



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

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I thought I would take a turn with this newsletter and share an essay from one of our most recent graduates from our program and also from Hope Academy High School. I hope and pray along with all of you that as these boys leave our program that they would all put God's truth to work in their lives.

Andy's Essay:

### Beginning and End

As everybody knows a good story always has a beginning. In fact everything has a beginning; the beginning of earth, of life, and of civilizations, and like most people my story begins with birth. I was born January 29, 1995, in a hospital in Bremerton, having been born to a mother who abused herself in every way, even going to the point of attempted suicide. She had multiple men around, and always alcohol; but I have no memory of this except for what I was told. Taken by the state when I was a baby, I spent the early years of my life with my grandmother, who like a lot of people, didn't like to admit her age, so we called her Aunt Jackie. I say we because I was not alone; my younger brother was with me. My grandmother, and her daughters and daughters-in-law were practicing witches; I remember those nights when they lighted

candles to "change the weather". When I was about 6 years old, my brother and I were taken to a foster home where I think it finally became obvious to us we were extra baggage.

My time in the foster home was filled with misery and pain because my brother and I had a hard time fitting in with the other kids. We were moved, but this time it was because of abuse from the foster parents. My brother and I were separated this time; he was sent to a family that only had room for one, as was the same for me. I remember growing quite fond of the parents I was with. One time I was going to be given a surprise birthday party at school. Since it was a "surprise" birthday party, no one figured out to tell this poor 7 year old boy that he was going to be staying at school for his birthday party. As you can probably imagine that little boy was scared out of his wits, and ended up hiding in the closet for the whole party.



I can remember the day my brother and I were reunited; my foster mom told me we were going to see my brother, but she forgot to tell me that he had been adopted and that that same family wanted me. It took awhile, but soon after my 8th birthday adoptive mom gave me the best present anyone could give a kid, a family. I was shocked, but also scared, because I was afraid I would be sent away like the other three homes I had been in. For quite a few years I would drive my adoptive mom crazy to see just how long she would actually want me. Of course this caused a lot of family problems in my home; some were caused by me, others by my brother. I did this because I was scared that, like everyone else that I've known, my new mother would leave me, and I didn't want to deal with the pain of yet another person gone.

I now know that this was the wedge of separation that was growing between me and my mom. My mom and I started seeking help the moment we realized this was happening. We went to several psychologists, and the church, but for some reason I wasn't accepting what they were telling me. About a year before coming to the Ranch my mother found the Ranch's website, we discussed what we should do.

We came to an agreement that I would try one more thing, and if that didn't work then I would come here. I guess I did okay for a while; but eventually I became my old self, going into a silent mode, struggling for power, doing what I wanted, ignoring instruction, and generally causing a ruckus. My mom finally sat me down one night to tell me I was going to the Ranch, but she told me it would probably take a few weeks to get me into the system. Well God's hand was obviously in this because not even two days later I was leaving for the Flying H Youth Ranch.

After procrastinating as much as I could, I have learned to work hard here while being at the ranch. I have also been able to achieve something that was a worry to my mom, and I accomplished it faster than

thought possible for me, I am graduating from high school.

I think the most important improvement is that I can now finally talk to my mom without difficulty. My mom and I have now become very close and our relationship has been restored; we now can joke around and we enjoy hanging out. I never meant to hurt my mom, but I did. Now that we are close again I can make up all the lost time. I have worked hard to get to where I wanted to be, and I have finally succeeded, with the help from the Ranch.

After I leave the ranch I plan on joining the Air Force. I don't know if this is what God is planning for me, but I will head in that direction, and if God has something else for me He will tell me. As He has told us "A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9). I also plan on enjoying time with my mom, and siblings. I understand that I don't know about the long term future, but that will come later. My mom has recently asked me if I would like to look for my biological mother. I looked at my mom and said, "I wouldn't know why I would need to." I have been told that the best story has a beginning, middle, and end; but I believe that the Hebrew writers had it right; a story needs a beginning, end, and a new beginning. My past was a beginning, my life here is now at an end, but what is to come is a New Beginning.

*Andrew*





The following is a synopsis of how we did financially in 2012:

- Total Income decreased by 10.3% to \$515,378 while total expenses also decreased by 13.9% to \$509,471

- Missionary Support was down 0.1 % at \$226,373. Currently there are three families raising support; Ben & Autumn Creach Intern/Staff living and working on ranch, Adam & Holly Albright and Clay & Wendi Griffith (Please hold these families up in prayer as they continue to discover their support)

- Scholarship funds were up 9.8% at \$38,909 (helping our financially needy families keep their boys in the program- Thank you all for your generous gifts)

- Tuition paid by parents was down 32% at \$161,238 (still thanking the Lord for families and their ability to contribute)

- General contributions were up 61.4% at \$60,893 (Total Donations were up slightly 5.6% at \$333,634)



(If any of you would like a complete financial statement, please ask. We want to be absolutely open about how we handle your generous contributions.)

- Facilities Improvements:
  - Our Lodge new roof was installed and highly appreciated by all who attended our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
  - Our volunteer groups installed a covered porch over our ‘apple press’ area behind the lodge this past summer.

Again, we thank you very much for joining us in the Lord’s work at the Flying H Youth Ranch. We know that with continued prayer and financial support, as God leads and provides, the work with the boys will continue. We love these boys that God sends to us and our desire is to see them make heart changes that will last them a lifetime. Many of you send your financial support to help our staff families, and some of you send your funds to help a boy and family in need, but all of you we know are praying. To all of you, I want to say thank you again and again. We appreciate the opportunity of serving our Lord in this way.

In His Service,

# Steven L. Alumbaugh

Steve Alumbaugh

Administrator



### **Praises:**

- Thank You, to our volunteers that help in this ministry getting the everyday stuff taken care of.
- For the Flying H Youth Ranch Staff families that have all given of themselves to accomplish the ministry that God has placed before us.
- Our physical health, each and every staff family member.



### **Prayer Requests:**

- We are still looking for a vehicle to replace our 'town run' car. Maybe a 4-6 passenger car that is in decent shape to run boys or staff to town, that gets good gas mileage.



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