**NEWSLETTER**

*A school with a mission to help families with troubled teenagers*

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**Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving Day was a lot of fun. I thought of a lot of different things in which to be thankful for. I was thankful that my parents adopted me and also that God has given me a second chance to live life.

Thanksgiving Day was filled with fun. The staff put in a lot of time and they also held many different competitions and tournaments. We had football, ping pong, pool, uno, chess, basketball and even an X-box tournament. This kept the day fast paced and exciting.

**We also had a fantastic Thanksgiving feast.** This started at breakfast with Ma’am’s tradition of making pumpkin pancakes with whipped cream on top. They were delicious! Next was lunch. The ladies did a great job cooking and, of course, there was much more food than all of us boys could eat. We could go through the food line as many times as we wanted to. There was also plenty of pumpkin pie.

Thank you to all the people who put forth extra effort to make sure all of us had a great holiday. I am also thankful that the staff were willing to give up their holiday to spend time with us.

- Robert Bucklin
My name is Riley Olson. I was born in Rawlins, WY. I was reared in a Christian home. My parents took my two brothers, sister and me to church every time the church was open. We went to a Southern Baptist church and I received Jesus Christ as my savior sometime between seven and nine years of age. Every morning that I can remember, my mother would get us out of bed around 5:00 am and give us a Bible study before we went to school. My father would go to work every day and taught us how to work when we were young. Both of my parents are excellent role models and love each other deeply. I learned how to love my wife by watching my father love my mother.

I grew up working on ranches and decided that I wanted to train horses for the rest of my life. When I graduated high school I went to college and earned a degree in Horse Management. Upon graduating college, I went to work for The Last Hurrah Ranch in Tensed, Idaho, as their Horse Manager. I then moved to Billings, Montana, and became the Horse Manager for the Hairpin Cavvy of Leachman Cattle Company. I loved working with and training horses. It was my passion. I still loved the Lord and enjoyed going to church as often as the church was open. However, I did not know if I would be willing to give up my horses for the sake of the Gospel. I never wanted to be a pastor of a church or a missionary, just a cowboy that liked to have a good horse to ride. Howbeit, one evening at Wednesday night church service, I was convicted of my unwillingness to give up my passion for horses for the work of the Lord. I could not sleep that night until I realized that the work of the Lord is so much more precious than working with horses. I told the Lord that I loved Him and that I would be willing to give up all I loved to serve Him.

Four years later while attending Lighthouse Baptist Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming, my pastor asked me to go to a Bible conference with him. At the Bible conference, the Holy Spirit made it beautifully clear that He was asking me to make good on my word. That fall I sold my horses and enrolled in Hyles-Anderson Bible College. It was my start in serving the Lord full time.

While I was at Hyles-Anderson I met my gorgeous wife, Kyla. We dated and as I got to know her I knew that I could love her for the rest of my life. We were married in 2007 at the end of my junior year. She grew up in West Plains, MO and her family had a ranch near there. They put on Christian camps and retreats for many years. She too had been saved since a very young age and loves the Lord with her whole heart. She is a grand wife. Kyla helps me in all aspects of my ministry. She is a home-maker. Her help to me is invaluable.

In June of 2011, my friend and the president of Hyles-Anderson College, Dr. Ray Young, called me to tell me about an opportunity to serve the Lord in a capacity that involved young men and horses. My wife and I prayed about this opportunity and I decided that we should look into this position. We then met with Bro. Clemensen at Agapé Boarding School and felt that this is where the Lord wanted us. The Lord is so good to give back to me that which I thought I had given up. Now at Agapé Boarding School I have the opportunity to serve the Lord using horses to minister to the needs of teenage boys as they endeavor to become men.
CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Each Christmas we put up our gigantic Christmas tree. Five years ago, we began a new tradition. There are two parts to this. The first is we are asking every parent, loved one, friend, etc. to send a personalized ornament to the young man they know here. Each year we have received many unique ornaments, some with photos, and others with their name inscribed. It is always a joy when we get the old ornaments out and recall to memory their time here.

Secondly, we started holding a fundraiser called “Happy Birthday Jesus”. Every Christmas we all give gifts to all of our friends and family, but often forget about whose birthday it really is. We are asking that all of Agape’s friends, families, and faithful supporters would consider giving towards the ministry here as a “gift to Jesus”. Please use the cards below and send them with a personalized ornament. All donations will be used for some big gifts that we would like to give the boys this year. They are pictured below. God bless.

Gifts to be purchased with “Happy Birthday Jesus” Fundraiser!

*since Agape is a non-profit ministry, all gifts are tax deductible! Additional information is in the enclosed letter.
November 28, 2011

Dear Friends & Families,

I remember as a young child waking up early every Christmas morning to open my gifts. Christmas was probably my favorite time of year. I loved the Christmas story, the snow, all the Christmas candy my mother would make, and most importantly of all, my Christmas gifts. My entire family would exchange gifts each year at Christmas as many others also do the same. The most important thing about Christmas, however, seemed to be so easily forgotten. Who should be the one receiving all the gifts anyways? The answer, of course, is Jesus our Saviour.

Every year at Agapé we like to celebrate the birth of Jesus by giving Him a gift. This year we are taking up an offering on December 25th. We would like to ask if the families and friends of Agapé also would celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, this year by considering to give a tax-deductible money gift towards His work at Agapé Boarding School. After all, it is His birthday! All donations will be used to purchase new games in our new recreation center. Pictures of the equipment are below. We tried to raise money for these last year along with theater equipment. Thanks to the generous donations of many we were able to complete the theater room which the boys have greatly enjoyed all year!

We have enclosed a donation card to pass out to your friends and family. We are also asking that along with your gift to Jesus, a personalized ornament representing your donation and your loved one also be sent. This ornament will be given to the student to put on our giant Christmas tree. If you have any questions or need more donation cards, please contact me at 417 276-7215.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith

P.S. You can also donate online at http://www.agapeboardingschool.org
**A MESSAGE FROM MA’AM**

Christmas time is right around the corner. There are a few things that new parents need to know. Your son may receive a total of 5 gifts—no more than that!

The gifts must be wrapped and try to get them here early. Mark your son’s name on each gift. I have put a list of gift ideas to the right. Remember that he doesn’t have a lot of space and he can not have any electronic games.

We will have boys that will not receive any gifts from home. If you would like to send something, just wrap it and put “boy” on it.

We have some great parents whose son’s have gone home but they still send gifts for those in need.

Most of our boys will be here for Christmas, which is best. Bad things seem to happen when boys go home for Christmas, or go home at any time. Don’t feel sorry for your son. He chose to be gone for Christmas. You did not chose for your son to go to a boarding school. You gave him every chance to turn his life around. When your son writes home and tells you how much he misses you, don’t believe him. He misses his friends and that is who he really wants to be with. He has proven that through his behavior.

Keep praying for us and your son.

-Ma’am

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**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR THE BOYS**

- [ ] Bible (King James Version)
- [ ] Neckties
- [ ] Bible cover
- [ ] Rubix cube
- [ ] Yo-yo
- [ ] Model cars
- [ ] Mechanical pencil
- [ ] Dress shirt (white)
- [ ] Football
- [ ] Basketball
- [ ] Power ball
- [ ] Electric razor
- [ ] Socks
- [ ] Dress socks
- [ ] Shoes
- [ ] T-shirts
- [ ] Suit

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Special Speakers**

- **December 10-16**
  - Evangelist Gary Mann
- **December 17-21**
  - Evangelist Bob Holmes
- **January 2-4**
  - Bro JD Weido
- **November 6**
  - Missionary Emmanuel Yarbrough

**Other Events**

- **December 9th**
  - Rhino Basketball @ Central
- **December 25th**
  - Christmas Day!!!
- **January 6th**
  - Rhino Basketball @ Tabernacle
- **January 27th**
  - Rhino Basketball vs. Central

**Yearbooks**

The 2010/2011 Agape yearbooks have arrived. Cost is $45 and supply is limited. If you would like one of these, you should order one soon.

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**Comments:**

Please send them to:

- [ ] Ma’am
- [ ] Evangelist Gary Mann
- [ ] Evangelist Bob Holmes
- [ ] Bro JD Weido
- [ ] Missionary Emmanuel Yarbrough

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Agapé Boarding School
12998 E. 1400 Rd
Stockton, MO 65785
or by email:
news@agapeboardingschool.org
“Don’t get pinned” is the thought that went though my mind all week. My greatest match was with Oscar. He was older than me and had wrestled many years but I refused to get pinned. All I could think about was winning this match!

I enjoyed learning all the wrestling moves. The coaches were very helpful and made the wrestling camp. They were also great role models showing us that living for the Lord is worth while. The coaches also related wrestling to the struggles that we face in life, especially the spiritual struggles. We learned many life lessons during the week. I felt that the chapel services were just for me because everything they taught on the mat and in the chapel related to me well.

Mixed with all the soreness and pain, wrestling camp was a fun week. Thank you to Mr. Clemensen and Agape for putting on this event. Also, a thank you to Bro. Burton for setting everything up and coordinating the camp.

Nick Gaches
HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I WILL GO TO HEAVEN?

Do you worry about the afterlife? Every soul that has ever lived will either pass on to an after life or an after death. The soul does not cease to exist at the body's time of death. The Bible has the answer to the question of “how can I go to heaven?” 1 John 5:13 says, “...that ye may know that ye have eternal life.” There actually are only four things that you need to know to go to heaven. Sound too simple? Get your Bible and check these four things out. Remember, although man may lie, God’s Word is always true.

1. We are all sinners—the Bible says, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”-Romans 3:23 KJV

2. Because we have sinned, we deserve to go to hell. “For the wages of sin is death”—Romans 6:23a; “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”—Revelation 21:13 KJV

3. Christ died to pay for our sin. Accepting Christ as your sin substitute is free and guarantees you a home in heaven. “But God commendeth his love toward us in that while see were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”—Romans 5:8; “…but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”—Romans 6:23b KJV

4. Call on Jesus to save you. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”—Romans 10:13 KJV

Just trust God’s Word and believe on Jesus Christ to save you now. He will if you ask Him to. If you have any questions about salvation just call and ask. We would love to help you!
Agape Boarding School
“A school with a heart in the heart of Missouri”

A Ministry Of Agape Baptist Church
Pastor James L. Clemensen
http://agapeboardingschool.org

AGAPE BOARDING SCHOOL
12998 E. 1400 Rd.
Stockton, MO 65785

Do you want your newsletter in color by email? If so, please send your request to:
news@agapeboardingschool.org