

# HORSEMANSHIP BIBLE CAMP

by Susan E. Hohman

Sometimes it takes awhile for our dreams to be realized. When Joe and Kristi Cargill were dating 19 years ago, they spoke of their dream to one day own and operate a Bible camp for kids who enjoy horses and riding. Seven years ago, Joe and Kristi had the opportunity to volunteer at Trail to the Cross Rodeo Bible Camp in Salem, MO. When they returned home, they knew it was time to put their own dreams into operation.



The Cargills took their vision to their home church, Swedeborg First Baptist, and the church quickly got on board with the project. Horsemanship Bible Camp just finished its sixth year of Bible camp during the second week of June. The camp takes place on the Cargill farm, located about three miles south of Swedeborg on Highway T, a short drive from Dixon. Eighty-three campers, ages 9-17 years, from as far west as Kansas, as far north as Kansas City, and as far south

as Arkansas came this year to spend the week at the camp.

The kids bring their own horses, if they have one, and participate in roping and barrel racing, as part of advanced

horsemanship. For those who do not own horses, the kids are offered classes in beginning horsemanship. A total of 125 people were fed at the camp from Tuesday through Saturday, which included approximately 42 volunteers.

Five and one-half hours of the day are spent in the arena, working with the horses, and the camp offers Bible study sessions both in the morning and in the afternoon. Horsemanship Bible Camp also provides an

object lesson at noon, and there is chapel service each evening. About the schedule, Joe Cargill emphasized, "We give a whole lot of Jesus, and a little bit of horse!" Camp Pastor for 2018 was Mark Tallant, pastor of Swedeborg First Baptist. One local young man, Kyle Bassett, son of Brent and Nichole Bassett, was awarded the "Christ-Like" behavior award for boys for the week. Three other awards are given: "Christ-Like" for girls, and runner-up for both boys and girls.



Although Swedeborg First Baptist hosts the camp, five other churches help sponsor the event: Cowboy Country Church, in Iberia, Harmony Baptist in Waynesville, Ulman Baptist, Westside Baptist of Waynesville, and Eureka Baptist of Richland.

Two other sponsors for the event are M & M Equipment of Richland, which donates portable panels for horse stalls and around the pens, and East 32 Meat Processing of Lebanon, which donates the butchering of a hog, providing food for the campers and staff.

Joe and Kristi Cargill's dream may have been a few years until fulfillment, but since its inauguration, Horsemanship Bible Camp has progressively grown. For more information about the camp, Joe can be reached at 573-855-5550, Kristi at 573-855-5511, or you can check out the Facebook page: Horsemanship Bible Camp.

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