

## TOBY A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

It was nine years ago when Mark Moore was in my office. Mark was a true American hero. He was an officer and prisoner of war in WWII. Later he became a university president, and founded African Nazarene University in Nairobi, Kenya. I told Mark that I wished I could do one thing significant in my life. His response was, "You have a horse, don't you?"

Mark refused to tell me what he meant by that statement. He only said that I would figure it out. I got a professional trainer to train and show Toby in reining horse competition. After Toby won first place under 12 judges in a row, including the Kansas State Fair, the American Paint Horse Association awarded Toby the Register of Merit in open reining. My wife, Sharon, and I stopped showing Toby and started the Toby Ministry.

We went to Wal-Mart and bought \$100 gift cards. The cards were placed in an envelope with a picture of Toby along with his P.O. box address and a note stating that there were no strings attached. Volunteers called "agents" were recruited and trained on how to give the gifts to needy people they met. From the cards and letters sent to Toby, we knew the ministry was successful. Sharon and I set a goal of trying to raise \$10,000. This goal proved to be not nearly high enough. Toby has now given away over \$185,000 and has 80 "agents."

Three years ago we expanded the ministry to Costa Rica and then to Nicaragua. On our second trip to Nicaragua, we visited a community we helped financially last year. What a difference! The people were healthier because of the instruction in the use of soy and the seed bank provided. The animals were healthier because of the medicine kits given to the vets. The children were healthy and happy. They were so grateful, they even changed the name of the community to TOBY-COMUNIDAD.

I told Mark that he didn't mean Toby at all. He just meant for me to use whatever I had. He told me I passed his course and showed me a picture of the base of the clock tower in Africa. The picture showed the words he had engraved into the base, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." When Mark died at age 89, I had his words placed on Toby's horse trailer.

The people of Nicaragua asked if Toby could come visit them next year. Rather than a visit, it would be better if a foal bred by Toby could be given to them. If you have a mare you could donate, I would love to have her. Toby is a public charity with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. So your donation would be tax deductible. Please write me at: Toby, P.O. Box 834, Baldwin City, KS 66006. You can e-mail me at [jim@peopleshorse.com](mailto:jim@peopleshorse.com).

Jim Borgeson  
Toby's Horsekeeper