



# Tails From the Farm

by Nicole Hutchison

Wondering where the farm and horses are coming from that we are using for the ministry? Well, wonder no more. Kerry and Julia Smith are supporting the ministry by allowing us to use their horses and facilities so here is their story of how they came into the land and house that has become a beautiful horse farm for the ministry to use.

My parents had horses before I was born and for a few years after. They then decided to move into town in Salem. We lived in a beautiful 2 story home on Marion street and then they looked at a different house that my mom fell in love with, but it was bought by someone else. God spoke to her and said "I have something better for you." A little while later she decided she wanted horses again. They put the word out that they were looking for a place in the country. A gentleman told them about one but it had sold a few weeks before. Then months later the man that had bought the house contacted my dad and asked if he still wanted to buy it. He needed to sell it after a family loss. In 1993 we moved out to the little white house on 30 acres. My dad has been an instrument of God to make my mom's childhood dreams come true. After years of living there my parents were out working with fences together and as they were working mom heard God speak to her again and say that they were doing this for someone else. God's timing isn't ours. It may take hours, days, months or years for His plan to be revealed.

*continued on page 2*

[KERRY & JULIA SMITH...PAGE 1-2](#)

[STEPHANIE CONNER...PAGE 3-4](#)

[NICOLE HUTCHISON...PAGE 5-6](#)

[THE POOP SCOOP...PAGE 7](#)

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Watch to see  
where God is  
working and join  
Him in His work.

HENRY BLACKABY

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He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

PSALMS 46:10



My parents strive to be good stewards of God's blessings so over the years they talked about there has to be something more we can do with the horses than just riding them. How can we help people with our horses? Cue Stephanie Conner's dream that God planted on her heart 20 years ago. God had been orchestrating the property, horses and people for this for decades.

We named the ministry Emmanuel Equine Ministry after my parents naming the farm Emmanuel Arabians. Emmanuel means "God with us". She did this to remind all of us that God is with us. He always has been and always will be. Any foal that is born on the farm has Emmanuel before their names. Putting Him first and obeying Him has been principles I have seen played out throughout my life with my parents and grandfather.

I did not ever know what made my parents decide on Arabian horses. Decades ago my parents went to look at a half Arabian filly and the gentleman that was selling her told them all about Arabian personalities and attributes. Even in buying the horses or breeding the mares, my mom always sought out God's guidance. Little did she know that God was preparing for the ministry to come with horses that are so special to us and love people.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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# GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

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by Stephanie Conner

After my husband passed away my oldest son asked me what I would be doing if money were no object. I did not hesitate to answer start a horse ministry to help kids. I have always had a heart for wanting to help children that are hurting. Almost 20 years ago I was listening to someone speak about a horse ministry and God whispered in my heart that's what I was going to do to help. It sounded pretty crazy and impossible to me so I quickly dismissed it. And then life steps in. Pain, regret, trauma, loss. We all face one of these at some point in life and I know all of them all too well, and they kept me stuck. Which is right where the enemy wants us. Trapped in a me focused life. It's so easy to let something go when you are faced with not knowing what to do.

Not knowing how to help someone you love can leave you with an empty void in your heart. Watching my youngest son walk through some very dark times in life was one of the most difficult things I have had to endure. He suffered through depression and anxiety which led to drug and alcohol use and many troubles with the law. Over two years ago he lost all hope. He felt there was nothing left to live for and that nothing could change his past. He took steps to take his own life. During this time, God was continuing to speak the ministry into my heart. My son survived his injuries for 10 months and after he passed away I knew I had to do something. I am thankful for the last months I had with him being able to read God's word to him and reminding him that none of us are beyond redemption in God's eyes. John 16:33 tells us *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Please let this truth sink into your heart....even when things don't seem fair and life doesn't seem good, God is still working and God is still good!

It wasn't long after my son's passing that I was listening to Kim Meeder speak on the radio about her ministry at Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch and God again whispered in my heart that's what you're going to do to help. I knew there was a need and I knew there was something I was supposed to do. But pursuing my passion of helping kids and using horses to do it still seemed pretty impossible. I told God ok but there's only one problem, I don't have enough land or any horses. So someone is going to hand me the keys to their place and say here you go? I'm not sure if God's answer was "Oh ye of little faith" or "You have not because you ask not", but that's pretty much what happened.

*continued on page 4*

Now to him who  
is able to do  
immeasurably  
more than all we  
ask or imagine,  
according to his  
power that is at  
work within us.

EPHESIANS 3:20



“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

PHILLIPIANS 2:13

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Last year I was speaking to someone about the troubles a foster child was having and my mind immediately went to “that child needs Jesus and horses”. God didn’t whisper in my heart this time, He shouted **you have all you need, it is time.** I spoke to Nicole to see if she would be willing to help and if she thought her parents would let us use their place, and as you read above, they graciously agreed. When God has a plan and a purpose, He will continue to pursue you. If it’s your calling, God will continue to call you. 2 Corinthians 9:8 tells us *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in good work.”*

Even when it was still hard to understand and deal with the pain of my son’s death, let alone see how God could use it for good, what He was doing was opening doors for me to start this ministry. A ministry that will allow us to speak truth into the hearts of others that are hurting. The truth that there is always hope in Jesus! No child should walk through depression, anxiety, loneliness, or simply feeling like they don’t matter. My prayer is that every child that walks onto the farm feels they are walking into the loving arms of Jesus. And that they walk away knowing Him and knowing that they are loved and valued.

While I was letting the hardships of life that I was walking through detour me down the wrong road, God was still right here waiting. If you’re reading this and struggling with something, know this.....God will not leave you. Leave all of your sorrows and worries in His loving hands and He will walk you through it and redeem it into something beautiful. I don’t feel very qualified for God to have called me to do this and I constantly ask “why me?”. I’m learning that He typically doesn’t answer the “why” questions so what He is teaching me is what He has always wanted me to know, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

I don’t have it all figured out and honestly I still struggle, but I do have hope. Hope in the One who promises He is working all things to my good. We invite you to share in that hope with us. If you don’t know Jesus, contact us, contact a church, pick up a bible. He loves you and is waiting to meet you right where you are. Walk in faith and obedience and give Him a willing heart and He will make a way!

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives

GENESIS 50:20

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

JOHN 3:16

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by Nicole Hutchison

I can't begin to tell you how excited I am for this ministry. Ever since I read Kim Meeder's book *Hope Rising* I had wanted to do something with horses and children. I was so touched by it, I knew horses were so special and could help with emotions and pain. Life happened and I would have thoughts of using horses for children but it was just thoughts. When Stephanie approached me with this idea I couldn't say YES!! fast enough. I saw this as God saying to me "IT IS TIME. I have planted the love for children and horses in you and it is time to use it." God's timing is perfect. God's love is perfect. God's call is perfect. I am not but through Him I am equipped for this. Through Him the horses are equipped for this. I know you have heard the saying He doesn't call the equipped but equips the called. That statement is so true in this situation. God has blessed my parents with horses that are going to be wonderful for this. God has blessed this ministry with my parents use of their facility and horses. I get emotional about our horses, as I wipe the tears off of the keyboard, each one is so special in different ways. God has been preparing them for the children they are going to encounter. How cool is that? He will use what He needs for The Kingdom. The plan He has may take years but it is perfect and beautiful. I am so humbled that He chose me to do this. He knew when He knit me in my mother's womb that I would need my personality and heart for this.

We moved to the country in 1993, my parents got my first horse, I found adventure and contentment in the time I spent with that horse. She taught me patience, respect and not to take myself so seriously. Being a teenager is hard and there were many hours spent telling Cherry my struggles. She listened and accepted me. As I moved up in level of horse, dressage and jumping lessons I learned responsibility, courage and strength. When you are falling off every time you are learning to jump cross country you build up a stamina and strength you didn't know you had. Along with sore muscles so you use tons of Icy Hot.

*continued on page 6*

If you remain in  
me and my  
words remain in  
you, ask  
whatever you  
wish, and it will  
be done for you.

JOHN 15:7

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“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

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Horses have helped me with my mental health by not only riding but working with them also. I learned patience, how to control my emotions and respect. Horses are animals that will always show you how they are feeling, and will teach you so much about yours. Along came my youngest daughter Kylee. Who had sensory and emotional issues. Horses were integral in her growth and control of her emotions. Praise the Lord for Ginger pony. He truly used Ginger to help Kylee in ways we couldn't. It also helped my niece's foster daughters with their trauma and emotions. I saw their excitement when they realized they could do a task they didn't think they could and how they were more confident. Their excitement and eagerness fuels me to help more children.

Emmanuel Equine Ministry, Emmanuel means “God with us”, which is what we will incorporate in each experience we have with the children. God has been with me all throughout my life and protected me through many things. I am grateful for that, but know there were still consequences and lessons learned. That is why I said through things not from them. They helped mold me into who I am today and I always knew God was faithful and always present. We want to demonstrate and teach the children who come into contact with Emmanuel. Emmanuel Equine Ministry will glorify God and put Him first in ALL.







# The Poop Scoop

While Stephanie and I were out in Oregon at Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch for training I got a phone call from my mom on Tuesday. “Shorty is acting like he has colic.” Colic is a bad word for horse people. It means there is an obstruction or twisting in the horse’s intestinal tract. It can be fatal. Shorty is our sweet 19 year old Arabian gelding that was born on the farm. He adores children and adults alike. We will be using him for the ministry.

My heart sank, Shorty has never had colic before. I told Stephanie and we prayed together. My parents and Dr. Mike Douglas were diligent in his care over the next few days. On Thursday evening they thought they were going to have to put him down. He would get better and then worse. We shared his plight with others at Crystal Peaks and had them pray also. “God, you know we need him for this ministry. You have a plan for him. Please in your Son’s name heal him, by the blood of Jesus.” Over and over I prayed for those 4 days.

Friday morning it was grim he hadn’t pooped or passed gas and it was very certain putting him down was going to happen. At the ranch that day we broke into small groups. We were supposed to be with another farm that had been doing ministry for a few years but plans changed. They were needed with the international ministries. We were grouped with a few other ministries and a couple of women that worked at the ranch. We decided to go around the room and pray for each person specifically. When it came my time of course I tearfully asked for prayers for Shorty and that our horses were being attacked since deciding to do the ministry. So those amazing women got to praying. One lady started praying and says “God, you are showing me the obstruction is in his backend. I ask you Lord through with your mighty power to heal that obstruction and make him poop and pass gas.” It was an amazing time. Two minutes later my mom text me and said “he pooped”. I have never been more excited to hear those words in all my life. I was able to share with the group and we could all praise The Great Healer for saving Shorty. I praise Him for loving us so much that He sent His only Son for us. To die and live again. He defeated death. We have no fear because of what Christ Jesus did. Let’s quit worrying about the poop, God’s got it, and get out there and share His insane LOVE for others!!!