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## The Son and Reins Ranch Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I'd like to introduce you to the newest member of our ministry team, Barb Kennedy. I'm going to let Barb share a bit of her story with us all:



Barb and Boaz

I grew up in a Midwest, legalistic, religious home with well-meaning parents and church. I knew about Jesus and salvation and baptism. But I did not know about grace.

Consequently, I went away to college thinking I'd finally do what I wanted and have fun and get to know the real world. What resulted was many wrong, ungodly choices that landed me in a very unhappy, bad marriage.

One of my children was born with a severe birth defect, and had five horrible, major, life-threatening surgeries. Driving home from Denver Children's Hospital one rainy afternoon, I cried out in agony to God to please save me and help me and be my Lord because I just couldn't go through any more of life's pain. I only then realized this magnificent concept called grace and understood it.

Twenty-four years later and single again, I had to daily rely on this grace and this personal God who loved me despite my wrong decisions and broken heart. Through five total joint replacements, losing my jobs, medical insurance, and family and friends, I waved the white flag of surrender to God. I prayed and waited and searched for my "Boaz," a godly man, who would be my "cowboy knight." After fourteen more years of waiting and weeping and willfully relying on God, I was given such a man directly from His hands. I was given a humble, well-known, godly, Colorado veterinarian for a husband. I found my Boaz, Dr. James A. Kennedy, DVM, MS."

Four months after we happily said our vows, I found Jim dead on New Year's Eve after a massive heart attack. I was devastated. Two years later I am still devastated with a broken heart and many questions. Where was God? What do I do now? What is my purpose for this next season? How can I use my pain to help others?

Like most people, I receive a lot of junk mail. Magazines, coupons, ads and marketing techniques trying to get my attention. I usually toss them all in the trash. A few weeks ago, for some reason I thumbed through a mall magazine. To my astonishment there appeared a horse rescue ranch ad that made me mini-gasp. Could this be a possible answer to wondering what my re-adjusted purpose in life is? I had volunteered years ago at a horse therapy ranch and a horse rescue and absolutely loved it. But with a bionic body, could I still utilize my equine passion?

**There was the horse ranch ad staring at me and blaring with good news! I emailed immediately and started a wonderful relationship with the owner. When she told me one of the horses was named "Boaz," I wept in a split second.**

**I have met Boaz the horse, a thoroughbred who was brought back from starvation and is now used to help heal people. I CAN help at the ranch. I can groom, halter, lead and feed, and scoop poop as well as relate to the hurting children and adults that come to this region of recovery. They have also been neglected, abandoned or are just sore from what life has handed them. I CAN relate to them and try to ease their lameness.**

**I believe there is nothing like being around a horse to help a hurting soul.**

**Boaz the horse has now taken a tender place in my heart. God has shown up in an instant through a horse named Boaz to rescue me and use me to help others at the same time.** This is another personalized miracle created for me, just like Jim was.

There is no doubt this is another divine match, just as Jim and I were. And God gets all the glory!

**Sharron Wilen, Serving as a Direct Affiliate with The Son and Reins Ranch**

*If you would like to read Barb's book, **My Cowboy Knight, My Boaz**, sharing her story of an intense love, deep grief and determined hope, it is available at bookstores and online or at [www.barbaraakennedy.com](http://www.barbaraakennedy.com).*

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