

There are moments in the lives of men that are turning points.

These points define the direction, depth, and breadth of a man's life. They pivot a man toward a mere existence that is futile or a life that is abundant. FORGE had provided such moments for both my sons and me. The FORGE gave us an opportunity to spend concentrated time in devotion to God and to one another in a safe, robust setting.

As I had not had the blessing of being 'fathered' by my earthly father, God took up the mantle and fathered me as only a Divine Dad could. He gave me the gift and responsibility to pass on what I had not received in ordinary course, but received nonetheless from the Father of souls. This responsibility was to shape my sons into individuals that would take up the standard of biblical manhood. The FORGE had given us what every father needed...time. Time to lay foundations for relationships. Time to play hard and make memories. Time to weep as we considered the preciousness of our charges.

My two sons and I learned different things about each other. They cheered for us as much as we cheered for them as we accomplished (or failed) the physical goals set before us. Fathers were reminded of their age, while the young were encouraged to stretch their souls to maturity. At the FORGE we were given a turning point. There we were taught of the true fulcrum of manhood, the man Christ Jesus. We gathered around the feet of the true Father as older and younger sons, both being nurtured and taught by Scripture regarding the nature of manhood.

There we were all brothers. Through the FORGE, God gave us a pivot point. Of that we are grateful.

Respectfully,
Angel Contreras.