

# **The Saddest Story of All**

## **by Sandra Gayle Campbell**

*This is a skit with a grandpa and grandson. It takes place on a ranch out by the corral. They are looking at the horses. They can stand and talk, lean on something like a fence or prop up against something.*

**Grandson:** *(The grandson should be a teenager.)* When did you get that one, Grandpa? *(The grandson points towards one of the horses.)*

**Grandpa:** When you were about four. I purchased that one at the local auction. That sorrel came from Mr. Harrison's ranch. The bay over there was rescued from the animal shelter.

**Grandson:** I like hearing the stories about your horses, Grandpa. May I ask you what the story is behind what you and those men were talking about at the church business meeting last night? You sure sounded upset when you were talking about the Cooperative Program.

**Grandpa:** I had good reason to be upset. Things have gotten a little tight in the economy and the church budget is beginning to reflect it. Money isn't as easy to come by nowadays. We need to trim the budget, not spend as much. Ole Joe said we could still live pretty high on the hog if we just cut out the money the church gives through the Cooperative Program. He had a good number of people believing him, too, until I stood and reminded them the Cooperative Program is the lifeline of the Southern Baptist Convention. I told them I believed God had led our leaders to put together the best way of funding our priorities as Southern Baptists. As a Southern Baptist Church we are committed to those priorities and we'd better not just give lip-service, or worse yet, a token for support.

**Grandson:** Maybe they were thinking if all the money was given away, there wouldn't be enough here at home.

**Grandpa:** That's exactly what they thought, son. But, they are wrong. God says that we are to be a people who trust him. We are to walk by faith not by sight. Why, I'd never listen to a preacher that didn't preach the fact that you can't out-give God! We, as a church, need to remember that.

**Grandson:** I never thought of it that way - that we should give in good times and in bad times - because God will provide.

**Grandpa:** *(Looking off in the distance)* Do you see those two horses standing next to each other by the fence post?

**Grandson:** You mean the colt and the stallion?

**Grandpa:** Yes. Which one do you think is older?

**Grandson:** Oh, that's easy. It's the big brown stallion. The Paint is just a baby.

**Grandpa:** Of all the stories I could tell you, paint's is saddest of all. He came out of champion stock. His father stood a full hand taller than all my other horses. Yeah, the paint was destined to be the greatest stallion I've ever had.

**Grandson:** Was? I don't understand? Couldn't he still be?

**Grandpa:** No, you see paint is old enough to be the stallions father. That's as big as he's ever gonna be right now.

**Grandson:** What happened?

**Grandpa:** His mother was hit by a car when he was three months old. He needed all of the rich resources his mother had in her milk. Just when he was in his prime - that resource was cut off.

**Grandson:** Couldn't you bottle feed him?

**Grandpa:** We tried everything. *(Shaking his head)* Getting cut-off from his life's blood kept that horse from ever growing to the potential God had given him. You know, that's the way it is with the Cooperative Program. It is the life line between Southern Baptists and the world. We have more ministers in more countries than we ever had. What do you think would happen if the money from the Cooperative Program was stopped or was drastically cut?

**Grandson:** The world wouldn't hear about Jesus.

**Grandpa:** I hope the church understands that, Grandpa, and they don't cut out the Cooperative Program.

**Grandpa:** Me, too, son. You hungry? *(Putting his arm around the grandson's shoulders)* Let's go see if we can get Grandma to rustle us up some groceries! *(They walk off together.)*

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