

Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop
Naches, WA 98937



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

January 11, 2011

Let's talk about change. Change is what causes parents and guardians to bring boys to the ranch whether it be a needed change in the classroom, change in attitude, respect, behavior and on and on. And the ranch can bring about some external changes, at least for a while, by exerting external pressure on the boy. Talk disrespectfully or act up enough and you'll be out moving rocks back and forth or even crushing them. This kind of consequence can have its affect and is a good teaching tool that hopefully translates to showing the boy that actions have consequences. It also has its limitations. Most boys realize that if they behave enough at the ranch, they'll eventually go home and in some cases they realize it can speed up the process.

So what brings about true change? Most people can change a few externals for a while under duress. Many people make changes that even last, like the person who stops smoking, or changes their diet. What I want to do and we work for at the ranch is a deeper change, one starting from the inside out. This is change that begins in the heart and if we're real, we realize this type of change needs more than we can give with the ol' college try or tug on the bootstraps. This is about changing who we are in essence. The Bible calls this putting off the old man and putting on the new. Since as Christians we like to have our own language, we call these things like spiritual transformation and sanctification. Let me tell you, you want glazed looks, use words like this on our boys. This kind of change is what we are hopefully in the process of helping these boys see they need and then showing them who they can turn to for this kind of change. I can't bring about this kind of change in anyone but I know the one who can and so I preach this to the boys.

The interesting thing about this subject is to make this kind of change we need to turn to the one who does not change. Matt 18 tells us to change and become like little children while James tells us God does not change like shifting shadows. Change is hard. First you have to want to, second you have to want to continue when it gets hard, and third you have to want to when you realize you are utterly failing. Do you think our boys want to? Not too much. They like being in control, feeding their lusts and getting their way and to change like God asks us to do is not cool. Please pray for our boys that God will be breaking hearts and we can be part of the great process of helping them change, to be more like Jesus.

In change,
Brent Johnson
Brent Johnson
Youth Service Director

Prayer Requests/Needs:

Endurance, as this group of boys seems especially tough with lots of running away, sneaking in drugs and defiance.

More staff. We are running short handed and the affects are starting to be felt. The Schippers and Albrights are both still trying to raise support, pray that the money comes in soon so they can move here.

We still need dependable vehicles to transport the boys in.

Praises:

We are about half way there for our lodge roof, we still need about \$4000.00 to be able to complete it.

All the boys came back from leave, and all seemed to have relatively good times with their parents/families.