**The Horse Whisperer of Kamanjab wants to Share Life Lessons**

I am Annerie Mare from Namibia Kamanjab ( Kunene Region) I would like to share with you my journey to America:

 I found out about Eagles Wings Educational Girls Home in 2011 while searching the web for information on a project I was doing for school. Once I knew that Eagles’ Wings existed it became what I refer to as “a dream place” for me -- as I looked at it, it drew my dreams and hopes up from within me. Eagles’ Wings used horses to teach young girls about life, themselves and God! All of it made my heart soar – I wanted to do the same thing in my own country. Since Eagles’ Wings is in the United States I figured this might be a little impossible for me but I still hoped and dreamed. Now, my heart beat more for what could be possible given that it seemed impossible (if that makes any sense to you.) I visited their website quite often to try to get more & more info out. I Decided I would contact them to find out if I could come to their summer camps – it was a long shot since I’m 7,500 Miles away! When I contacted them, their summer was already over. I was so disappointed – how did I not know that when our summer started in Namibia – it was the beginning of winter in the United States. But even in the disappointment, I still had the desire to attend these summer camps at Eagles’ Wings. I didn’t give up because something stirred in me. There was something about this place.

After 2 years of waiting I was now 18 years old and ready to for this flight over the Atlantic to a part of the world – that would change my life… forever.

2013 was my graduation year and everything fell into place! I was awarded a full work scholarship from Eagles’ Wings and now was the right time for me to take advantage of it! I attended their summer of 2013 for 3 weeks. I came to the United States by myself – not knowing anyone except the stirring in my heart to learn how to work with horses using horse whispering techniques to teach young girls. I wanted this for the girls in my country. The people at Eagles’ Wings Girls Ministries quickly became a second home for me. I attended for one month but my life truly was changed by what they teach and how they teach it. I learned so much about life, myself and my God through the use of horses as a tool to a girl’s soul. Chris and Jeannie Ramsey were like parents to me while I stayed with them at the ranch. Meeting everyone involved at Eagles ‘Wings had a big impact on my life as I was welcomed with open arms of love.

Eagles’ Wings camps are life changing camps that teach leadership and communication skills through horse whispering techniques (the horses language) and God. Girls ages 11-18 years of age are welcome. They are a faith-based non-profit organization located in Hedgesville, WV, USA. As girls learn about horses and how they interact in the herd they learn a variety of life lessons about human interaction and behaviors all the while learning to be effective leaders and communicators. Since fear (fight or flight) motivates most of the horses issues and human issues as well -- horses make for a very impressionable teaching tool.

Each program uses vital principles to help establish good healthy relationships and boundaries. Girls are able to communicate and listen to “what is really being said” with people and horses through evaluation techniques used in the language of the horse. For me, I liked the idea of learning the horse language and joining up. Since I have horses of my own – I wanted to be more advanced in how to communicate with them. I also really loved the fact that they incorporate biblical principles in every aspect of their camps because I am a Christian and have deep Christian values. So I went with an open spirit to learn and be equipped in every area of my own life. \*Physically, Spiritually and Emotionally.

After my life changing 3 weeks at Eagles’ Wings I was broken-hearted to go back to Namibia because I felt that the time went too fast and the impact was so great. I had so much more to learn – and I craved that time to learn. I was feeling the tug of destiny on my soul. So I prayed that God would allow me to return for their next summer in May 2014.

God answers pray! During an All African ACE(Accelerated Christian Education) Student Convention (Sept 2013) in Bloemfontein, South Africa, I was nominated (due to a long jump event) to participate at the International Student Convention in USA for the upcoming summer of 2014! God opened doors for me to tour the United States with the A.C.E team Africa and participate with 2,065 ACE Students from 25 different countries around the world, 140 events in five categories including Music, Speech/Drama, Athletics, Arts, and Academics. I represented ACE Namibia and carried my flag during the opening ceremony at the International Convention in Pennsylvania. USA. I was awarded 5th place with photography in 88 Student internationally. Then God had allowed me such an incredible opportunity to be back at Eagles’ Wings immediately following my International Student Convention. Eagles’ Wings was the next State over and it worked out perfectly. Right now I am at Eagles’ Wings Ministries for the summer of 2014 in West Virginia. I am a second year wrangler and am involved in all camps, lessons and ministry aspect.

Coming back to Eagles’ Wings this year is phenomenal, I learn so much about the horse language and how people can relate to these magnificent, herd animals. I have had so many incredible, breathtaking experiences at Eagles’ Wings as I continue to meet new people and learn the challenges that many, many young people face.

In short, camping out in the green forest, exploring a piece of myself as well as learning about life issues people deal with all of which they can be touched and begin a healing journey by the simplicity of falling in love with this magnificent creature- the horse and the Creator of it all.

I have learned a lot new things and am a totally different person, my perspective about my country (Namibia) has changed, my heart for young people has grown bigger and I developed an even bigger compassion for this generation that I am in. I have truly learned that what I say and what I do -- do count and I can make a difference in someone’s life.

I have learned the horse language and joining up and I know the importance of reading body language and how it affects the horse, as well as how body language and words affect people.

I have learned there is so much I can do to be a strong effective leader by being a better and stronger communicator. I continue to learn to have total trust in God and in his plan for my life but that I need to be very proactive in how I learn and apply myself. I have learned how to think critically and problem solve by evaluating situations and remaining calm. The relevancy of the horse whispering techniques has challenged me to recognize and work on negative behaviors and responses to everyday situations in my life with family members, friends, peers, and other adults. I am still learning how to become a better person – that might be a lifelong process.

Simply stated, I have learned that horses are straightforward with us, like the mirror to our souls, good & bad. They challenge us to choose either to change something about ourselves or attitudes toward life or to be caught up in fear. I have a heart for girls in Namibia and I want to have them experience what I experienced here at Eagles’ Wings in America. By taking the tools I have been handed and venturing down my own path I desire to equip the young girls in my own country with these tools; to aspire them to greatness through the love of horses and to teach them the value of their lives, hopes and dreams. I have a dream that is sheer determination for Namibian Girls – girls that would love to be around horses and would want to experience how God uses the horse to teach us about life and ourselves.

Although I am a wrangler at Eagles’ Wings and learning so much about leadership and how to help minister to the brokenhearted – I continue to be ministered to in a magnificent way that has changed my life forever and my hope, prayer and belief is that I can present Eagles’ Wings Ministries to the girls in my own country – Eagles’ Wings Namibia!