

Greetings!

When we started hosting wounded warriors some 15 years ago, **we never imagined what the Lord would do!** Wheelchair veterans have unique needs - so we are now adding 4 special bedrooms - with each bedroom having its own roll-in shower, special toilet and vanity - plus an extra bed because some of these vets need 24/7 help. Because of new legislation we can now start our Purple Heart vets with pheasant hunting (at no cost) on 1 October (while everyone else always begins the 3rd weekend in October). **LOTS OF WORK TO DO BEFORE THESE VETS ARRIVE.**



Therefore, we need **IMMEDIATE HELP** with:

- *Purchasing one walk-in tub. (Already have the roll-in showers for the other bedrooms).
- *Purchasing 14 mattresses and bedding. (Also adding some extra bedrooms for vets and volunteers).
- *Purchasing an ice maker.
- *Purchasing a dog kennel and the concrete to set it on. (Without our volunteers bringing good hunting dogs - taking our wounded warriors hunting would be a waste of time.)
- *We need volunteer skilled and unskilled carpenter help / painters / etc. They can stay at the ranch and be fed good - with plenty of good Christ-focused relationships. We simply can't afford to hire professionals to drive out from Pierre each day - and our wounded warriors begin to arrive less than a month away.

6' x 20' x 10' Powder-Coated Black Kennel \$1,032.24



Rheem 85 Gallon Electric Lifetime Tall Water Heater \$1,299.00



3 of the new wheelchair-accessible bedrooms will have roll-in showers - which have already been purchased and are being installed. Some of our wheelchair vets have asked if we would install a 'walk-in' bath unit. They are expensive - but our wheelchair vets have already paid their own 'High Price' so we want to honor their requests and have one unit with this special unit. If you'd like to donate for that purpose - please make a check to 'The Ranch Ministries' and designate on the memo line 'walk-in tub'. If any extra monies come in for these projects - please let us know if we have your permission to use any extra funds for the other parts of the new bedrooms project.

Safety Tubs® Value Series 52"W x 30"D Biscuit Left Drain 6-Jet Massage Walk-In Whirlpool Bathtub - Outward Open Door.





LADIES FIREARMS FAMILIARIZATION COURSE - 13 - 15 SEPTEMBER.

It's not totally about guns. It's primarily about RELATIONSHIPS - so we encourage you ladies to bring friends for a weekend of relaxation and learning about & trying different firearms.

To sign up please contact Virginia at Community Bible Church (Pierre) at 605-224-6730.

WOUNDED WARRIORS FAMILY SUPPORT CARE GIVERS RETREAT - 27 - 30 SEPTEMBER.

Retire Marine Colonel John Folsom is providing this opportunity for those couples that are giving 24/7 support for our severely wounded military veterans. Please pray we will be able to give them Christian encouragement and direction.



Bill Zimmerman bought a new Farmall A tractor in 1952 and it has been in the family until son John brought it to the ranch. Don Tvrdy of Valparaiso, Nebraska and Whitetails Unlimited did the restoration and it is now 'parade ready' (but no parades at the ranch - so we now use it for mowing). Come to the ranch and enjoy driving a really cool tractor (said Tom Sawyer - after he had the fence painted).

Bev Chapin and Ken attended Blunt High School together. Bev worked for the Thompsen family's Pierre Flower Shop and East Pierre Garden Center for over 30 years. Now she is the GREEN THUMB at the ranch. Always thinking ahead / keeping good things growing / getting rid of the 'bad stuff'. (Ken brags he finished in the top 10 of his Blunt High School class.). (There were only 8.)



Skinny kid. Big appetite. "How big?" I asked. Said he could eat 5 Whoppers. So, I took him to town. His dad didn't think he could do 5. I thought he could. I won. (Then we went to the Zesto for ice cream.)



Bill McKinley left the Army and Vietnam over 50 years ago and followed his father's advice to get on his Harley / ride across our nation / visit his old military buddies / and see what he fought for. 50 years later Bill raffled his Harley off and donated the proceeds to The Ranch Ministries. Here he is presenting the check designated to help other veterans process their experiences. Because The Ranch Ministries is a 501c3 not-for-profit we are able to give tax deductible receipts for donations of cash and materials. Right now, we'd appreciate your prayers a buyer will come along for a Hunter 235 sailboat. It's fascinating to see how the Lord allows us to continue to operate!



Dick Cone lost his hair - but that old Marine sure didn't lose his nerve. Here Air Force vet (and one of our favorite Bible teachers) Tom Wells gives 'last rights' before Dick challenges the track.

Alex Ras and Andy Kinney clean up the messes that Travis and Darren create.



Years ago, our sister-in-law's dad owned this tractor. We did some horse trading. It's old (4430 John Deere) but solid and is now our primary farm tractor. Quality food plots are essential for good pheasant habitat. We just planted 12 different seed species in a 40-acre tract as a cover crop to build the soil and provide fall cover and winter feed for our pheasants. Last winter 2 blizzards piled over 9' of snow in our tree shelter belts. South Dakota winters can be tough on livestock, wildlife and humans.



Our son Adam - shooting the Thompson. Many of our vets like to shoot - and we have a wide variety of firearms - from a .50 cal. Barrett to a double barrel 10 gauge to a .22 pistol you could hide in your hand. The newest addition is a mortar.



4 old dogs on the couch.



Dan Stephens and Mike Albers helped with planting trees. The official South Dakota state tree is probably a telephone pole - shipped in from Oregon. One year I planted 70 seedless Sioux Land cottonwoods. Today only one is alive. It's tough being a tree in South Dakota! Sure thankful for all our volunteers that have truly transformed this place!

On 10 August Liz and I celebrated 51 years of marriage. On 24 August I celebrated 72 years of life. On 24 September Liz turns 72. And more and more I'm reminded Jesus said: **"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."** (Matthew 18:3). In past years I've worried too much / tried to take responsibility for too much / trusted Him too little / relaxed too little. **Indeed - "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."** (Psalm 28:7). All too often I've operated from my own fleshly drivenness - rather than having **'... the joy of the Lord is my strength'**. (Nehemiah 8:10). So now - it's a joy to watch what FATHER is doing (often in spite of my mistakes and weakness). Please consider:

POST TRAUMATIC GROWTH INSTITUTE: In past years the Lord has allowed us to place about 50,000 Greatest Warrior New Testaments per year into the hands (and often into the hearts) of our active duty and prior military personnel. This year we are exceeding that amount and asking the Lord for more funding as these Bibles cost \$2.00 each and are given free. (Jesus NEVER charged people. He just CHANGED them.). To get the best price we have 50,000 printed each time. And checks for this purpose should be made payable to 'Post Traumatic Growth Institute' and say 'Bibles' on the memo line. The Veterans Administration has previously banned Bibles, Christmas trees, Christmas songs and limited Chaplains from sharing Biblical principles. The new guidelines which lifted this ban went into effect last month due to a recent Supreme Court ruling allowing a cross-shaped memorial to World War I dead to continue standing on public land in Bladensburg, Maryland. Please pray the Lord will open even more opportunities and Christ-followers will be faithful to have an Eternal Impact.

CBMC: Please pray for John Reimer, Dan Hazuka, Wilson Metz, Ed Nix, Larry Middendorf, myself and all our volunteers as we share Christ to the business and professional community. There are many events going on in Omaha, Lincoln and Council Bluffs - but the ultimate goal is that each person would be so intimate with our Lord that discipleship would simply be an overflow of His Spirit to all those we encounter. Personally - I think the best rendering of CBMC is 'Come Behold My Christ' and if you'd like to support what Liz and I do in this area - please make a check payable to CBMC, leave the memo line open (to satisfy IRS requirements) and mail it back to me in the enclosed envelope. Please pray more and more business and professional men and women will live and share their Christian faith in the marketplace, their communities, through their everyday living.

THE RANCH MINISTRIES: Busy times! Fruitful times!!!! (And draining times.) Last week 2 of our veterans that have been to the ranch checked into the Omaha Veterans Administration psych unit. I ask the Lord to give us those that have had a passion for sin / that have been attacked by the unholy from an early age. Most Christians are slugs / passionless / don't have a daily seeking after the Lord. Most are just going through life with a little bit of Jesus to get them through the tough times. Please Lord - give us the 'Sauls' - that they would become today's 'Pauls'. FATHER - please give us those spoken of in Isaiah 60:22 - **"The little one shall become a thousand"**. Please pray we will walk with the Lord and our guests will have open hearts.

Ken & Liz

Will Rogers said,
"There's nothing quite so good for the
inside of a man - as the outside of a horse".

This is the view our vets get when they are
riding at the ranch.

