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## **History of Rockin' M Cowboy Church**

by Doris Garling

In early 2014, a group of 20 like-minded and devoted followers of Christ gathered to study the Bible and fellowship with one another. After much prayer and time spent meeting and working with one another, this group was led to find a location to serve as a gathering place. The Western Events Center (609 W 116th St) in Perkins, OK, was rented to host the meetings. On May 18, 2014, the first Bible Study for the group and several visitors was held at the Event Center.

Shortly after that first meeting, the name "Christian Cowboy Ministry" was chosen to represent this group of people. As the gatherings grew, guest preachers were asked to share God's Word. Soon, official designation as a church was sought as the Ministry aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention of Oklahoma.

On November 8, 2014, a charter member celebration was held as this body of believers officially became Rockin' M Cowboy Church. The "M" denoting the ministry intent of the church. A new location was soon chosen for the church to meet. The "Old Church" in the Oklahoma Territorial Plaza in Perkins became the home of Rockin' M and continues in that capacity today. The church also purchased 17 acres of land at the corner of Highway 33 and Union Rd, intending to construct a building and facilities at an appropriate time in the future to serve as the church's base for ministry.

Many guest preachers have brought the Word to Rockin' M, but the first permanent preacher was Bob Copeland, former Director of Missions for the Cimarron Baptist Association. Upon Brother Bob's retirement, Jimmy Nance was called to fill the position of pastor. Rockin' M then spent a period without a permanent pastor. The church continued to meet while trusting in the Lord's timing, provision, and plan. In June of 2020, after an extended time of guest preaching at the church, Tom Smith became the new pastor at Rockin' M Cowboy Church and continues to fill that role today.