



2020 – January – Malachi

“But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great thing he has done for you.”

1 Samuel 12:24

How does one describe faithful service? When we read through the Old Testament of the Bible, we find that some of Israel and Judah’s kings were good and some were not so good. Some started out good but ended their career by doing “what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” Others didn’t start out right with the Lord but then did better in the end. Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, became the king of Judah when he was twenty-five years old. He reigned for twenty-nine years. The Bible says in 2 Kings 18 that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord and he even removed the high places where idol worship took place. “He trusted the Lord God..... He held fast to the Lord: He did not depart from following Him but kept His commandments which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him..... (vs. 5-7)

Some of the horses here at True Vine Equestrian Center are a picture of faithful service. Malachi is one of those steady, faithful horses.

Malachi is a Peruvian Paso horse. He was born in Argentina in 1989. While there he was trained to be a cutting horse. A cutting horse works cows, matching every move of the cow to separate one from the herd. At some point in his life Malachi was sold one or more times and ended up in Lawton, Michigan with a doctor and his family.

In 2009 the doctor allowed True Vine to use Malachi as a lesson horse. He had quite a bit of energy, so only advanced students rode him to begin with. A few years later Malachi was donated to True Vine and he became steadier with each passing year. His size also made him a great therapy horse for the special needs students who needed side walkers. His smooth, easy gait was not only fun to ride, but to watch as well. Over the past five years Malachi has helped many young riders become independent!

In 2018 two younger, well-trained horses were donated to True Vine Equestrian Center. After praying about which horses to retire, it was decided that Malachi, who was now twenty-nine, needed a less demanding life. We began to pray, asking God to provide the right home for him.

In August, Malachi ended his long, faithful service at True Vine and went to a new home! He is big brother to two miniature donkeys with a loving family. Grandchildren give him just the right amount of work!