





## Continual Education

I was recently confronted by a young man that was in high school and bemoaning the fact that his classes were so boring. He could not wait to be out of school, get a real job and leave the book-work behind him. He went on to say that he would love to be an electric lineman or an electrician and was confident all he needed was a high school diploma to become one.

This young man was not ready for my reply nor the lecture I was about to give. I told him the world around us is changing and that education and training is happening daily in the workplace. Whether you know it or not, the electric industry is constantly changing either by way of technology, legislation, consumption, or standards. Keeping up with those changes means everyone must continually receive education and keep abreast of the new concepts that are being developed.

I quickly noted that today any new Kiwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) lineman "want-to-be" is required to be enrolled in an approved four year lineman training program or have received an Associate degree from an approved college, such as OSU Tech in Okmulgee, with an accredited lineman training school. This means each new apprentice will have at least two to four years of intense studying plus on-the-job training to become a lineman.

Continuing education for any position at Kiwash is vital. We are lucky enough to have hired a young lady with an accounting degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She also was able to pass the Oklahoma Certified Public Accounting test. Is she finished with her education? No way! She is now learning the billing system at Kiwash. In addition, she just recently completed an independent study course giving her the knowledge to grasp the requirements for USDA RUS Borrowers like KEC.

Our national organization, NRECA, offers an Education and Training department which develops training, information and professional development programs for electric cooperatives. These include national and regional meetings, conferences, credential and certificate programs, courses, workshops and internships for directors, executives, and staff. KEC is fortunate that seven of our Board of Directors have successfully completing the NRECA's "Credentialed Cooperative Directors" (CCD) program. Ms. Virginia Walker is receiving her certificate this month and is our newest CCD recipient.

Yes sir, young man, if you are going to be successful in life than continual education will be a major factor. You wouldn't want it any other way and with time you too will understand the need to continue your education.

As an owner of Kiwash Electric Cooperative, you expect and demand that the Directors, staff and employees provide the leadership, knowledge, and expertise to run your business successfully. Keeping everyone educated is the key which allows us to give you the most reliable service possible. Education is a key to the success of any organization. Please encourage our young people to strive for excellence by continuing their education. Education benefits our cooperative, it also benefits our community.

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a place where other people like them could gather and feel welcome.

Triple Cross's pastor, Alan Morgan, was one of those cowboys. Joining with him to pray in that alley were Vaudy Rhoads and C.A. Haskell. And had anyone told any of them ten years ago they were destined to begin a church in western Oklahoma, they may well have laughed themselves right off their horses.

An amazing testimony comes from Alan himself. Prior to becoming involved with the Triple Cross, Alan was a tried and true cowboy managing a 40,000 head feed yard in Happy, Texas. However, things were not going well in his own personal life, and the future was not looking any better. At that time, "God was nowhere in my life," remembers Alan. "Though luckily, there were some cowboys in the feed yard who knew who Jesus Christ was. They drug me to a cowboy church in an arena, where I sat on the very back row."

Alan never expected on that evening, he would experience a turning point that would change his life, and his family's life, forever. God made a move. Suddenly, "I just couldn't get enough of it!" says Alan.

Positive changes began happening in Alan's life. Then, "The Lord told me, 'I can't use you here. You need to move back to western Oklahoma.'" Alan said. It was a bit of a shock at first, as the Morgan family, which includes wife Sherry and four kids, Brittney, Dally, Bailey and Roper, had what they considered a well established home in Happy. Alan and Sherry had jobs there. Their friends were there. "People thought we were crazy," remembers Alan, but they followed through with the plan and moved back to Clinton.

Shortly after re-establishing their home, Alan and Sherry got their next message. "God spoke to my heart. It was like He was sitting right next to us in the pickup!" remembers Alan. They were to start a cowboy church. "I wanted to drag my feet," said Alan. "I knew it was not going to be an easy deal."

After a lot of planning and praying, the first Triple Cross Cowboy Church service was held at the Ranchers and Farmers Livestock Auction in Clinton, on a cold wintery evening in December, 2002. "We didn't realize at the time, the impact of what God was birthing in that barn," Alan said. There were over 100 people at that first service. And those people liked what they saw. The cowboy ministry was real, and it was simple. And everyone felt welcome.

Since that first service nearly three years ago, Triple Cross has experienced tremendous growth. In addition to the services at Clinton, they also hold services at the Baker Horse Auction in Butler, the OKC West Livestock Auction in El Reno, and the Hobart Sale Barn. Their ministry has even grown by request to include services in Wister, Oklahoma (east of McAlester) and in Mena, Arkansas. Members of the ministry also pay visits to folks in nursing homes, singing and ministering to those who have a desire but can't make it to the sale barn services. Triple Cross hosts an

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## Kiwash Welcomes The Bank Lofts in Cordell as as a new member of the Co-op Connections Card Program.

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Dean’s Greenhouses * Cordell, Elk City, and Weatherford	10% off all plant purchases
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Lindley Farm Equipment, Inc. * Cordell	10% discount on oil and engine Oil and fuel filters
Oklahoma Route 66 Museums * Clinton	2 for 1 admission
Petals and Blooms * Cordell	10% off all in stock landscape rock.
Standifer House * Elk City	15% off stay & dinner or SPA goody basket in room
Starvin Marvin * Cordell and Hinton	\$3 off any order of \$15 or more Or \$5 off any order of \$25 or more
Total Expressions * Cordell	\$5 off membership

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annual Memorial Day cookout at the Clinton sale barn, and this spring held their first Cowboy Camp weekend at a nearby ranch, which offered trail rides, cooking over the campfire, fellowship, singing, church services and even old-fashioned baptisms in the creek.

Alan is now an ordained minister, and the Triple Cross is under the covering of Trinity Fellowship in Sayre. Trinity’s pastor, Andy Taylor, was a tremendous help in the beginning with the organization of the Triple Cross, and continues to be a constant source of support for the ministry.

Live music is a major part of every Triple Cross service. Brothers Mark Ray and Tony Ray, along with C.A. Haskell and Tony’s daughter, Katie Ray, are deeply dedicated to the ministry and never fail to get the crowd going with a foot-stomping, hand-clapping song. Or, they can slow the pace down with a western gospel, or fall comfortably into a well-known traditional hymn. Occasionally, the ministry brings in special musical guests such as Mike Hammock (Christian Country Music Association’s 2004 Male Vocalist of the Year); Short Round Ministries singer Ray Perryman; Backroads Ministries singer Justin Todd Herod; and the Clark Brothers, now known as Alvarado, after their recent move to Nashville. All are singers, songwriters and recording artists. Most Cowboy Church services are recorded on video by videographer Clayton Taylor, and copies are sent to Triple Cross followers as far away as New Jersey.

This year, Triple Cross implemented a new youth program, called “Buckaroos and Buckaretttes.” Growth and a need for change has already called to divide the youth group into two age groups, the younger group under the direction of Melanie Taylor, and the older group under the direction of Kelli Herbel and Katie Ray.

The recent growth of the ministry has also prompted the folks at Triple Cross to expand their 7 p.m. services at Clinton from once a month to every Monday night at the Ranchers and Farmers Livestock Auction, beginning on Oct. 3. Services at Butler at Baker’s Horse Auction are held on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information about the Triple Cross, and an expanded list of upcoming events, you can visit their website at [www.triplecrossministry.org](http://www.triplecrossministry.org), or give Alan a call at 580-214-0687. The warm family atmosphere at cowboy church is evident. The Triple Cross is intent not on building what most would consider a ‘traditional church’, but rather in building a family. “If God had meant for us to be anything but family, he would have called himself something other than Father,” explains Alan. “We welcome all,” he adds. “‘All’ is a very small word, but has a very large and powerful meaning. It includes everything and everybody, and leaves out nothing and nobody.” While their original intent was to minister to the western world, the Triple Cross welcomes everyone. Some literally come right to services after a hard day’s work horseback, moving cattle, or having spent all day driving a tractor in the field.

And when he’s not sharing the Word, Alan can usually be found either on horseback or driving his flat-bed truck, maybe breaking a colt to ride, or tending cattle, as he remains a tried and true cowboy in addition to being a cowboy preacher. Only now if his cell phone rings while he’s busy, he may stop everything to take care of a special prayer request, or he may drop everything he’s doing to go lend a hand to a friend in need.

You don’t have to be a cowboy to come worship with the Triple Cross, but you just might feel like one before you leave!

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## BULLETIN BOARD

# What's Happening In Your Community

November 12 - Sorority Crafts Fair – Fairgrounds in Hobart Contact: 580/726-2082, Kristy Smith

November 26 – Cordell Main Street Light Brigade Parade and Festivities

November 26 – Hobart Christmas Lighting Ceremony & Moonlight Madness. Downtown Hobart 6-9pm. Contact: Chamber office 580/726-2553

December 4 - Hobart Christmas Tour of Homes

December 10 – Quartz Mountain Flyer, Nostalgic Railroad Excursion. Children's Day with Santa. Train departs at 10:00 a.m. Arrive by 9:30 a.m. to prepare for departure at the junction of Route 44 & 44A

To report the events in your community, or for more information, call Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

**1-888-832-3362**

