



# The Hitchin' Post

## Spring Newsletter 2016

By Dawn Orpurt

Rein in Help  
Rein in Hope  
Rein in Healing...



Reign in the Spirit!

### Mission Statement

*To create hope, empower & enrich the lives of children thru a faith-based equine rescue riding program*



*The Ranch welcomes Spring!*

We are excited as we plan for the 2016 Ranch Season. We are looking forward to meeting and serving all the new children that are already planning to come to the Ranch. New volunteers will be learning to serve these children in a unique way as they share the love, truth and *hope of Jesus Christ thru our Ranch horses*. They too are excited about their call to serve and mentor here at the Ranch.

The horses shed out their winter coats and their new hair growth shines! It's always exciting thinking about a new season with a fresh beginning! The horses are being tuned up and starting to get in shape, Ranch projects, maintenance and landscaping are underway and fundraisers are being planned. *Spring is a very busy but exciting time of year!* We thank all of you who continue to support the Ranch through your generous time, prayer and financial help. We are able to keep our riding program free of charge to all who choose to come to the Ranch!

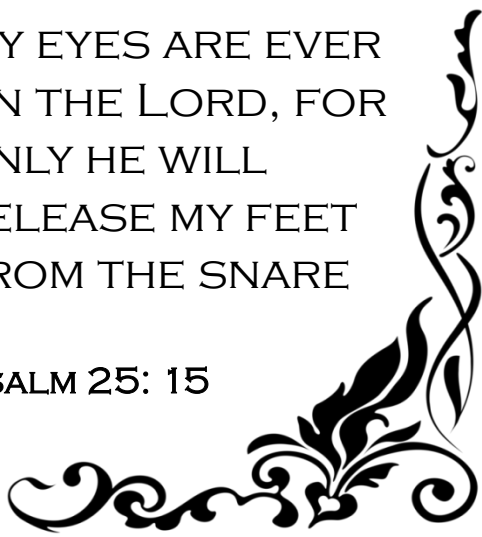
Blessings to all,  
Dawn

*May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.*

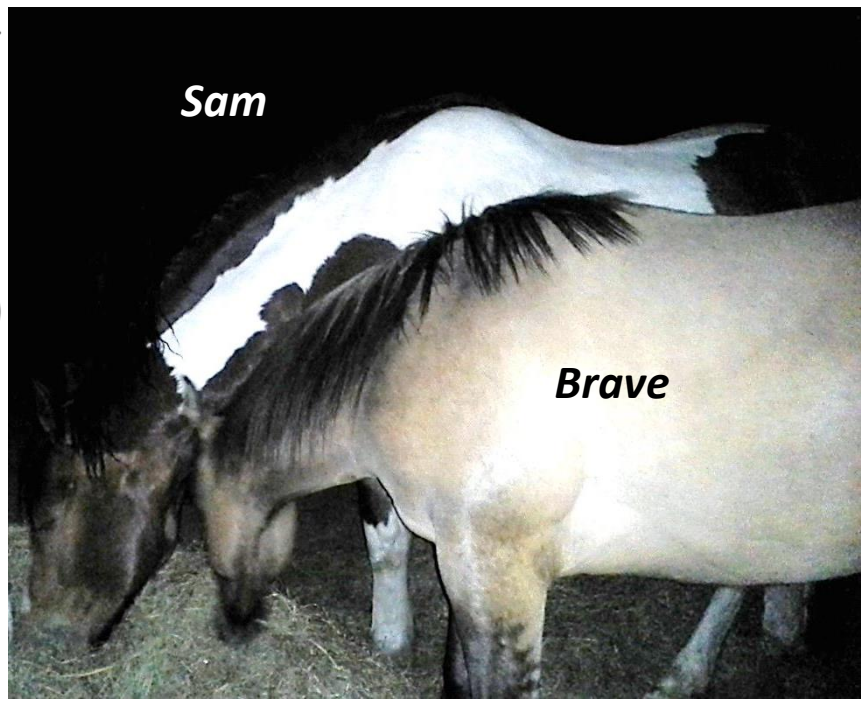
*Hebrews 13:20-21*

MY EYES ARE EVER  
ON THE LORD, FOR  
ONLY HE WILL  
RELEASE MY FEET  
FROM THE SNARE

PSALM 25: 15



## ***The Snare***



It has been a privilege to have horses in my life for the past 35 years. Along with the many blessings they bring, it's the life lessons and the many memorable experiences, I will hold dear in my heart. Memories from waking up in the rocking chair from a nap, cradling my son in my arms, having two horses on my back deck peeking in through the sliding screen door at me to the bittersweet memory, as I held my first horse's head in my lap as he laid on the ground saying goodbye to him of 33 years...*blessed memories.*

I was recently repairing and replacing the wire to the back pastures and a memory from a year ago, flashed. One, that took my breath away. As panic took hold of me, I remember desperately calling out to the Lord. *I knew He was my only help in this frightening situation.*

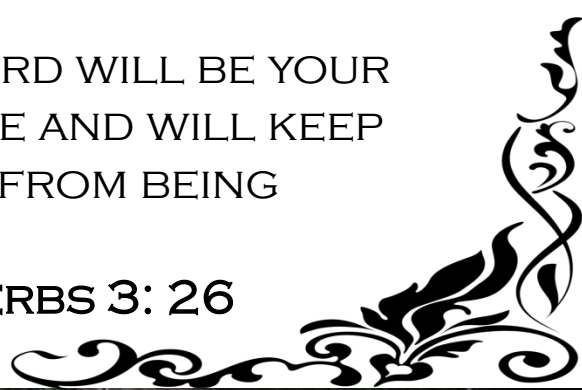
Dusk was setting in, as I headed out back to call the herd up from the back pasture for the night. Three of the horses ran up immediately but the silhouette of Samson and Brave stayed back. I noticed Sam wanting to head up with the rest of the herd, but he hesitated several times. He kept popping his head up at me as I called to them but he stayed at Brave's side. He wouldn't leave him. I strained to see as dark was closing in. That's when panic suddenly hit me when I realized what the matter was. Wire wrapped several times around Brave's hind hoof as he was caught up in it. The other end was still connected to the fence post! I was horrified to see what remained of his hoof, not knowing how long he was bound up.

My heart pounded as the adrenaline took over. I remember vividly that night, as I dreadfully approached him. I took hold of his leg and discovered only slight swelling but an intact lower leg and hoof, with no blood. A calmness immediately took over my panic as I started to quickly unwrapped the tightened wire that snared him.

Brave was set free from what could have been so tragic. With only a slight limp, I watched him and his trusted friend Sam walk away to catch up with the rest of the herd... I knew who my help came from that night... *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. Psalm 28:7*

FOR THE LORD WILL BE YOUR  
CONFIDENCE AND WILL KEEP  
YOUR FOOT FROM BEING  
SNARED.

PROVERBS 3: 26



Brave's uninjured hoof



The cut wire that ensnared Brave

Knowing what could of happened to Brave, *I knew who was present in that desperate situation.* It is humbling knowing *the presence of who* my help came from that night.

Have you ever been caught up or snared in a situation? Have you ever had a dear friend stay at your side when going through it? Have you ever called out to our Lord in a desperate frightening situation?

We all go through frightening experiences. Ones we don't know what the outcome will be. They may be experiences over a period of time or perhaps sudden ones that we have to face immediately. Where does your help come from in those situations? Do you have a personal close relationship with the Lord? A relationship that you *know* you can rely on in *any* situation? A relationship that is one that you can call out to for help at any time? Those may be some tough questions that you may ask yourself, perhaps maybe even uncomfortable ones. Or, they maybe questions that you *know* you can answer with a bold confidence and certainty.

There have been many of those situations that I have faced through the years. I know where my help comes from and I want to encourage you that *you too* can have that help. He is *ever present* in your time of need.

Sam could of chose to leave Brave's side that night. We too have that choice to stay along one's side in their time of need. But I know one thing for *certain*, there is the One who will *never leave* our side. *Call upon Him... it's the first step. That first step is the one that will begin a relationship that you can always count on and have present at any time of need.*

MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, THE MAKER OF  
HEAVEN AND EARTH.

PSALM 121:2



## Jeremiah 29:11

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

*Hope...* If we don't have *hope* what do we have?

This ranch season children will learn about the promises and truth of the Word that gives us *hope*. Our ranch horses help them see that they *too* can have hope. We use them as powerful tools. Hope, Samson and Brave all have a past of brokenness, but their past of brokenness does not define them. *We will share with the children that their past does not have to define them either.* Our ranch horses have been fully restored and *they can be also!* The children will be taught that our God is a God that *restores, heals and will not leave any of us helpless.* Our ranch horse, Hope, is fully restored from her past of darkness, filth and malnutrition. Samson is fully restored

from a past of being bullied as a yearling and the effects of overcrowding in a small pen. Samson is also fully restored from a horrible disease, EPM. Brave is fully restored from rejection and the wounds from his mother after his birth. *All are fully restored!*

Each week we work with the children. Relationships are built, truths & the promises of the Word are shared. At the end of the season we share with them the opportunity of asking our Lord into their hearts. It's humbling to see and witness the Holy Spirit at work. It's a privilege to watch the many that *have chosen* to start a relationship with God who promises hope and healing, “*..for I am the Lord, who heals you.*” Exodus 16:26



Hope, being a *pallet of thankfulness*, as each child places their painted hand upon her, as they state what they are thankful for *to God...*

Samson, “the gentle giant” teaching trust and empowering those who choose to ride him... Brave teaching children who may also have faced rejection from their past are taught *they are never fatherless*. Our One true Father is ever present.

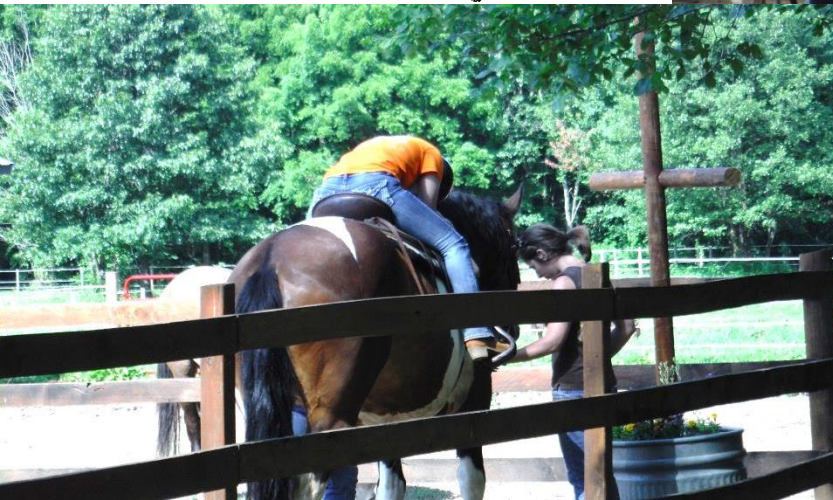
***There is hope at the cross and the beginning of healing for those who choose to come before it...***



**Hope**



**Samson**



**Brave**



**“At The Cross”**

There’s a place where mercy reigns and never dies  
 There’s a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide  
 Where all the love I’ve ever found  
 Comes like a flood, Comes flowing down

At the cross , At the cross  
 I surrender my life, I’m in awe of You, I’m in awe of You  
 Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
 I owe all to You I owe all to You Jesus

There’s a place where sin and shame are powerless  
 Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness  
 Where all the love I’ve ever found  
 Comes like a flood Comes flowing down

Here my hope is found Here on holy ground  
 Here I bow down Here I bow down  
 Here arms open wide Here You save my life  
 Here I bow down Here I bow down

Written by Tomlin, Cash, Myrin, Armstrong & Redman



# The Barn Side

Ranch Fundraiser at TSC

***Tractor Supply Company***

*Ranch Style Lunch \$7*

*BBQ Pulled Pork ★ Cole Slaw ★ Chips*

*\$5 Horse Rides!*

*Come meet the Ranch Horses*

*When: June 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00-3pm*

*Where: Niles MI*

## ***Thinking about Ranch Volunteering?***

★ *What are your talents?  
Contact the Ranch and schedule a visit!*

*\*Prayer Warrior \* Ranch Leader  
\*Fundraiser Coordinator \* Ranch Projects*



We will say it again, the Ranch *would not be* what it is today or what it will be tomorrow if it were not for powerful prayer, direction and wisdom from our Lord to do *His will*.  
***Thank you to all of you who regularly pray for the Ranch***

### ***We have specific Ranch prayer requests...***

***Protection.*** Please pray for continued protection over the Ranch Ministry, the property, the horses, the Ranch Leaders/Mentors, all volunteers and Ranch kids.

***Guidance & Provisions.*** To do *His will* every step of this 2016 Season.

***The Ranch Kids.*** To send forth the children who He wants the Ranch to serve.

***Ranch Leaders/Mentors.*** To continue to grow in faith with their walk with the Lord. To be strong and not grow weary. Continue to show their faith thru the work of their hard working hands and kind hearts. For *Him* to work thru them in a bold and mighty way to impact and change a child's life.

***Horse Angels.*** The Lord *continues* to lay on my heart children with another brokenness in their lives...*cancer*. In the future, the Ranch will also serve children battling cancer or who lost a loved one to it. *Please pray* for His will, wisdom and provision for opening another day called, ***Horse Angels***.

#### ***Barn Raising.***

*I'm a firm believer, if it is His will...he will provide!* Raising of the Barn, so we can continue to mentor *year round*. This barn will also be a place to comfortably serve and reach children who are battling cancer or struggling with the loss of a loved one to cancer. Please pray for the funding of this barn.

***Thank You for your prayers, all of you who believe and regularly & faithfully pray for the Ranch's mission & purpose.  
Your prayer is the foundation to this Ranch Ministry...  
it keeps the boots well grounded.***

