Dear Parents,

We are really excited about this year and the classes that are taking place on the ranch. We have just started our new colt class and are very anxious to see the longer and warmer days come. We have about 15 two-year-old colts that the boys will be training and riding.

We have just started our calving season and soon will be busy taking care of momma cows and their babies. I really enjoy taking the boys out to see the baby calves and watching one of God’s many miracles. I suppose that I will never tire of seeing a calf born nor will I ever cease to be amazed at how quickly a new wet calf will get up on wobbly legs and immediately start hunting its first meal of warm milk. God really is amazing, and I hope to never miss an opportunity to point out God’s greatness to your boys through His creation.

Sometimes I think that if we really could grasp the greatness of God we would never question his word and we would find ourselves quickly accepting His directives as well as His love. God loves us all so much, and sometimes I wonder why we refuse to accept His love. I suppose it is because we simply do not want to admit that God is our final authority and that He alone is the author of moral truth; therefore, it becomes impossible to believe that He wants what is best for us even more than we ourselves desire what is best for us.

The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15,

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

Really, if one truly understood how much Christ loves him, it would capture and captivate his mind, his desires, and his actions to a point that he would no longer desire to live unto himself but would rather choose to live unto the one that loved him enough to die for him. There is no better way to prove one’s love for another than to give his life for the one he loves.

When we intervene in the lives of cattle and horses, whether it is medical intervention like vaccinations or acting as mid-wife, or physical intervention such as training or moving to greener pastures; we do it because we care more about them than they are able to care about themselves.

We as people cannot even begin to understand how much Christ loves us, and even if we could understand it, it would only cause us to realize that we are utterly incapable and unable to love ourselves and serve ourselves to the degree that Christ does.

So be constrained by the love of Christ and you will experience so much more joy and contentment than you ever could on your own.

With a shared love for your son,
Riley Olson

---

Praise For:
- Our new (used) ranch truck!
- Safety of students and livestock
- The new barn addition
- The barn full of hay.
- The new corral

Pray For:
- Safety for students and livestock
- Baby calves and colts being born
- Horseshoeing tools for new vocational class
- Pipe for permanent round pens for training
- Riding boots, mostly size 11 and above
- Textbooks for new vocation classes
- New saddles for the horse riding classes.

If you would like to help with or have questions about any of these things, please contact the school and I would be happy to visit with you about it.

*All gifts are tax deductible.
THANKSGIVING DAY

More photos are online!
AgapeBoardingSchool.org
Working here at Agapé I’ve come to find that young men, even in a boarding school in the middle of nowhere, can easily get into trouble. All the distractions of the world are gone (internet access, cell phones, friends, drugs, girls, etc.) and yet they still constantly get into trouble. Why do they keep getting in trouble? And if they are still getting into trouble while in a boarding school specifically designed for “troubled” boys, how in the world are they going to make it in the “real world”?

During my daily devotion time a few days ago, a thought came to my mind about this passage of Scripture. I have heard these two verses preached for many years. I have heard it preached to young people in the attempt to motivate them to continue when they fall into sin. However, as I continued to ponder, the Lord pointed out a very interesting truth that I had never noticed before. A truth that is very simple when read, yet a truth that is also very profound and sobering in thought.

Let’s take a look.

Proverbs 24:15, “Lay not wait (to lie in wait, ambush, or to lurk), O wicked man, against the dwelling (abode, habitation, abiding) of the righteous; spoil not his resting place.”

This first portion of the verse is clearly speaking to the “wicked man”. Solomon – the author of the book of Proverbs – is trying to deter the wicked man from lurking or lying in wait against the righteous man. In other words, he’s saying, “wicked man, don’t waste your time on the righteous.”

Why?
I’m glad you asked.
Let’s look at the next verse.

Proverbs 24:16, “For a just man falleth (to cause to fall, to be cast down, knock out) seven times...” In this verse we see our first “fall”. This “fall” is not voluntary, but rather involuntary. A just man has to be tripped or be “cast down” in order to “fall” or get into trouble. He still has his flesh to deal with but he knows what his weaknesses are and tries to follow the principles of Proverbs 4:14-16, “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away unless they cause some to fall.”

The just man has learned to be prudent and avoids those that may cause him to “fall” or get into trouble.

Are you the “just man”? Does it take someone else to knock you down?
Being born into an atheistic family, I grew up without knowing God or the Gospel. My family, being supportive, told me to explore religion and my faith to see what worked for me. I did this from around the ages of 10 to 14, but nothing really satisfied me, so I gave up. Over the next couple of years I started a downward spiral of depression and rebellion.

My parents tried many things to help and correct me, but I just wouldn’t listen. Eventually, due to my behavior, my parents had no other choice but to send me to a place where I could get the help they couldn’t give me.

Arriving at Agape Boarding School crushed me. Just as I felt that all hope was lost, a light appeared through the darkness. That light was Jesus Christ. After much consideration, discussion and skepticism, I came to know Jesus as my personal Savior.

Ever since then my world has changed for the better.

I give thanks to God for allowing me to have a better outlook on life, for having goals of graduating and pursuing a career, and for changing my attitude. Most of all, I am thankful for the rebuilding of my relationship with my family. I enjoy talking with my parents and they are excited to see the change in my life.

If I hadn’t come to Agape I would not have found God and I’d still be a lost little boy who was down. Now, though, I feel like I’m growing to be the man of God He wants me to be.

I hope my story is a help to anyone who reads it.

Thank you and God bless,
Connor Morris
December 2017
CHRISTMAS DAY

More photos are online!
AgapeBoardingSchool.org
"And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep...and God said, 'Let there be light...” Genesis 1:2-3

From the time God turned the lights on He has been bringing order out of chaos. In six days God set the universe in order and all was well. Then the Devil stepped in and caused the chaos in the garden. The very first thing Satan attacked was a relationship and he has been attacking them ever since.

From the time Adam’s relationships with God and his wife were damaged God went to work bringing order out of the chaos. Agape Boarding School is one tool God uses today. Students come to us with chaos in their lives. Relationships are a mess. Academics are a mess. Personal lives are a mess.

Using God’s Word, God’s principles, and much prayer Agapé strives to accomplish five things:
1. Have the student build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Have the student restore his relationship with his family.
3. Have the student develop skills to make them successful in life.
4. Teach the student to do his very best in everything.
5. Teach the student to help others as others have reached out to help him.

These principles are rooted deep in Scripture. With these and a multitude of prayers, students lives are being changed. Young boys come to us in chaos. The principles are applied and they leave to live a life for the better. Agapé - 25 years of bringing order out of chaos.

UPCOMING EVENTS
March 7 - ASVAB Test
March 12-6 - Basketball Camp (Week 1)
March 26-30 - Basketball Camp (Week 2)

Be sure to log onto Facebook and like our page: “Agape Boarding School”
Let’s talk about these boys. The reasons these boys were sent to us are many, but it boils down to rebellion. You might be thinking that your son just wasn’t going to school, and that was his only problem. Not going to school is rebellion, going to school and not doing his work is rebellion.

Our first problem is to get rid of the rebellion, not to get the school work done, they won’t do that. They feel the longer they keep up the rebellion the more chance they have at getting you to take them home. They work on you and work on you. You fall for it, and end up taking home just what you sent us. You want things fixed immediately. It doesn’t work that way.

There is that old saying, “you can take the horse to the water but you can’t make him drink.” We can set them in school, but we can’t make their hand or head work. When they still have their rebellion, they make it hard for anyone else to do their work. The need is to work with the rebellion part and get it under control before the next step (school). You parents have to support us. We need you on our side.

Some parents write long lists or they make a contract for their son. The boy reads it and promises to do everything it says. Isn’t that what the parents want? Sure you do. I will tell you now, he will not keep that promise, but that’s alright. You don’t keep your promise about sending them back if they mess up.

Here are a couple of things I want to remind you of:
1. Send NO food, gum, or anything perishable for your son. If you do, I give it to the staff.
2. We are going to send home anything they can’t have instead of putting it in the attic. There is a list of things they can have on the website. Please don’t call us and ask why. Just take our word for it. It is hard to spend our time answering all those type of questions.

We want the best for your son, just like you do.

Please be supportive of us and we will be of you. Our goal is all the same, and that is to get your son back on track.

Keep praying for us,

Ma’am

FINANCIAL REMINDER
Beginning January 1, 2018, we (Agapé Finance Office) will be charging a 3.5% surcharge on ALL credit card transactions.