

April 24, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to share my personal experience with Circle C Ranch and Wayne Aarum.. I have known Wayne for over 15 years so I believe I have known him long enough to speak to his integrity as a person and a christian. My honest impression of Wayne over all these years has been he is a man who loves Christ and is truly concerned for the well being of the youth/adults of all those he interacts with. His entire family has spent years dedicated to seeing individuals realize that there is hope in Christ and God loves them. For years I have carted my daughters, plus numerous friends back and forth from camp and never once did I hear anything inappropriate about Wayne. Quite the opposite in fact...I heard Chapel was awesome, now I know God really loves me, I rededicated my life to Christ, Wayne took the time to talk to me and now I understand God cares and much more of the same. The boys and girls that I talked with including my own daughters had nothing, but positive things to say. I loved watching the videos of what took place at camp during the week and was usually brought to tears from the testimonies of kids talking about how conversations with Wayne and the Chapel activities helped them realize there was hope and how they were going to go back home and be a witness to their families, schools, friends etc. I would look forward to going on Saturday morning to pick up my daughters (throughout that 15 year period) and hear what God had done that was transformational in their lives that week. I would always make a point of talking to Wayne and he would tell me if one of my daughters had been struggling and if he spoke with them. Then in the car on the way home or later that day my daughter would inevitably tell me that she had been struggling with peer pressure/relationships and Wayne had taken the time (they were always so grateful of that time) to listen to their heartache and encourage them to keep their eyes on Jesus. He would tell them stories of friends that he knew that had made mistakes and how God can redeem mistakes and change their lives. Not once did any of them say to me that their conversation or time with Wayne was inappropriate or they felt in danger of him in any way (and believe me they understood what that felt like having experienced it with their own peers on various occasions). Christian kids (from my experience) come from a broad range of homes-some are loving and great, many are legalistic and some are even abusive. Unfortunately in those formative years a lot of families are being broken up by divorce and these poor kids have no idea what they are supposed to do. They are scared to talk to anyone close to them and Wayne would speak into the lives of many of these girls who were struggling with relationships whether it was family or peers and would provide a "safe" place to share the frustrations being experienced in their lives. I know of a couple of instances where a few girls were hopeless and possibly contemplating self-harm and after talking with Wayne they decided that was not the route to go. I know this to be true because they were bunk mates with my daughters at different times and after they would go home they would confess these things so they didn't always come right out and let adults know this information. Kids talk to each other and share secrets that no one else knows about. I know things because my girls always told me (even if it took awhile) and if they had felt that Wayne had abused them sexually in any way I would have known. Not only that, but they told each other everything so if they didn't tell me

one of their sisters would you could count on it. We had such confidence in Wayne and Circle C Ranch that some of our daughters even served on staff for several summers and had a great time. They grew closer in their walks with the Lord and became better servants of others. What more could a mom want then to see her kids loving God and others.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

I have spent my life as a Christ follower always trying to live these out and believe that if we treat others as we would want to be treated everything would work out. Granted a lot of times that doesn't happen, but within the Christian community it should. I don't know why there is this enormous attempt to discredit Wayne, Circle C Ranch and the Aarum's as a whole. But, I felt that since everyone is sharing their experiences then I would share mine. Only God knows what is truly in someone's heart and I would caution everyone to take a step back and make sure that you are absolutely, positively sure before God of what is being said. God has been using Circle C Ranch to transform lives for over 50 years and the enemy would like nothing less than to pit people against each other and destroy the ministry! Be careful we now have families divided, churches divided, friends divided and meanwhile Satan is having a heyday destroying our world around us. God's people need to unite together and this is not uniting us. I am praying **Romans 8:28 "28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who [a] have been called according to his purpose."** and hope you will too.

Sincerely,

A Mom of daughters