

After becoming a Christian, Suzanne began managing a riding school in Johannesburg, South Africa. Initially, the school was running at a loss. However, once she had committed it to the Lord to use for His purposes and asked for His guidance to make changes, she saw Him bless the business and turn it into a profitable enterprise.

She was made redundant after a few years. However, she had learned the importance of asking God for direction. She prayed about her next step and she was given a prophecy: "Head for the hills for rain is coming. The drought is over and past... I am prepared to answer my people... and as they wait upon me so I shall come down upon them". She and her husband felt God was calling them to set up a Christian holiday ranch in the hills in preparation for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Their vision was to teach a biblical approach to riding, and witness and minister to clients. The aim was to use aspects of horsemanship as parables to illustrate scriptural truths and draw people closer to God. Shortly after the ranch was established, revival broke out in South Africa.

In September 1993, Suzanne began to feel the Lord was calling her to England. She felt very stirred about the young people of England. She found a suitable piece of land on which to build a ranch similar to the one she and her husband had run in South Africa.

They moved to England, bought the land and opened the school with only four horses, two stables, a tack room and an arena. Suzanne and her family lived in a mobile home. A year later, the sale of the property in South Africa paid for the building of an indoor riding school in the UK – nothing more. Suzanne prayed, listened, waited in faith for answers and obeyed whatever God told her, to see her vision through to completion.

The building of her £15,000, 'miracle' arena, cost only £1,000. Out of the blue, she received a phone call. The caller offered her half the necessary building materials. For the other half – gravel – she literally felt the Lord tell her where to start digging. Her road and car park were built for free and fencing materials were supplied for very little cost. As the riding school began to thrive, Suzanne and her family earned the money to build more stables, chalets for guests and a livery yard as well as a house for themselves.

Today, the ranch is fully functioning and financially independent. The riding school is always fully booked up with an additional waiting list. When clients book lessons or holidays Suzanne asks them what they are looking for and tailors their time with her accordingly. Some come for riding activity and fun, some for serious dressage lessons, others for rest and relaxation, healing

and prayer or simply family holidays with fishing and walking; there is no obligation to be involved with horses.

Suzanne has written two books about her biblical approach to riding: *The Biblical Approach to Basic Horsemanship* and *Dare to Follow*. The second book is designed to encourage others in their faith and spur them on to enjoy the fruits of an obedient life.

Last year, the Association of British Riding Schools presented her school with the Riding School of the Year Award for the school with the highest number of examination passes. In addition, she has established an international organisation, Christians in Horsemanship, to promote the teaching of riding from a biblical perspective in both the UK and overseas. As a result, Suzanne has received invitations from all over the world to run workshops for instructors in France, Latvia, South Africa and the US. She will be making some of these trips later on this year. This sort of travel is funded by the ranch.

Suzanne also has a gift for healing and often receives

invitations to minister in various churches. She is now looking to minister in that area on a full-time basis and the riding school business is thriving sufficiently to support her as she makes that move.

Suzanne testifies that where God has given a vision, He will equip us with the labour and resources to see it through. She attributes her success to the time she has spent listening to God and seeking His will so that she can walk in obedience. She prays about every decision and says that she believes it is impossible to make a mistake in business if we have come before God and heard His direction

correctly. He is the only one who knows all the facts and He wants to be involved in the detail of our lives so that we may glorify him.

She draws a parallel between sport and the spiritual walk. She says that just as you have to practise for at least two hours a day to excel in a sport, if you want to hear God, be able to discern His direction and see His miracles you must be willing to put in a good amount of time with Him. She has spent years seeking to live out the scripture "If any man thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow streams of living water" (John 7:37 RSV). She believes wholeheartedly that the more time we spend with God, the more He is able to use us: in business, ministry and in our own lives. ■■

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