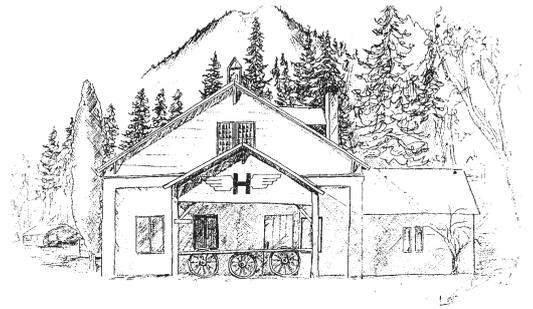


# Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop  
Naches, WA 98937



*“...turning the hearts...” Malachi 4:6 since 1962*

January 15, 2010

Dear Partners:

Happy New Year! I must say that I was shocked at being asked to write this month's letter. The reason being, as one of the mother's of small children on staff here at the Ranch, my hands-on experience in the program is very limited. I feel, however, that the Lord would have me share my own unique story of how He used the Flying H Youth Ranch in my life as a troubled teen in order to explain why I am thrilled to be a part of this ministry to these boys.

The summer I was 16, I came out to the Flying H to live with my relatives on staff, the Frieds (my mom and Patty are sisters), for two months. We had planned it a year in advance to be a fun summer to get away and work and play with my cousins. The Lord knew it would be more of a rescue mission than a pleasure trip.

The January before that summer I learned that my parents' marriage was in serious trouble. My dad was using mission trips to carry on an adulterous relationship overseas. However, because he and my mom had both agreed to go to counseling, I and my siblings were told to not talk about it, especially not at church.

I had grown up going to church, but up to that time, I was operating under a false belief system. Somehow I had come to believe that being a Christian meant that I was perfect in the sense that I was incapable of doing or being wrong. I had no concept of a walk with God. I had gone to Sunday school from the time I was born so I thought I knew what the Bible said and therefore didn't need to read it. I prayed often, but my prayers were short and selfish and shallow. The foundation of this false faith was my parents' marriage- My parents' were Christians; therefore they had a Christian marriage; therefore their marriage was in no way vulnerable to divorce. Needless to say, everything I had believed was completely shattered by this new, inescapable reality that I was wrong.

The Lord placed His call on my life shortly after this revelation. It was like He came alongside me and said to me, “Amber, you could turn to drugs or alcohol or boys to cope with this and take years working through all of that stuff just to come back to dealing with this. Or, you can come and walk with Me.” I chose the Lord at that point, but still had no concept of how to walk with Him. Not being allowed to talk about things with people from church wasn't helping me in that area either.

Needless to say, I came to the Ranch a hurting, confused girl. But, over the next two months, the Lord did things for me that He does for any young man here who will let Him, and in the process He changed the course of my life.

**First, in bringing me here,** He removed me from my unhealthy situation and brought me to a place where I could find His perspective. **The healthiest thing that happened was that I was finally able to talk about what was going on with Christians who could support me spiritually.**

**Secondly,** He surrounded me with a community of people who love God and love people. **I learned to walk with God as I watched my cousins loving reading their Bibles, and as I watched Aunt Patty and Uncle Jim depend on God in prayer. I received nothing but love and fellowship from the other ranch families and the local church community.**

**Lastly,** He returned me to my home a different person from the girl who left. **The problems that were there when I left were still there when I came back. In fact, within a year my parents' divorce was final. And through it all, Jesus carried me.**

**Had I not come to the Ranch and stayed home that summer, I am convinced in my own heart that the despair I was feeling would have led me down a path to suicide. Praise be to God! He truly is our God who saves us. So instead, He's taken me on a journey that has brought me right back here, taking part in His ministry to these young men. What a privilege!**

**Thank you for joining us through your prayers and support. We could not function without your involvement.**

**Amber Rodriguez**

**Praises:**

- We have a new boy in the program (DC) and an intake happening today. We are grateful for the new boys.
- There has been some scholarship money sent in for "Jim" who was highlighted in last month's letter.
- The money to fix the Carlile's roof has been offered, now we just need better weather to fix it.

**Requests:**

- Our vans are old and weary, we would like to replace them with two workable nine passenger 4 WD Suburban's.
- We could still use scholarship money on an ongoing basis for "Jim".

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