



TW Quarter Circle Ranch Ministries

November 2007

We've wanted to send out a Christmas letter for years, but just never got to it. We tried to tell ourselves that since things were just too busy in the Christian school, we'd get to it next year. But we never could. Now, some things have changed, and even though we are still as busy, it's just in a different way.

This year marked a milestone in our lives in that we have retired from the Christian day school ministry after thirty-one years. Curt is still teaching thirteen hours at Tabernacle Baptist College. After much prayer and spending Easter break with dear family, we were convinced to take a step of faith and do our horsemanship ministry full time. Right now we have fifteen to twenty students a week. We have a monthly horse show and gymkhana, sponsor four to five trail rides a year, and all of June is dedicated to horsemanship camps. We use our tract, *The Tom and Donna Wimer Story*, on a regular basis. We have distributed around 40,000 copies since its first printing.

We are in the process of getting our non-profit organization tax exemption as an independent Baptist work. This horsemanship outreach, we hope, will be a ministry that will continue beyond what we personally will be capable of continuing. Right now we have eighteen to twenty Bob Jones University students who come out on a regular basis to help and serve as wranglers—or counselors on horseback. We have weekly horsemanship sessions with the university students assisting. Their purpose is to build relationships, witness for Christ, work with horses to train them for the sessions, and serve those who attend. We have riders from four years old to senior citizens. It has proven to be a wonderful outreach into the community. This summer we had twenty-five students attend the camps. Curt is the ranch chaplain and gives messages, called “Prairie Meditations,” each day. Eight young people raised their hands indicating that they were accepting Christ as their Saviour. During the June camps we have not been at the place where we could have college kids come and work except for a very few who are town students, so we have had volunteer junior high and high school students who work as our wrangler/counselors. We have seen a tremendous growth in these young people as they serve in the ministry, taking on more and more responsibilities. We call them Wranglers-in-Training.

We are praying right now about an opportunity we have to go to Bavaria, Germany. One of the adult riders is here with her husband, who works at the local BMW plant. She will be going back home in October to arrange the details for bringing us over next July. Bev will put on several clinics in horsemanship and work with individuals who have problem horses. We do a round pen demonstration together that seems to be very effective. While Bev works the horse, Curt explains what she is doing, why the horse is reacting so, and makes spiritual applications. The horse's relationship with us is a marvelous picture of our relationship with our heavenly Father. As the horse is set free, he is given the choice of submitting or seeking to go his own way. When he finally submits to the leadership of his rider or trainer, who wants to have a relationship with him, then peace and rest are very evident. As we work with horses, we see new ways to use object lessons that relate to our own personal relationship with the Lord.



Curt & Bev at Hooker Falls



TW Quarter Circle Horse Show and Gymkhana

There is also a Japanese lady who will be coming here to attend the regular horsemanship sessions in October. Greenville seems to be becoming an international city. We have horsemanship students from different countries to whom we have been able to minister and witness, not only Germany and Japan, but we also had a family from Syria. Now there is a girl in England who plans on coming to camp this next summer. We have had local folks bring their grandchildren for summer camp from as far away as Michigan and Colorado. Because of horses, and how “everyone wants to be a cowboy,” we have opportunity to reach people who were pretty much unreachable before.

For the past five years we have been giving mini-camps to Hidden Treasure Christian School students. In essence that is how the Lord began this ministry; through teaching learning and mentally handicapped students how to ride and care for horses. Our daughter Sara and her children come each summer for a week of riding. It has helped her tremendously to strengthen her weak leg and to aid in her overall balance after her cerebral hemorrhage in 1995. She and our granddaughter Anna went to Montana in July to help us find horses to buy for the ministry.

We also sponsor trail rides. We have some excellent trails in the area. The most popular is Dupont State Forest (www.dupontforest.com) in North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains featured on the RFD TV program *Best of America by Horseback*. It has many waterfalls, a covered bridge, switchbacks, and a river to cross. We stop mid-way at a picnic area across from the spectacular High Falls.

We have some excellent resources. I think the most important one is our relationship with my sister Barb and her husband Dave Wagner. We get all our tack needs through their store Connolly Saddlery (www.connollysaddlery.com) in Billings, Montana, plus they have given me contacts to purchase fantastic Montana horses. But more importantly, they are a great source of information and experience; needless to say they are on our advisory board. They were both in professional rodeo with numerous awards and winnings. Barb was a barrel racer and Dave was a bull rider; their son CB was high school and college calf roper. They competed for years and developed many rodeo programs, which help us with a wealth of information. We are in contact weekly.



BJU wranglers at High Falls in January

We have been members at Faith Baptist Church in Taylors, SC (fbctaylors.org) for twelve years, and hold to their statement of faith.

We are praying that the Lord will make it possible for Curt to join Bev in full-time ministry support with the horsemanship. We are in the process of creating a DVD highlighting what we do. We have such a burden for this work, and there are so many different aspects of the ministry that we would like to develop. Here are a few:

A horse program that ministers to families in crisis. We have a BJU counseling graduate who wants to join our team

Therapeutic riding for the disabled

Evangelistic trail rides for people from around the country

Resident summer camps, family camps, and retreats

Working cow operation with real ranch opportunities for students

Expanded wrangler soul winning training

Home school biology clinics and camps—equine genetics; botany and birding trail rides

An equestrian college with a Bible emphasis, training wranglers for Christian camp work.

Prayer Requests:

Curt, Bev and wranglers would grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ

Outreach contacts and discipleship opportunities

Provision to enable us to purchase land to develop into an equestrian center; right now we are renting on a weekly basis a ranch that is forty-five minutes from our house

Support for Curt and Bev, and for the summer wranglers

People who would adopt our horses for monthly support (feed, vaccination shots, worming, vet bills)

A web site

Safety



Covered Bridge at DuPont State Forest

Goals:

To glorify the God of the Bible and help people come to know Him and to know Him better

To teach families Christlike character as illustrated by the horse

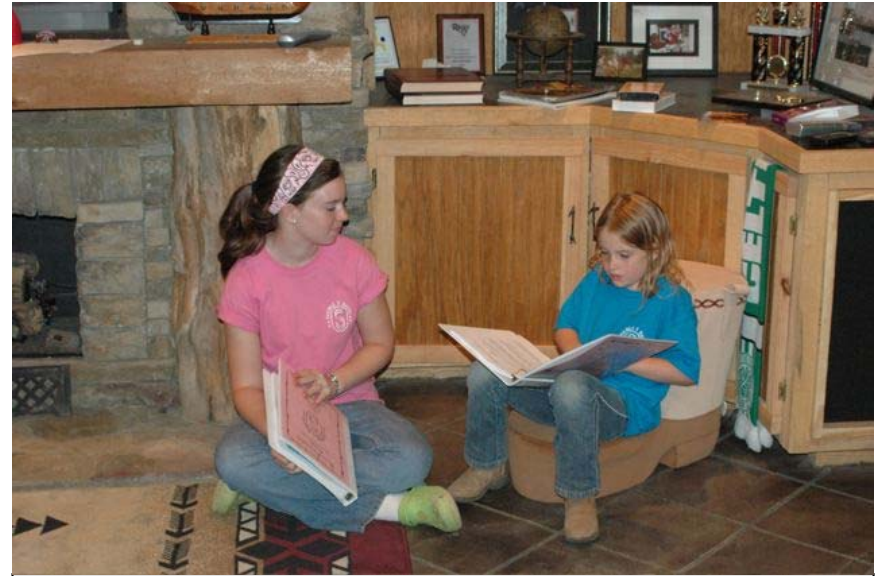
To teach families horsemanship skills

To train college students in horsemanship, and in interpersonal and soulwinning skills so that they can serve in other camp ministries

I hope this letter helps to update you on what we are doing. We would love to hear from you. May the Lord bless you richly.

Love,

Curt & Bev Doherty



Wrangler Maria and Molly during Prairie Meditations



Wranglers and riders ready to go on the trail at camp

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Training horses and riders

The Montana Connection

