**Cowboy Church Hospitality**

For a cowboy church to reach its greatest potential it must have an open, loving, nonjudgmental atmosphere that can be felt by members and visitors alike. Having people in place to intentionally ensure that hospitality is extended to everyone is a great way to have that kind of atmosphere.

**Greeters**

 Having designated people to stand around the doors of the church to shake hands, greet people or hand out church bulletins sets a friendly tone to everyone who comes to church. Greeters that are horseback in the parking lots or around driveways is another way to show hospitality in a culturally relevant way.

**Roping Dummies**

 Having plenty of roping dummies around the church on Sunday mornings for the kids to rope on can bring a culturally relevant family atmosphere to the church yard.

**Coffee**

 You cannot underestimate the importance of having coffee available at all church functions, especially the worship service. Coffee is a part of the Western culture and having plenty on hand is very important. Having doughnuts available around the coffee pot on Sunday morning is another way to show hospitality.

**Gift Bags**

 Having a small sack of church related trinkets that visitors can pick up and take home with them is something that many churches use to make people feel good about coming for the first time. In the same way, ***new member gift bags,*** that contain church memorabilia, such as, T-shirt, bumper sticker or window sticker, ball cap etc. along with a Bible is a great way to show hospitality and appreciation to new members.

**Mail outs**

 Sometimes we let the cost and time of using snail mail keep us for thinking about using it to show hospitality. If your church has a way for visitors to let you know that they came and they give you an address, a small card in the mail is a great way to make them feel appreciated for coming. A letter welcoming a new members to the church family is also a great way to show hospitality.

**Warning:**

 Too much emotion can be a negative. Many people in the cowboy culture are independent, private people and can be turned off by too much outward expression of emotion. Some churches allow the family atmosphere that was created in the start up to become a barrier to cowboy church seekers. Hugging and hand holding with people they don't know can make lost cowboys very uncomfortable. Like everything else we do in cowboy church, even hospitality needs to be culturally relevant.