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THE BEST RIDE OF MY LIFE

**It came right after I told my buddy,
“Please, *please*, never pray for me again!”**

For 13 years I rode the Canadian rodeo circuit as a bull/bronco rider and calf-roping champion. I led a pretty loose life, which I’m not proud of—as did most of my rodeo buddies.

My wife, Wendy, usually traveled the circuit with me. We’d drive all night and rodeo all day, sleeping with our infant daughter in the back end of our truck between bales of hay. How my little family put up with all this is still a mystery to me.

Some of my cowboy buddies became members of the Christian Rodeo Association and urged me to join. One of the Christians I deeply respected let me know that he was praying daily for me.

One night, before I rode in a bareback event, he told me he was

especially praying that I would get a “good ride.”

Unfortunately, I drew a horse that was famous for being downright mean. He threw me so high I felt like an astronaut. When I landed, I broke my arm in two places. As I was being loaded into the ambulance, my praying buddy tried to comfort me. I told him, “Please, *please*, never pray for me again!”

But down in my heart, I appreciated his prayers. I needed all the help I could get to live a better lifestyle. While my arm was healing, I gave my heart to Christ.

Soon I was singing and preaching in Baptist and charismatic churches.

* *Don Harris is an evangelist for Native Ministries Northwest.*

Later I became pastor/preacher of a wonderful Sundaykeeping group of native folks in Chetwynd, British Columbia.

I always felt that I needed more education to help me with my ministry, so I prepared to go to a non-denominational seminary. But just then an Adventist evangelist came to town, and my wife suggested that I attend the meetings to see what I could learn. Well, through Evangelist Ron Johnson's presentations, I learned a lot! The clear truths of Scripture were there, and I couldn't deny it.

I went through a real struggle when I had to tell my native congregation that this was my last Sunday with them, as I was going to be baptized a Seventh-day Adventist. I have never seen so many tears shed, mine included.

Three weeks later, I began

preaching my first series of Adventist evangelistic meetings in the little town of Hudson Hope, British Columbia, not far from where we lived. I was so excited to be sharing what I had learned! I've been holding evangelistic meetings ever since. My wife and I often had no idea where the money was coming from, but the Lord has always provided. And after I went to Alaska to work with Leo Scriven to gain more experience, Native Ministries Northwest invited me aboard to work full time in evangelism.

I've been preaching the Adventist message on the road, now, for two years, and God has blessed. I couldn't do anything else. I still have a lot to learn, but I'm getting there.

I can honestly say that working full-time for the Lord has become the most awesome ride of my life! □

