



Flying H Youth Ranch 370 Flying H Loop Naches, WA 98937

Philippians

3:7 "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ"

One of the things we try to do at the ranch is have an upward directed focus. We see in Philippians, Paul exhorting them to do the same thing, in fact, he directs their gaze briefly towards his own abilities and achievements within a man centered basis and then destroys it. While being born in a Jewish tribe and circumcised on the eighth day et al may not resonate with us, the principle still stands, that nothing we are, in ourselves, brings about God's righteousness. We know that Paul counts the things of this world as nothing to hang onto for as he wrote: Phil. 3:13-14 "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

That's great you might say, but what does it have to do with the Flying H? Good question, glad you asked. Working with these young men we see that their gaze is directed toward the things of this world and the focus is on what they can get. It's

why advertising works. A newer, different colored, slimmer, bigger/smaller, with one more pixel than the last phone is promised to bring satisfaction, delight and even add some prestige. For there's always someone looking enviously at the person who has it in the ad, and oh, those shiny smiles they display. How about that college degree? Be smarter than the rest and the world is your oyster, every door is open to you and there is no end to what you can be in this life. In our world, the outward lure seems almost unending, promising that satisfaction craved for by all humanity and the message of Paul, the message of Jesus, of the cross seems so simple, so incomplete even obsolete in our day. Sort of a, that's quaint but have you seen this year's model truck, mentality.

I write this because this is part of the battle, this pointing upward to a way that doesn't always meet the felt needs and wants of the here and now. Because many times I'm finding my gaze horizontal instead of vertical, stuck in the pursuit of the eyes and forgetting the temporalness of the things of this earth. Because, this is a struggle that I can't win without God's help. If you've made it this far I ask for you to pray for the Flying H Youth Ranch. Pray that we as staff would be clinging to Christ in this work and all we do would flow from that. Pray for our boys to have soft hearts to the things of the Lord and that we would be wise in using the opportunities when they are presented. Pray for the upcoming 8 day hike, often a time boys can reflect on the things that brought them to the ranch.

In His Grip for the Flying H,

Brent Johnson

Praises:

- One of our staff men was coming down a hill in our backhoe. The brakes failed, and he ended up rolling the backhoe. Praise that he was okay, with NO injuries! We were able to get the machine back upright, and it only sustained some repairable damage.



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- We had a successful Elephant Ear booth at Nile Valley Days. The profits will help towards a new motor for the Wood Shop vac.



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- The pop booth was also a success! (See below for more info)
- DF will be finishing the program on August 8th. Praise he has finished strong. (prayer for him as he transitions back home)

Prayer Request/Need



- We were able to earn some money toward a new dump trailer by having a pop booth at the Nile Valley Days. Along with that money and a couple of other large donations, we are less than \$2000.00 (plus tax) away from being able to purchase this trailer. Would you consider giving toward this? We could use this for our hay hauling, and wood trips. It would help us in many



ways.

- The boys and 3 staff men will be going on the 8 day survival hike August 12th -19th, please pray for safety and for the boys hearts to be softened to the Lord.
- For the remaining staff, as the boys are on the hike, it allows for them to take vacation time. For safety and rest.