

Nazarene Cowboy Church Network Presentation

- **Mission-** What is our purpose? Making Christ-like disciples in the western heritage culture.
- **Culture-** Who is in the western culture?

1. **Working Cowboys-** makes all or part of their living horseback, they represent a small part of this population and they may be the hardest to reach.
2. **Professional Rodeo Cowboys** make all or a part of their living on the rodeo circuit and again are very few in number.
3. **Arena Cowboys & Cowgirls-** makes his or her living somewhere other than the ranch or rodeo but they love arena activities such as team roping, barrel racing, team penning, ranch rodeo, sorting, cutting, play day etc.
4. **Cattle people-** these may be large ranchers with hundreds or thousands of head or people who own a few cows or even one FFA steer. They may or may not use horses.
5. **Horse people-** these people love horses, they may trail ride, western pleasure, show horses, raise horses, race horses or just have a few nags in the pasture and they may or may not care anything about a cow.
6. **Cowboys at heart-** people who just love the cowboy and what he stands for. They wear boots, jeans and a cowboy hat, they listen to country music, have all of John Wayne's movies on DVD and Capt. Augustus McCrae and Capt. Woodrow F. Call are their heroes.
7. **Cowboy mentality people-** these folks may be linked to the culture through their past, parents or family, they are people who live by a code, your word is your bond, a honest days word for an honest days pay, they may be electricians, carpenters, law enforcement officers, firefighters, business men, working folks, country folks, people who love the land, farmers, hunters and fishermen. Even to the extent as one put it, those who have ever watched a western.

The further you go down this list a larger number of these folks are in the population. These are the people God has called us to reach that traditional churches have failed to reach in large numbers.

- **Values-** What is important?

Simplicity with excellence – Mark 7:37

Non judgmental – John 8:1-11

Empowerment with accountability – John 20:21, Eph 4

Cultural relevance - 1 Cor 9:19-23

Intentional Reproduction – Matt 28:19-20 - teach private fishing and public fishing

Christ Centered out riding

- **Focus- How do we reach this culture?**

If you focus at the top of the list and you won't leave anyone behind. The working cowboy may be the hardest to reach. If you can do church in a way that he will come, you will reach everyone else on the list. If you can reach those that are die-hard in the culture, they will draw others like themselves. They will draw those who admire their lifestyle. Again it is using the culture as a tool to reach more people for Jesus.

The Cowboy church takes a different approach to starting new ministries. It is all right to plant where such churches exist, but it will be more effective where there are currently none. It will be more of an anomaly .

Demographics are important. Yet different areas are researched versus when starting a traditional church. They are more telling by the extent of the population connected with various associations such as; AQHA – American Quarter Horse Association, American Paint Horse Association, American Buckskin Association, Pinto Association, Cattle Breeders Association and Cattlemen's Association. These associations come together for national shows and events. They rent coliseum for major events.

- **Strategy- What are our action steps?**

1. Organize individuals who have a heart for this new mission. Dr. Larry McKain (New Church Specialties), Rev. Mike Meeks (District Newstart Coordinator, SNU educator and pastor), Dr. Tom Nees (former Director of USA/Canada Mission for Church of the Nazarene), and Rev. Rob McDonald (Dallas District Superintendent) met to begin this discussion, formalize the vision and mission for this movement.

2. Recognize there may be different ways of “being” the church. Structures may be different. We constantly need to realize that the purpose of the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene is not to impede ministry, but keep us out of trouble. Structures are a means to an end. Organizational structures are not neutral some impede and some facilitate. The key is each district superintendent in each district. The DS has got to be our best friend. The structures are the new wine skins. We will need to change them as you go along. We need accountability with the districts involved. Accountability gains respect and support. When we are connected and accountable we gain credibility.

3. Network as a strategic readiness committee. It is our goal to have 100 cowboy churches of the Nazarene by 2015. The Dallas District's goal is to have 10 of those. Currently, they have Lone Star of Ellis County and Lone Star of Navarro County. They are looking at over 16 acres of property donated near New Boston, Texas as their third and looking at Royse City, Texas as their fourth.

4. Funding for these ministries is essential. How do we identify who those people who might have funds to release as loans and perpetuating those funds? We realize there are some organizations who have networked with people of means. Organizations such as the Nazarene Foundation (Dr. Melvin McCullough) and USA/Canada Mission Strategy (Dr. Bob Broadbooks).

5. Embrace current productive and fruitful cowboy ministers and ministries. Experience is paramount. Jon Coe is currently pastoring Lone Star Cowboy Church of Ellis County. The church regularly has 300 in morning

worship attendance. In the past year, he has started Lone Star Cowboy Church of Navarro County. It currently is averaging over 100 in morning worship attendance. Both of these churches are working in association with the Church of the Nazarene. Also, he has started or been a part of five other new Cowboy churches. This entrepreneurial experience is invaluable as we embark on a movement of Nazarene Cowboy Churches.

- **Vision- Where does God want us to go?**

Seven years from now what will the movement look like? In 2015 in the Nazarene Cowboy Movement we see....

- 100 healthy growing reproducing Cowboy churches
- 25,000 people on average per week
- 5,000 people coming to faith and being baptized annually
- \$2 million brought in annually for worldwide Nazarene work
- 2 fully organized training sites
- \$12.5 total annual giving
- The cowboy church touching approximately 100,000 people annually
- The cowboy church developing 150 cowboy church pastors within the farm system
- A CB assessment, orientation, training and coaching systems in place
- A training and self development system in place
- A Lay leader development system
- A full time national coordinator
- A viable vaquero movement alongside this movement
- A vaquero strategic readiness committee