



October 26, 2018

### Ministry Jottings: We Manage the Ranch

**“This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove themselves faithful stewards.” -- I Corinthians 4:1-2**

**“Under New Management”**. The brightly colored banner was strung across the entrance to a dude ranch outside of Dubois, Wyoming. Us locals knew the place and would often go over in the off season. We were hoping that it would be as good as with the past managers, who had been there for many years and had a fine reputation. Unfortunately, while the new managers had done a lot of sprucing up of the buildings, the food in the restaurant wasn't very good and service was poor. The horse wranglers weren't very knowledgeable or kind to new riders, and the other employees didn't really seem enthused about being there. The new managers had to close the dude ranch after just one year.

The absentee owners wanted to succeed. But the management team failed miserably. They did not take their responsibility seriously. Their job was to represent the owners' interests by providing guests with an outstanding experience. If they had succeeded in their roles as caretakers and hosts, they would have succeeded, and positive word would have spread. They probably could have flourished for many years.

We have been appointed as managers or caretakers of all that God owns. Stewards are guardians who watch over, give oversight to, and care for the resources the Lord has entrusted to them. We are given authority to manage, and are accountable to God for that management. We, as managers of God's ranch, are to be found faithful, trustworthy, and grateful in carrying out our roles.

In Christ's grace,

*Pastor Deb*