

THE POST

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EMBRACE EQUINE MINISTRY

www.embraceequineministry.org

SEPTEMBER 2019

| ISSUE NO. 7

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2019

-EMBRACE Staff Retreat

NOVEMBER 2019

- Winter Break Begins
Nov. 24th

In this Issue

Golden
Moment, p. 2

EMBRACE
Testimony, p. 3

Who We Help, p. 4

Becoming Partners
Article: p.5

For the One

By Samantha Means



Every week a van pulls into the parking lot and out pile a handful or two of teenage girls. If they're new, their faces are tight with resentment and anxiety, and their shoulders are rigid with self-protection. If they've been with us before, they typically jump out of the sliding doors with a pep in

their step, a smile as wide as the blue Idaho sky and their arms open for a hug. It's the difference between one who has yet to meet Jesus, and one who has already encountered Him.

Each of these girls is in recovery from some addictive substance or another, and most of them have a dual diagnosis like bipolar, depression, or PTSD. When they come to EMBRACE, all we see are the faces of children who likely don't know their heavenly Father yet. Our job is to introduce them by showing them His love and inviting them to know Him more. We put them on a horse and teach them things like balance, hand-eye coordination, trust and mindfulness. They typically learn basic

ONE, page 2

ONE, cont'd...

horsemanship during mounted exercises, and they always learn how to have sober fun. Laughter is a key factor in our ministry. However, neither of those are our primary goal.

Before they leave us we ask them what they learned most from their time with us, whether it was in three weeks or six weeks. Their answer, in more than 90% of cases, is some variation of: "God loves me, and I need to be in a relationship with Him." The gospel message is woven into the fabric of every aspect of our instruction because we believe it is the most important lesson.

What good is mindfulness if, in the present moment, a teenager doesn't know how loved they are by their heavenly Father? What good is trust if they don't know the One who will never fail them even when the rest of the world has? When you realize you were created with a purpose and born to fulfill a specific plan laid out by a perfectly loving God who turns all things out for the good of those who love Him, suddenly even the most difficult of circumstances are worth fighting through. Suddenly the fight to be free from addiction, abuse and destructive thinking becomes a fight worth fighting. Nothing other than the love of Jesus Christ demonstrated on the cross is powerful enough to change the hearts and minds of the broken.

When the love of God is known, the power of God is experienced, suddenly the most broken and lost one of all becomes a testimony to the loving power and grace of God who then receives all the glory He's due. One soul saved is worth every barrier we fight through. And when we fight with love, no barrier stands a chance. We love for the one.

GOLDEN MOMENT

"Blind Trust"



Learning Balance on Abe, 2019 © EMBRACE

Each month the Post will feature a favored photo from one of our many horse sessions.

Deborah and Missy, 2018 © EMBRACE



DEBORAH'S TESTIMONY

"I've known most of these women for at least three years and over the last three years of being a part of their heart, I have seen so many transformations. This is not just about overcoming fear and learning to trust God. It's about empowering women to be confident in who they are and in who God has called them to be and created them to be. They are so passionate about helping women overcome the traumas and the past hurts in their lives so that they can fully embrace who they have been created to be. God has a plan and purpose for each and every one of us and sometimes we have to dig deep to find out who that is. These beautiful and amazing women help people do that. I love them and I trust them. They are incredibly beautiful."

WHEN do we need you:

Thursdays, March—November 2019
Serving women from UGM
11am—4:00pm

Tuesdays, March—November 2019
Serving youth in substance abuse recovery
11am—4:00pm

WHO are we looking for:

- 2 Horse Session Leaders
- 2 Craft Leaders, supplies & projects provided
- 2 Childcare wranglers, kids ages <1 to 4 years

Call our volunteer coordinator, Becca Ward: 208-920-3422
or fill out a Volunteer Application on our website!

Volunteers Make the Difference

WE NEED YOU



EMBRACE BOARD & STAFF

PRESIDENT | Renae Buck
embraceequineministries@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT | Colleen Ripatti
contact@embraceequineministry.org

SECRETARY | Tawnya Bennett
embraceequineministries@gmail.com

TREASURER | Julie Behnke
contact@embraceequineministry.org

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR | Becca Ward
contact@embraceequineministry.org

OUTREACH COORDINATOR | Julie Behnke
contact@embraceequineministry.org

MEDIA/MARKETING COORDINATOR |
Samantha Means | photo credit
media.embraceequineministry@gmail.com



BECOMING PARTNERS

Each month one of our staff will provide a horse training tip and reflection.

Softness | By Julie Behnke

As horse men and women we search for softness. What is softness? For me, its when the horse goes with us willingly and does not brace against us. It is a relationship built on trust, not fear. As human predators we tend to be so direct, focused, and task oriented that we spend more time getting the maneuver or training plan accomplished than we spend on our relationship with the horse. The key to softness is to always approach the horse with a kind touch motivated by a gentle heart. This reminds me so much of the relationship that Jesus wants with us. He comes to us with mercy, compassion, grace, hope, joy and love. He wants us to reflect Him. He wants us to desire to follow Him, to surrender to His beautiful way for our life. He will not force us, because He knows that with force there would be no relationship. When sharing the gospel reflect Jesus. Take a moment to transform your direct approach to an approach motivated by a gentle heart. Same message, different approach.

Training Tip:

When you first approach and touch a horse, allow your inner being to have this softness. It only takes a moment and the horse will take notice and respond in kind (with softness). Take just a moment to slow down, be still, and listen to the horse. We all do directness to perfection. We march out to the horse, capture the horse, tie up the horse, brush briskly, throw on a pad and saddle, cinch up, and then begin working on your training plan... sound familiar? Did you take time to notice anything about your horse? Possibly a little brace? Did his skin flinch or eye harden? Did you see the tightening of his nostril? Or did you just power forward without listening to your horse partner? Take notice. Change your plan of attack to a plan of relationship. Softness starts with you. The horse will reflect that softness and a willingness to want to be with you. Relationship will prevail.

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...” -Colossians 3:12