

TW Quarter Circle Ranch Ministries September 2009 Prayer Letter

TRAIL RIDE'S UNFORTUNATE ADVENTURE

We started out the month with a bang. It wasn't meant to be that way, but sometimes things just happen. On Labor Day we had our annual trail ride to the Chattooga Wilderness near Walhalla, SC. We took Pastor Monroe, Susan, and the three older girls: Carissa, Noel, and Angelica; plus our friend Trey. It was an incredibly beautiful day. We had lunch at the Chattooga River and got to talk to and share our tract with some trail riders at the tie up area.



After lunch, we secured the saddle bags and bags back on the horses and started across the river. The horses were thirsty so they grouped up getting their drinks, when all of a sudden the bag on Angelica's saddle slid under



her horse. Then the rodeo began. Her horse jumped and with each jump the bag swung under Chinook's belly, so she began crow hopping and then finished with one last buck. Chinook must have thought the river monster had gotten her for sure! Little Angelica tried to hang on, but was thrown up into the air, did a nice flip, and came down head first. Thankfully she had a helmet on, but ended up banging her head on something that left a cut on her forehead that later took five stitches. In the meantime, another

horse took off for the tie up area of safety but swerved at the last moment dumping Carissa. She sustained a bruised heel and was shaken. Thankfully Pastor and Noel stood their ground.

Of course, Angelica was bleeding and soaking wet. We applied some first aid and tried to figure out what to do, as we were out of cell phone range. I took off on Willow and galloped a mile back up the trail where we had seen some people at a picnic area, but found them all gone. I tried to find cell phone range, but failed, so I went flying back to the group, resigned that we would just have to pack Angelica out on horse back. The moment I arrived back at the camp, a hiker "just happened to come by" and said his truck was parked up the mountain. We saddled up Angelica's horse with my saddle as my horse was wired after running that distance. Chinook was actually the best horse of the bunch, being a retired rope horse, even though she was the one who got into trouble. Angelica and I rode double to the picnic



area where the guy met us, took Pastor, Susan, Carissa, and Angelica out. The rest of us then ponied the other horses back to the base camp.

We are so thankful for God's protection. I'm not sure why the Lord allowed it to happen, but we can be assured that He did it for our good with eternal results, Romans 8:28, even if we don't always understand.

Not long after, the Monroes came back down to the ranch and rode. We admire their courage and wisdom, and besides, we were still getting Pastor ready for his Montana horseback elk hunt in November! =-)

HARVEST '09—INDIANA



We had the privilege of attending this 800+ teen youth rally in Indiana. It is the home to the original Harvest Youth Rally. Brent & Mandy (Buck) Olson now take it all over the United States and Mexico. Some of you may know it as Farm Fest. Our daughter Sara was in charge of the barn, so we went up with our horses Willow, Chinook, and Sundance, plus our head wrangler Marietta Parrott. We helped with the barn and did sessions for the children who were helping with the barn animals. Most of them were the children of the adult workers at the rally. When the teens had their activity time between preaching sessions, we gave round

pen demonstrations with Willow. We gave out our tract and had the opportunity to witness to people and challenge believers.

The rally was held at a farm near Milton, hosted by Brian and Sandy Spurgin. They put our horses up in their pasture and even went out and bought a round pen for the demonstrations. They are now talking with us about going back in May or August to do a horsemanship clinic as a service and outreach into the community. It was an amazing time! The few pictures that we have included do not show the full scope of the wonderful ministry that they have with teens. The evangelist this year was Jerry Savinsky, who gave some tremendously challenging messages.





We had the great privilege to be with the Tom and Janet Allen for the five days we were in Indiana. They are such a sweet godly couple. We enjoyed the fellowship with them so much, and I think Marietta adopted them as her grandparents. There was an immediate bond.

Not only do we minister to spiritual needs, but horses are able to help people overcome their fears. One of Sara's good friends named Sandy, who is a sweet Christian lady, helped in the barn; but she was afraid of horses. She had borrowed Sara's TW Quarter Circle Ranch camp notebook and

studied diligently about the nature of the horse and all other aspects. She was able to get to the point of being comfortable enough to pet the horses. Our goal will be to get her on one of these days. Not that riding a horse is so important, but they certainly help us learn about ourselves and how we can trust. That seems to always transfer to our relationship with the Lord in one way or another. I talked with another lady just the other day with the same story. The Lord is helping me have a better understanding of people's fear.

CEMETERY WORK DAY

We had our final work days before the rededication. What a tremendous blessing. A descendent donated a split rail fence to the project, so four BJ college students came out and helped Mark, JB, and Jeff put it in. They had a tremendous testimony with the community volunteers that were there that day cleaning up. We also had our two lady team who come out almost weekly to do yard work. There were many comments about what nice young people they were and how hard they worked.



It was amazing! That morning we stood on the porch of our house at 7:30 am watching the rain pour down. JB was quite concerned and discouraged, thinking of all the work needing to be accomplished for the October 3 dedication deadline. We paused and Curt prayed asking the Lord to accomplish His will in this matter. It immediately began to drizzle and then quit raining. The workers were damp that day, but the work was accomplished. Midmorning JB and Curt had to go into town to get more supplies, They drove about a mile and it was pouring down rain, rained the whole time they were out getting supplies, until they came within a mile of the house. Again dry! JB was totally amazed giving God the credit for answered prayer. This whole project has greatly strengthened his faith and relationship with the Lord.



BIRTHDAY PARTY

We continue to hold our weekly horsemanship sessions and special events. We had the blessing of doing horse riding for the Double S Ranch grandson Jeremy, who turned five. He had quite a group of birthday party guests. The college extension students really worked hard to make it a great time for everyone. We gave out our tract and prayer cards and were able to talk personally with several people.

MINISTRY HORSES

Without our horses, our horsemanship ministry would end. The Lord has given us such wonderful lesson horses. We are truly grateful. We had quite a scare this month with the Double S Ranch horse Tag. He is only 17 years old and a vital part of our lessons. He is especially good with our autistic special needs riders. One morning Marietta noticed that he was not eating, so she let Don know. Tag didn't seem particularly ill, but Don decided to take him to the vet to just have him checked out. Come to find out he had a major blockage in his intestine. The vets gave little hope of recovery. Horses die regularly from colic. We sent out the plea to be praying diligently for Tag to our extension students and facebook friends. Don took him to Bonnie Brae Animal Hospital near Tryon, NC where they put him on IV therapy, but said that's all they could do for him, unless they performed an extremely expensive surgery. We began praying for Tag and before long he passed the blockage; we breathed a sigh of relief, but then the vet called and said that Tag had a turn for the worse and didn't know that he would make it through the night. Again the call for urgent prayer. Don brought Tag home from the hospital with the vets giving little hope of recovery. Four weeks later, however, Tag is doing fine. The vets keep calling to ask about him, as they did not expect him to survive. We praise the Lord for all those who prayed and especially for the Lord's answer. We continue to pray for him and all our other horses, who co-labor with us in the ministry.



HORSE SHOW/GYMKHANA

We had our first show of our Fall Circuit September 26. Our numbers were down but it was a great day. We have added the presentation of the flag, done at this show by Georgia Caroline, Hailey, and Marietta. We will be adding to the routine each show, as the riders pass their horsemanship levels.



Again the show should have been rained out, but we asked the Lord to work it out, as we did not have another day we could do it, due to our schedule (the next week end was the cemetery dedication). It did drizzle and at 2:00 we had a 20 minute fellowship in the barn protecting our saddles from the down pour, but otherwise we had a grand day. The fellowship was sweet! Ben Ascher gave the challenge at the break, sharing how the Lord had been at work in his life through some trying situations, that had gotten his attention to "seek ye first the kingdom of God" rather than material possessions. After the show, we packed everything up, got in our vehicles, and, as we drove away from the ranch we had a torrential downpour. Our God is so good to us!!

MINISTRY IN COUNSELING

This month we have met with four more young people about their applications to be wranglers at the ranch. We have very strict requirements for those who minister to others. A real issue these days is music standards. We are so thankful for young people who are willing to search the Scriptures and to take instruction about what pleases the Lord rather than what "we like." Our flesh yearns after the carnal, yet when we yield to what the Lord desires for us, then we have peace and contentment. We still have several others to visit with after they complete Tim Fisher's book The Battle for Christian Music.

COWBOY EVANGELIST TOM WILLIAMS

We were able to visit with and listen to Dr. Tom Williams from Montana do a series of messages on prayer the last week of September. He and his wife Jannine were in town for the Intercessors Conference on Prayer at Tabernacle Baptist Church. He is on our advisory board and was a good friend to Curt's dad in Montana.

MULEMANSHIP CLINIC

I was given a free pass to a mulemanship clinic the Friday before our cemetery dedication, so I drove up to North Carolina to see one of our students work his mule on cows. It was a joy to see how well Trey did with his three year old mule Gris. It was neat seeing another Montanan Brad Cameron as he taught the clinic. Afterwards Trey introduced me. I spent some time talking with Brad and was able to share our tract about my parents and the ranch in Montana. It's amazing how many times I've had people ask if they can keep the tract. It's such a blessing to be able to share my parents' story with others. We are praying for spiritual fruit because of it.

CAVALRY TO THE RESCUE AGAIN

The week of the cemetery rededication came and we still had so many things to do it was amazing. With the horse ministry, we just haven't had time to work on our personal yard; yet we were going to have over 200 people coming from all over the United States. I resigned myself to the fact it just wasn't going to be what it should be, but we had done our best. Again, without our asking, some of our wranglers came out early on Saturday morning to finish the clean up, and to get the chairs unloaded and placed. Thank you Nick, Caleb, and company.

CEMETERY REDEDICATION

In our next letter we will put pictures and the description of the day's activity; for now, I will leave you with the newspaper announcement for the rededication. The "litany" mentioned in the article actually was a time Curt took to give a clear and bold gospel presentation.



REVOLUTIONARY HEROINE TO BE HONORED BY DESCENDANTS

Greenville, SC – The South Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Friends and Family of Dicey Langston will honor the memory of this Revolutionary War Heroine by rededicating the cemetery where she and at least 50 other family members are buried on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 11:00 AM. The Springfield-Langston Cemetery is located at 213 Bridwell Way, Travelers Rest, SC.

Over the course of the summer, approximately 40 descendants, friends, and members of the Sons of the American Revolution have labored to clear, clean and protect this historic cemetery. Monetary donations toward the project have been received from as far away as Arizona, Oklahoma, and Florida.

This project is not the first time that Dicey Langston’s gravesite has been honored. In October of 1907, members of the Nathaneal Greene DAR chapter placed the original marker on the gravesite which remains to this day.

Laodicia Langston, better known as Daring Dicey, was born in 1766 and was raised in Laurens County. During the Revolution, her family was staunchly patriotic even though the majority of their neighbors were primarily loyalists. During the Revolution, Dicey was most famously credited with saving the life of her brother James and his company by traveling four miles during the night from her house to the settlement of Little Eden to warn him of an attack by "Bloody Bill" Cunningham and his group of loyalists. During this trek, she had to cross a rain swollen river (either the Enoree or the Tyger) without the aid of riding a horse or a lantern.

The re-dedication ceremony will begin with the presentation of the national and revolutionary colors by a color guard in Revolutionary War uniforms. After the presentation of colors, a biography will be read and special presentations will be made. A litany will be performed and a new flag will be raised. The ceremony will conclude with a presentation of wreaths and a musket volley.



Whew! What a month!

Thank you so much for your support and prayers. This has been an extremely tough month financially, but the Lord has been so faithful to increase our ministry opportunities. Thanks to those who support us regularly and to those who have given anonymously through our home church Faith Baptist of Taylors. We could not survive without you and your prayers.

Curt & Bev