



# Guardian's Newsletter



Many people love horses but never get the opportunity to own one. An equine companion can be an incredible gift but it can also be a big commitment.

Before finding a calling to serve in the field of developmental disabilities, Clint Brooks worked for many years with race horses. In March, Clint took the leap to become a horse owner. Since then he has been able to share his expertise and love for equines with Alex and Zeke who live with him as well as with other participants that he has work with at ABLED.

Alex and Zeke are learning to take the time to build a strong relationship with the horses boarded at a stable in Denton. They have developed a structured daily routine to exercise and feed the horses which includes cleaning stalls, filling water buckets, applying ointment, brushing and lunging the horses. Lunging is a training exercise which drives the horse in a circle. This helps the horse burn energy and teaches obedience.

All the hard work pays off with trust and the opportunity to ride. Alex and Zeke have enjoyed rides walking through Pioneers Park on a lead rope with Clint but one day they hope to have the skills to ride alone.



Isaiah  
61:10

"For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and covered me with a robe of His righteousness."

*Thank You* for joining us in our mission.

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## FEEDBACK

We want to make ABLED the best agency. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve, please let us know. Your survey comments are anonymous, unless you choose to submit your name. The link is available at the top of this email.

## ABLED's MISSION

"Serving Jesus Christ by enabling developmentally disabled individuals to creatively explore and live full meaningful lives in their communities."





Have fun.  
Share photos.  
Enter a drawing.  
Win a gift card.  
Enjoy a treat.





*Happy Summer*

## PRIMARILY HUMAN

There are many ways we identify Jesus – the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, the True Vine, the Bread of Life, and so forth. What sets apart the title “the Son of Man” however, is that this is the way Jesus identifies himself the most in the Gospels. “A son of man” is an Aramaic and Hebrew expression simply meaning human, and so one possible way to understand Jesus referring to himself as “the Son of Man” is “the Human”. Those who are of the faith believe that Jesus is anointed as the truest example of how we were meant to live; this includes one of the most fundamental aspects to our existence – how we relate to ourselves.

We all miss the mark at times of living out our truest potential as humans created in the image of Christ, and one of those ways is the identity in which we draw up our sense of purpose and value. Many identities in this world desire to consume our focus, be it political affiliation, gender, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, occupation, material things, maybe even what church, or denomination we belong to. Although these various ways we identify might serve a function, they are of secondary importance and will not ultimately quench our thirst.

What we can learn from the example of Jesus is what should serve as the primary focus for our self-understanding and that is simply in our humanity. When we do this, we identify interchangeably in the one whose life we believe to be the very essence of humanity restored.

In his writings, the Apostle Paul uses the imagery of “putting on Christ” or “being clothed in Christ”. As we read in the story of humanity’s initial fall in the Garden of Eden, we have a habit of settling for lesser things to clothe ourselves in; but what God offers us is something abundantly more fitting given the surpassing value each person has. In Christ, all members of humanity are extended the invitation to have a place at the right hand of God and to be clothed in Christ’s redeeming work. By accepting this invitation and continuously focusing on this as our solid foundation of value and purpose, we are able to walk on those waters of chaos and be unshaken by the waves of futility that so often threaten to take us under.

Remember that we are God’s workmanship created in Jesus – prepared in advance to see the image of his only begotten son in one another, and to extend value to those who this world for too long has determined to be the least of these. May we all be clothed in this same Spirit of Christ, and like him, be centered on caring for the whole person.



### MANDT TRAINING

The Mandt System helps develop a culture that provides for the emotional, psychological, and physical safety for everyone involved.

ABLED staff will complete this two day training. Training dates;

July 7 & 8

July 21 & 22