :)

God bless!
Jen Norton

Christa, GREAT NEWSLETTER! I love getting these each month.
Here's one for "remember when"....
Patty Cole

Christa
I would really like to be on your list for your newsletter, Rhonda Helming has been forwarding it to me and I really enjoy it. My

wife, Joanna and I are both barrel racers.....I don't think that in any other sport that you could find as many folks that have such a strong belief in God as we do in our sport. Where else can you compete against someone and in most cases the same person is willing to lend a hand if you are having problems or you have a tack problem and these people will give you the shirt off there backs to help you get to compete.

God bless all Barrel Racers
Jon Hemmer

Congratulations to Delmar Mongosa!!

Delmar won the 2D Title at the IBRA Championships last month...he is 73 years old!!! Wow, many of us would love to be capable of such a feat at any time in our lives. Way to go Delmar!!

"To the world you might be one person,
but to one person you just might be the world".

Prayer for Unsaved

Many of us have family members and/or friends that are not sure where they will spend eternity. We may feel unsure about approaching them, but we can approach Our Heavenly Father on their behalf.

Here is a passage from the bible to pray as intercession for them. Just say the person's name when you see a blank.

I have not stopped giving thanks for _____, remembering _____ in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that _____ may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of _____'s heart may be enlightened in order that _____ may know the hope to which he has called _____, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority,

power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:16-23

Last & most important thought...

Jesus died on the cross as the final sacrifice. When He was resurrected on the 3rd day, he defeated Satan for us. All we have to do is believe that He beat death and acknowledge it with our words. **If we believe that and accept Him as our personal savior...we are promised eternal life with Him in Heaven.**

You can't earn your way into Heaven; you have to believe your way there. So many people think they "aren't good enough" to get to Heaven... But... **Salvation is a GIFT from God** and you don't earn a gift. Gifts are something someone gives to you and for the gift to be yours, you have to accept it.

All we have to do is accept that wonderful gift. I know I have...won't you?

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. Romans 5:15

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

*That if you confess with your mouth,
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in your
heart that God raised him from the dead
you will be saved. For it is with your
heart that you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth that you
confess and are saved. Romans 10: 9-10*

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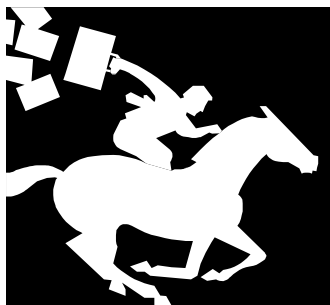
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If you have a prayer request, a story to share, something to sell or the one's I like the most... a praise, I would be glad to include them in next month's newsletter. Just send them to me mail or email or call me with your request and I'll write them up for you. I can include your name if you like or I can make sure to leave it out if you request.



Contact Me