



*Submitted by Stanley Charley of Bis Doot'izh Deez'áhi Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Newcomb, New Mexico*

The Fellowship of Christian Horsemen, an outreach of the Bis Doot'izh Deez'áhi Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Newcomb, New Mexico organizes an annual horseback trail ride and fellowship during the Memorial Day weekend. The preparation of this yearly event thrives on the assistance of Christian horse enthusiasts from various CRC churches, as well as other denominations.

The fellowship trail ride originated five years ago when we felt the need to share the gospel and fellowship with the broad community of horse enthusiasts, ranchers, and cowboys within their own environment by utilizing a non-conventional church outreach. This unique ministry emphasizes family values, fellowship, and sharing horsemanship skills. During the trail ride we periodically focus on prayer for our people, the communities, our leaders, and the safety of the traveling public. We also really enjoy the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of God's scenic creation on horseback.

The trail ride has become a family-oriented event involving grandparents, parents and children participating together. Every year, we get numerous participants that are non-Christians and through this event some have started attending church and the mind-set of many has changed. We promote horseback riding as a fitness activity to take control of our health and wellness. Since we have the trail ride during the Memorial Day weekend, we acknowledge and honor the veterans. And this year in support of breast cancer awareness, many riders wore pink clothing or bandanas during the Saturday's ride.

Here is a brief summary of the "Saddle-Up 2007 Trail Ride. We started out on Thursday morning, May 24, as twelve riders rode from Montezuma Creek, Utah to Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. Even though the trail through the canyons was grueling, it provided breathtaking views and the serenity of the riders and the surrounding was a blessing. Rev. Stanley Jim's mother and family provided the evening meal at the Teec Nos Pos Baptist Church, and after the meal, Pastor James Tso gave a devotion to the riders and visitors. That night some of the riders camped out at the rodeo grounds.



On Friday morning, May 25, prior to riding out, the TNP Community Health setup a health information booth at the trading post and they performed health screenings for the riders. Around 30 riders rode into Shiprock that day. The Red Valley CRC united with us this year as they setup a tent at the Shiprock airport, and they served a feast of a variety of food to the riders, their families, and visitors. Robert Chee from Leupp, Arizona gave a devotion after the meal. RVCRC also served breakfast the next morning.

On Saturday morning, May 26, approximately 45 riders started from the airport and others joined along the way, as over 60 riders completed the journey to the Newcomb campsite. The Newcomb congregation helped with the preparation of the evening meal that fed over 200 people. Tom Chee, from Waterflow New Mexico, provided an inspirational message on wisdom that reached out to everybody in attendance.

Throughout the three days of the trail ride; CRC pastors Stanley Jim and Bobby Boyd and others shared scriptures, prayers and encouragements along the trail. The riders that rode more than 15 miles received a t-shirt and many other gifts were given out. We praise God for His help and guidance as this event has grown. We are grateful to everybody that helped: the construction companies that contributed monetarily, the Office of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation, and the Red Mesa Ministry Center for their solicitation of various gifts and bottled water from the Gallup area business. Thanks to the White Mesa Christian Church and Janice Jim for providing breakfast, water and Gatorade, as well as others that donated bottled water along the trail. We have been privileged to meet new friends every year

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