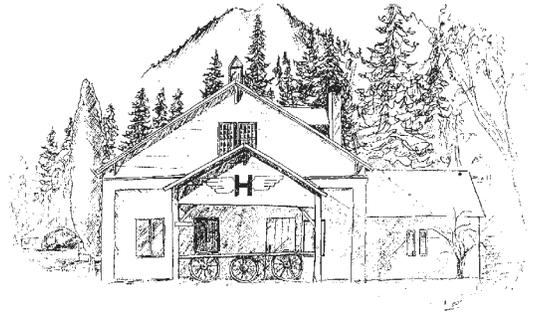


Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop
Naches, WA 98937



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

January 11, 2007

Dear Partners,

Happy New Year! We are ready to graduate three boys from the program. That is always exciting for us, because we remember what things were like when they first came! All three of these guys are going home. That's what we most desire, reunification. As they go home, our hearts go with them, and we sometimes are anxious for them as well. Let me explain. We get to see the boys change first-hand. We watch as they make poor decisions and end up carrying rocks for hours. We watch as they learn to make better decisions and earn more privileges. We watch as they seek peace with their mom and dad. The parents, on the other hand, talk to their son each week or so, and see him during home leaves. They don't get to see the changes as they happen, and may continue to relate to their son in the same way as they did before he was sent to the Ranch. As a consequence, the son may fall back into the old way of relating to his parents. In other words, they end up right where they started.

In order to avoid this pitfall, we assign the boy's mentor to mentor the parents as well. Ideally, the mentor contacts the parents each week, asks how they are doing with their own goals, and informs them how their son is responding in the program. We become an advocate for the boy to his parents, and an advocate for the parents to their son. An important goal of our mentoring is to keep mom and dad engaged in the changes happening in their son. A "boy story" might add some clarity to what I am describing.

I was mentor to a boy that we will call "Joe" and his parents. Each time Joe went home, he dropped into the old defiance he had exhibited when he lived at home. I wondered how he could be doing so well while he was here, and so poorly with his parents. To try to find out what the problem was, I decided to take Joe home for one of his visits. Joe's parents lived several hours away from the Ranch, so I got to observe Joe as we traveled along. As we got closer to his home, I saw Joe become anxious. I wondered what was wrong. The family had invited me to stay for a meal, which allowed me to observe Joe and his parents without their becoming paranoid. After all, we were on their turf. What I saw truly disheartened me. Both mom and dad launched salvo after salvo at Joe about his poor haircut, his pants being too low on his hips, how they were sure he couldn't be trusted with his little brother, how he couldn't possibly be a real Christian with all these problems. In other words they weren't trying to provoke Joe to love (Hebrews 10:24). Mom and dad were provoking Joe to anger! Suddenly I understood Joe's anxiety at coming home. I also understood his defiance. Joe's parents were unwittingly putting him in the same box that prompted his rebellion.

Phone: 509-658-2990 ~ Fax: 509-658-2009 ~ Website: www.flyingh.org ~ Email: youth@flyingh.org

Our culture seems to want us to believe that parents are not really very powerful. Joe's story is strong evidence of the real power a parent has. So, as you pray for these boys, please remember to pray for their parents as well.

God bless,

Bob Hostetler
Executive Director

Our praises:

- Many of the boys are responding to the love of the staff, and to instruction in the Word. We are thankful.
- One of our boys' father has come home from Iraq. We are thankful for both his service, and his safety.
- The lumber for framing the classrooms in the new school is bought and paid for! Thank you. God used you to make this happen.

Prayer requests:

- We are planning three graduations and four intakes. Please pray for the graduates, Turi, Travis W., and Jamahl as they transition back into their families, and for the intake families.
- Please pray for the boys staying in the program: Mackenzie, Rollie, Daniel C., Travis I., Kyle, Chris, Daniel S., Tyler, Jeremiah, Blaise, Matt. Whenever we get new guys in, there is a time of adjustment for all.
- Please pray for the Johnsons and Carliles during their first year here. This is front line kingdom work, and sometimes is very hard.

Needs

- Several years ago we gutted one of the bathrooms in the "Guest House" which is now the "Johnson House." We need \$500 to make it usable once again.
- We are now gathering up money for electrical and plumbing for the new school, which will run approximately \$18,000. (Praise God for volunteer labor, or we would need three times that much.)

