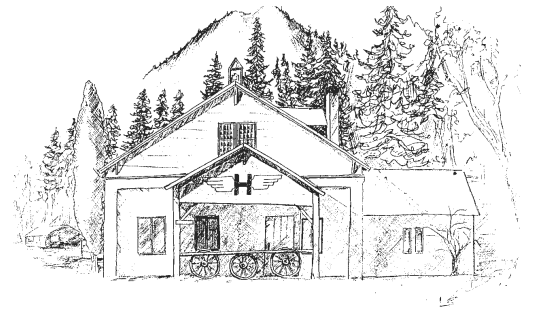


Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop
Naches, WA 98937



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

July 2007

Dear partners,

Our summer resolve was good. Thank you for praying for us! The primary point of the weekend was being able to identify where we are self-deceived, and what to do about it. It's hard to summarize a weekend like that in just a few paragraphs, but my wife Kathy is convinced I can do it!

The most basic idea is that our minds go to work to justify and rationalize the decisions we make and actions we take. Our minds start this process immediately. We want to believe that what we are doing is good and right. If I decide to do the good works that the Holy Spirit prompts me to do, there are blessings, and our spirit knows we are doing a good thing. If, on the other hand, we do something that we know is wrong, something selfish or disobedient, our mind starts rationalizing our decision. Let me give you an example.

“When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it--she'd know everything!--she took and ate the fruit.”
Genesis 3:6

Even before she ate the fruit, Eve was busy working up reasons why her decision to eat was a good one. As soon as she believed the lie of the serpent, she became self-deceived, and began rationalizing. She was no longer dealing with the Truth God had given her, (The definition of “Truth” being “That which corresponds with reality”) but was now embracing deception. When we embrace deception, we look for others to agree with us so we can feel even more justified. She “then gave some to her husband, and he ate.” (the rest of Genesis 3:6.) Eve wanted a partner in this self-deception, and Adam, from his own rationalized reasoning, joined Eve in her rebellion. The same is true today. The boys that come to us always have friends that reinforce them in their rebellion. For a parent, that's easy to see. That's why they sought out the Ranch to begin with. Others' self-deception is always easier to see than our own. Are the parents of our residents also self-deceived? Until we are free from these bodies of sin, we are all deceived at one point or another, and that includes parents. What are some indicators I can look for to see if I'm self-deceived? Adam and Eve can help us here, too.

“Right away they saw what they had done, and they realized they were naked. Then they sewed fig leaves together to make something to cover themselves.

Late in the afternoon a breeze began to blow, and the man and woman heard the LORD God walking in the garden. They were frightened and hid behind some trees. The LORD called out to the man and asked, 'Where are you?' The man answered, 'I was naked, and when I heard you walking through the garden, I was frightened and hid!' 'How did you know you were naked?' God asked. 'Did you eat any fruit from that tree in the middle of the garden?' 'It was the woman you put here with me,' the man said. 'She gave me some of the fruit, and I ate it.' The LORD God then asked the woman, 'What have you done?' 'The snake tricked me,' she answered. 'And I ate some of that fruit.'" - Genesis 3:7-13

They started with rationalization before they ate, moved to guilt, fear, and then blame shifting after they ate. If I find myself in any of those places, rationalization, guilt, fear or blame shifting, I am in the same place as Adam and Eve: I have embraced the lies of the enemy instead of the Truth of God. Is there a solution? Repent, and embrace the Truth, no matter how painful. This is tuff stuff. Please pray for Daniel, Jake, Tyler, Caleb S., Caleb B., Anthony, Travis, Matt, and their parents.

God bless,

Bob

Bob Hostetler

Praises:

- Kyle, Mackenzie, Jeremiah, Rollie, and Chris have graduated from the program!
- We have at least four intakes arranged for the summer, with a number of other applications still pending.
- We have an intern lined up for the fall, three applications for missionary staff, and one additional application for an internship. We need discernment for all the above.

Prayer requests:

- That our mentors would be guided by the Holy Spirit during our intake interviews. (We take a day and a half to try to find out the issues in a family, and design corresponding goals to overcome the issues. That's what we call an intake interview.)
- With many new boys coming on board, we need the Holy Spirit to protect and guide us. New guys usually bring the enemy with them.

Needs:

- A refrigerator and washer and dryer for the RV park service building. (Folks have already donated the microwave and carpet.)
- Gravel to build the road in the RV park.
- Grass seed for the RV park.
- Eight, one-hour fire rated interior doors for the school. (\$1,300 apiece)