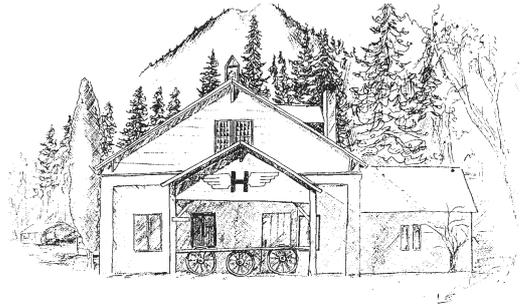


# Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop  
Naches, WA 98937



*"...turning the hearts..." Malachi 4:6 since 1962*

April 21, 2009

Dear Partners,

I want to tell you a "Boy Story." Brian graduated from the program last Thursday. Staff member after staff member gave a story of how they have seen Brian change. Before I tell you some of those stories, I need to relate to you where Brian was in his life before he came to the ranch.

Brian came to us in November of 2007, and was still high when he reached the Ranch. His older sister and her husband had invited Brian to go shopping with them, and he accepted the invitation. They deceived him into getting into the car because he was in a gang, which means he could access resources, and would have simply disappeared if he knew they were going to bring him here. Brian was very, very angry when he got here. Everyone else got out of the minivan, but Brian refused. He threatened me and anyone else that came close, and so we simply waited.

As I sat in the door of the minivan, I started asking Brian questions, and he started to answer. It ended up that Brian was afraid of many things. He was afraid he had permanently damaged his brain through drug and alcohol abuse. He was afraid for his life because of the gang, and carried a gun with him most of the time. Most of all, he was afraid there was no hope for him, that he had done too much and gone too far to ever have a normal life, or have the love of his mom ever again. He knew he had betrayed her. (His mom is a single parent.) Brian was on the edge of despair. When I asked if maybe, just maybe, God was providing the chance of a normal life, to reconcile with his mom, and provide hope for the future through the Ranch, Brian sat and thought. After a while, he started to get out of the minivan. He wanted to investigate this possibility of hope.

As Brian entered the program, the teachers saw why he was afraid for his brain. Some wondered if Brian would ever be able to do his work. He couldn't focus to the point of having a hard time reading. He continually fell behind. In math, he could only function at a fifth-grade level. In the program, Brian was a continuous problem. He was disruptive everywhere he went. He had no idea how to work or be productive. He was so slow at his evening chores that he often missed supper. He would do anything another boy dared him to do. He was a mess. But God was not and is not done with Brian.

As Brian graduated, the teachers were able to praise his diligence; he was on academic honor role! Other staff reported that not only was Brian dependable in his chores and at work, but he also counseled other boys on how to change and do well. (Brian tried to

hide the "counseling" he did. He didn't want the staff to know.) His mother was able to freely declare how much she loved her son; they had reconciled in the fall.

Was it a curse that Brian felt hopeless? No! It was a blessing. He would not have sought God if any of the things he had pursued and put hope in. Drugs, sex, the gang, all proved to be empty. Then again, those things aren't actually empty. Our enemy uses those things to suck people into the darkness, into despair. After all "... Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (I Peter 5:8b) We, the staff, understand the wonderful privilege of joining God in the work He does here at the Flying H Youth Ranch. I am thankful that you, too, know the privilege of joining God in the work He does here.

God bless,

*Bob*

Bob Hostetler, Director of Development

Note: This is my last Partner letter. My wife and I are moving back to Ohio in order to care for her mentally ill brother, mother that has brain cancer, and father that has heart disease. This is bitter-sweet. We look forward to honoring Kathy's mother and father (Matt. 15), but will miss ministry with the boys and parents we were privileged to be part of for the last 6½ years, like Brian and his mom. As a note of encouragement to both you and me, we know that God was at work here at the Flying H long before we got here, and will still be at work when we have moved on. My hope is that you will continue to pray for and support the Ranch. Those are ways of joining God in his work.

Praises:

- Brian graduated from the program!
- The Huysers are at 100% support! They are making plans to arrive this summer.
- Jim Fried, who has been battling depression, is doing much better. Thank you for your prayers.
- A George Fox Serve Team and Nehemiah Servants have been here the last two weeks, and have replaced a falling-down retaining wall, built a porch for one of the houses, painted at several residences, steam cleaned our carpets, and calked cracks in the concrete in the gym. We are thankful.

Prayer requests:

- We would like to do a couple of intakes this spring. Please pray for qualified applicants.
- Jim's continued recovery.
- Steve Alumbaugh will take over much of my job, as well as being the administrator. He will need your prayers for as long as he is leading the ministry.

**ANOTHER NOTE: You are invited to our open house and dedication for the new school building on May 16. We will celebrate with a picnic lunch for everyone after the dedication.**