

Christian Barrel Racer's Newsletter

"Racin' To Eternity"

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Enjoy the Ride

By Christa Conway

I'm going to go out on a limb and write about something pretty far from riding horses this month. I originally had this thought that I want to share with you all after a conversation with one of the men I work with, and it was originally about roller coasters. I am sure I can somehow change it to include something about riding horses.... Just give me a minute. Until then, I'll start on roller coasters.

What began with me thinking about how we never "get it all figured out," turned into a comparison of life being like the cliché says: "a roller coaster ride."

Now, Vick will testify that I am not the thrill seeking roller coaster enthusiast, although I will ride them with him. I am just the one who can't walk a straight line or eat afterwards without some type of motion sickness medicine. I get all the thrill I need going "9-0" around a barrel pattern. (There, that's the reference to horses for this month....)

Back to the subject....I was speaking with this friend about how for some reason I keep

thinking that I will someday get it all figured out and things will be "normal." <<<WHATEVER>>>

I have realized with age that there is no "normal." Everyone's own chaos and turmoil is also their very own normal. It is the way we handle these moments of chaos and turmoil that determines how happy we are with where we are.

And here is the detailed roller coaster ride comparison...

The ride starts and you can separate the riders into three groups right off the bat. There are those who are screaming in terror before the cars start rolling and never open their eyes during the ride. There are those of us who are anticipating the first hill or just the speed as the car begins to move. And then there are those who throw their arms up in the air and prepare to "enjoy the ride."

I must admit that I am the one who is anticipating. (I guess it could be worse, at least I am not screaming in terror.) Before we top the hill, I am usually gripping the bar with white knuckles and holding my breath. As we top the hill, there may be a moment where I close my eyes, but I open them reluctantly in time to begin

the descent. Most likely I never get my fingers unwrapped from around the safety bar and if I do it is for the last few seconds of the fall.

By the second hill I am usually a little more relaxed and the hills don't bother me too much by the time we reach the third hill and all the hills beyond.

Of course there are turns in there between the hills. The first turn is a "white knuckler" too. I don't want to fall out! I am holding my breath again and looking at my feet. I don't know if I will ever get used to the turns. But, of course, by the second turn....it's not quite so bad. I can casually hold the bar and by the next couple of turns, I am an old pro at leaning into them, with my arms up in the air even!

"What's so bad about roller coasters?" I ask myself. "The upside down parts!" I answer. Oh my gosh! I still haven't gotten used to the upside down parts or the loop-d-loops. And I don't know if I can ever let go of the bar when I am hanging in mid air with nothing but air between me and the ground 50 feet below!

The straight a ways, the speed, the hills....even the turns....piece of cake! But, oh no, I have not

got the loop-d loops figured out yet.

I am sure that at some point in my life the loop-d-loops will be "old hat" and I will have my arms in the air screaming with excitement. I am just not there yet.

The way I think about it.....there are three types of people when it comes to handling life. And they handle them the same way that they handle roller coaster rides. There are a few that are just filled with terror and never open their eyes to enjoy the blessings that this world has to offer. They are too worried about loss, disappointment, or hurt and the devil has them going through the motions with no hope or joy at all.

The biggest majority of us are in the middle group. We love life, but things seem to occupy our minds and we try to control the outcome by "hanging on." Worry interferes with what is important quite often. We are constantly trying to learn how to handle situations as they are put in front of us. About the time that we think we have it all figured out, life throws us a curve or a loop-d-loop. We tend to focus so much on what might happen that we cheat ourselves out of a blessing if we would have just let God handle things. We should be focusing on how we can let God help us get through whatever situations life hands us.

Which in turn leaves those who have learned how to turn loose and put their hands in the air and "enjoy the ride." God is in control. He has the plan written out and will orchestrate it with perfection.

Our only job is to have faith.

Philippians 1:6

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Until next month....

"Put your hands in the air!!!"

Happy Trails & God Bless!

Christa

Kicks & Giggles

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'



Prayer Requests

Everyone, please, just take a few minutes when you receive your letter and pray over it and the names on this list...we have seen miracles happen. If you have a prayer request, please let me know and I will be sure to include it in a future issue of the Christian Barrel Racer's Newsletter. Pray for:

Those who do not know Jesus- there are so many people who do not know how much Jesus loves them. There are people who do not know the feeling of being forgiven and of belonging to a family. Pray for those who do not know Jesus...pray for someone to cross their path who can introduce them to Him.

Children- Your own, your friends, all children...children with parents, without parents....that they would know that their Heavenly Father loves them.

Safety at the horse shows for all who attend....those on the road while travelling to and from....the horses and rider's health and safety as well.

Keep ***all military and their families*** in your prayers. They make big sacrifices to secure our freedoms.....

Our Leaders in political office... We may or may not agree with their policies...but God tells us to pray for **ALL** of them.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

***The happiest people
don't necessarily
have the best of
everything;***

***They just make the
best of everything
they have.***

How To Dance In The Rain

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's, arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb.

He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be Over an hour before someone would be able to see him.

I saw him looking at his watch, and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another Doctors' appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry.

The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

I inquired as to her health; he told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late.

He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now.

I was surprised, and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?'

He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is'.

I had to hold back tears as he left; I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, 'That is the kind of love I want in my life'.

True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an Acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be.

Prayer for Unsaved

Many of us have family members and/or friends that are not sure where they will spend eternity. We may feel unsure about approaching them, but we can approach Our Heavenly Father on their behalf.

Here is a passage from the bible to pray as intercession for them. Just say the person's name when you see a blank.

I have not stopped giving thanks for _____, remembering _____ in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that _____ may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of _____'s heart

may be enlightened in order that _____ may know the hope to which he has called _____, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:16-23

Last & Most Important Thought...

Jesus died on the cross as the final sacrifice. When He was resurrected on the 3rd day, he defeated Satan for us. All we have to do is believe that He beat death and acknowledge it with our words. **If we believe that and accept Him as our personal savior...we are promised eternal life with Him in Heaven.** You can't earn your way into Heaven; you have to believe your way there. So many people think they "aren't good enough" to get to Heaven... But... **Salvation is a GIFT from God** and you don't earn a gift. Gifts are something someone gives to you and for the gift to be yours, you have to accept it. All we have to do is accept that wonderful gift. I know I have...won't you?

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. Romans 5:15

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10: 9-10

Email/Mailing List

If you want to be added to the emailing list, just send me your email address with a request and I'll be glad to get a monthly reminder to you. I send out hundreds via email.

I have stopped the regular mailings via USPS, there were only a handful left without email and my time restraints make it hard to accomplish this task. So, if you know someone who does not have email and you think they would enjoy reading the CBRN....PLEASE feel free to print and SHARE!! Hopefully, whether you are on the web or not...you can still enjoy the CBRN. If you know someone who has internet, have them print it for you each month. All you have to do is ask. And remember, they are always FREE!

If you have a prayer request, a story to share, something to sell or the one's I like the most... ***a praise***, I would be glad to include them in next month's newsletter. Just send them to me mail or email or call me with your request and I'll write them up for you. I can include your name if you like or I can make sure to leave it out if you request.

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"Life is not the way it's supposed to be.

It's the way it is.

The way you cope with it is what makes the difference."