

THE POST

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EMBRACE EQUINE MINISTRY

www.embraceequineministry.org

AUGUST 2020

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Upcoming Events

AUGUST 2020

— Daybreak sessions on hold

SEPTEMBER 2020

— EMBRACE equine retreat

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It's Not About the Horse

By Samantha Means



Tuesday Session, 2020 © EMBRACE

Horses are mentioned more than one hundred times in the King James Bible. Horses were used to represent the power and authority of kings (2 Kings 6:14-15). They were seen as symbols of strength—if the Lord said he was going to destroy horses and chariots it was seen as a mighty act (Micah 5:10).

Horses are also used in the New Testament referring to the bit and bridle controlling horses, so we need to control our tongue (James 3:2-3). Best of all, Jesus chose to come back someday on a white horse (Revelation 19:11).

Of all the animals he could have chosen, the Lord has a special place in his heart for horses, and he has a purpose for them in his Word and in the world. Once again our equine ministry is experiencing a lull due to COVID-19 impacting some of our participants. As much as we and the Lord love horses, God is using this time to remind us that our ministry, His ministry, is not about the horse.

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THE HORSE, cont'd...

Jesus came to seek and save the lost and bring them into relationship with Him. We use the horses God has blessed us with to draw the lost into a connection, a relationship. When they experience the benefit of connecting with such a gentle and powerful animal who asks nothing from them in return, they begin to see the possibility of connecting with God who receives them just as they are.

At EMBRACE, the horse is a conduit—the real goal is relationship with Jesus Christ.

The beauty of ministry is that it doesn't depend on a system or formula in order for the Good News to be shared. EMBRACE uses God's gift of the horse to bring relationships alive through a Christ-centered experience. When our sessions are on hold, our ministry is not. We get to share the love of Jesus, speak truth and refute lies in our marriages, families, among friends and co-workers, as well as with strangers at the grocery store.

We love our horses, and we are always amazed at the ways God uses them to reveal His love and glory with people. As we connect with our community when ministry days are on hold, we continue to be amazed at the ways God uses whatever we offer Him. Whether it's our time, our words, or material possessions like food, a vehicle, or a greeting card, He will take anything we want to use to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others and shine through it.

What will you use today?

DID YOU KNOW?

Shopping on Amazon is another way you can donate to EMBRACE!

When you visit smile.amazon.com you can choose to donate a percentage of your purchase to a nonprofit of your choice, and EMBRACE is one of your choices!

Every penny matters to our ministry, so when you make those orders on Amazon, just type smile.amazon.com and choose EMBRACE Equine Ministry as your nonprofit of choice to donate those pennies to!

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CURRENT NEEDS

- Prayer for our Tuesday participants. After several staff and clients tested positive for COVID-19 the girls have been in lockdown and unable to come to EMBRACE and receive the gospel.
- PA system for fundraisers & events; \$750.00 | funds toward system
- Prayers: continued unity within our ministry, protection over our horses, families and supporters, precision during ministry sessions.

WHEN do we need you:

- Thursdays, March—November 2020
Serving women from UGM
12pm—4:00pm
- Tuesdays, March—November 2020
Serving youth in substance abuse recovery
12pm—4:00pm
- One Saturday per month, June—August, 2020
Serving Children's Village
2pm—4pm

WHO we are looking for:
Horse Session Leaders, Childcare, & Craft Leaders (supplies & projects provided)

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



EmbraceEquineMinistry  

Renee, Eevy, and Deuce, 2020 © EMBRACE



GOLDEN MOMENT

Each month we'll feature a photo that stood out from one of our sessions

“Creating Warriors for Christ in Relationship”



Mary and her husband, 2020

MARY CARPENTER

Volunteer of the Month

Mary joined EMBRACE in March of 2020. She works full time as a physical therapist in Spokane, and is an active servant in her community. Mary has completely reorganized her work and community service schedule to be able to come to EMBRACE on Tuesdays and share the gospel with the teenagers in addiction recovery.

Mary has an inspiring passion to heal the heart, mind, and soul of the lost. She actively supports local missions like HRC to stop slavery in Spokane, and she is a prayer warrior inspiring every volunteer in EMBRACE to continue to keep our eyes on Jesus in every season of ministry.

Mary, we are so blessed by your heart and your willing hands to serve with us!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A glimpse at one of our sessions in July: "Who Do You Walk With?"



BECOMING PARTNERS

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

Bumps in the Road | By Renae Buck

Life has many ups and downs. We navigate the ebb and flow of circumstances to the best of our ability. We learn from mistakes (hopefully), and we reach out to those who have gone before us for wisdom and direction. In down times we put one foot in front of the other to carry on, and in the ups we ride, hair flowing in the breeze with glee. Horse training can be very similar to life!

I recently had a training experience that grounded me—figuratively and literally! I approached a horse I barely knew calmly but with caution. I went through my ride prep routine (grooming, checking for body soreness, tacking up, lunging, and making sure the horse's mind was with me). When I got in the saddle something felt off. So I dismounted, readjusted my saddle, and went through my ride prep routine again. When I mounted this time things felt better, but I remained cautious. On the last ride this horse was fairly cooperative. There was no indication anything was different that morning. So I asked the horse to take a step forward. Resistance. I asked again, lightly bumping my heels (without spurs). In an instant, I felt like I was coming out of a bucking shoot with a full on bronc under me!

Three bucks and I was grounded! “WOW! What in the world happened?” My mind reeled as I stood and went to catch the horse as it bucked its way to the gate. When I got her, I made a couple of adjustments: I changed my bosel for a bit and bridle, and I moved from the arena to a smaller, safer location—my round pen. I worked the horse on the ground, and each time I got back in the saddle and asked for a few steps the horse threatened to become a rodeo star again. This time I sensed indications of an underlying, deep-seated, physical issue. We ended our training session with the horse in a good mental state.

When life throws a buck and we find ourselves on the ground, often we just want to lay there in the dirt and stop trying. It may seem the easier thing at the time, but it's not. For this particular horse the problem that caused all of that bucking was a problem that ran deep in her body. For some of us, derailments in life can often come from unhealed, deep seated harm that rears its ugly head, or from painful life circumstances. Either way, we have to get back up and move forward. We can't stay on the ground. This forward and upward movement can bring joy to life, displacing sorrow and defeat.

The horse was given the care she needed to get her body on the road to recovery. God also longs to give us what we need. He loves to pick us up. He holds tightly to us and he can be trusted to keep his promise (Hebrews 10:23). God helps us to the next victory and to the next mountain top, giving us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)! He empowers us, gives wisdom, strength, and he comforts us through it all!

Training Tip:

Caring for all aspects of your horse's well-being is critical for your horse, and for your safety as the rider. Know your horse, recognize their small tells of pain and discomfort, and don't get on a horse that's not mentally connected to you. Have a system that helps you check your horse before you ride, and it will prevent many mishaps! Knowing your horse can help the two of you have a successful, joy-filled partnership. A close relationship with Jesus Christ as your savior can help you navigate life's ups and downs and be joyful as well! God is faithful to carry us through everything as we lean into, trust in, and follow him. Stand up, move forward, learn from the pitfalls, and trust in God.