



REFRESHING TIMES

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Mission Statement

*To provide a place of refuge,
peace, restoration, and hope,
dedicated to help people estab-
lish intimacy with Jesus Christ
and those they love.*

The Wilderness Fellowship
Ministries

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"THE COVERING" Is Needed!

by Randy Klawitter

A covering, defined, is ".....a thing used to cover something else, typically in order to protect or conceal it."

Ps 105:39 says, "He spread a cloud for a covering...." God's great mercy, love, and power were shown as He provided the covering of a cloud as shade and cool for His chosen people in the wilderness. Surely God knows the need of His people and will act to meet it. (Phil 4:19 "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.") Later we read that at night God provided a pillar of fire for heat and light. He again displays that whether day or night, He knows and will meet our need!

In the Bible there are numerous spiritual pictures of a covering, the most prominent being that of Christ as our Covering or a husband submissive to Christ being a covering for his wife and family, and, as already mentioned, God Himself provides a covering for his people in the wilderness. Christ protects, conceals, and covers his bride and family as well as we submit to Him. What a blessing and place of safety a covering can be and how necessary it is.

In the physical realm as well, there is great benefit and blessing to a covering. Our homes are a covering. Our cars are a covering. Our tents are a covering. An umbrella is a covering. In other words, a roof over our heads protects us and can guard us from the elements around us. A covering can be a very preserving thing. As the elements of rain, snow, hail, sun, dust, etc., fall down upon every uncovered thing, it can lead to deterioration and decay. That which otherwise could seem to last forever, begins to show the signs of wear and tear and soon progresses to a state where its usefulness is diminished or completely destroyed.

In 2006 we were able to put up a structure that has been a fantastic covering for God's ... (cont. on page 2)

"I will take my children into the wilderness and there I will speak tenderly to them. I will restore their fruitfulness and turn their valley of trouble into a door of hope."

Hosea 2:14-15a

(cont. from page 1)...provisions to this ministry. We call it the Maintenance Center. Along with housing our administrative offices, it has been used tremendously to maintain equipment and care for God's great provisions for the many different aspects of the ministry. This building has provided an incredible amount of protection, provision, and blessing to us. At the time of its construction I remember people saying, "Why would you build such a large building?" I would respond to them, "Have you ever heard of someone saying they regretted building a maintenance facility too big?" Nope! All agreed. This Maintenance Center is becoming crowded, however, and that which really doesn't need that level of protection has taken up valuable, enclosed "real estate".

So we are exploring and seeking the possibility of building another structure. We call it "The Covering". That's what it does! It would cover and protect perishable goods like firewood, hay, and even equipment paint, bearings, and tires, etc., from the sun, rain, hail, and snow - elements that all come down from the sky. At this point for example, all of the hay made on the property has no covering; so much is wasted. We have developed plans for a 50' x 80' structure with 16' high walls, enclosed on one end only, with the rest of it open so the air can flow through for better air drying. It will sit on a cement slab to keep things from freezing down and possibly even curtains that we could slide closed to keep snow from blowing into it in the winter and open in the summer to allow breezes to dry the firewood needed to heat buildings, etc. The Covering will even allow protection from the rain and sun when volunteers split wood.

The Covering would definitely free up valuable space inside the Maintenance Center that would allow for more efficient storage, care and accessibility of things stored there, while making working inside the cold storage area much easier due to room to move. Installing a concrete "runway" between the two buildings would also allow us to use the same hard-surface forklift in both facilities, increasing efficiency as the two structures work together.

Please pray with us for the provisions of God for The Covering. Not only do we need His daily covering, we could really use the covering that this structure would provide in order to better care for, as I said earlier, our equipment, firewood, hay and the like. Hired cost estimates are around \$59,000, but if we could have skilled volunteer labor it could save nearly 1/2 that cost in its construction.

We will trust the Lord for this as well. His timing and provision are perfect.



- Randy

Randy Klawitter is married to Renee, and they have four children, two grandchildren, a son-in-law, daughter-in-law and a dog. Randy is the Executive Director of TWFM and is the son of TWF Founders Dick and Lois Klawitter. Randy has been involved in virtually every TWF project since its beginning and wears multiple hats as builder, greeter, mechanic, work crew leader, maple syrup maker, equipment operator, etc, and fills in wherever needed. If you have questions or comments, email Randy at randy@wildernessfellowship.com.

READY FOR ANOTHER PRAYER CABIN

by Randy Klawitter

It's hard to believe that it's been a year now since the Bessel Prayer Cabin was completed and opened. It has been hugely popular as the stats indicate. The number of nights

used is well over 190 nights from 10/29/15 till now. The cabin served more than 150 people throughout its first year in service. It is getting increasingly more difficult to get a reservation for the prayer cabins on a weekend unless you book a month or more in advance. This means it already seems time for another. Historically, with the past prayer cabins, funding for the next cabin would come about 4 years after the grand opening of the last one. That would be about 3 years from now. But..... I have felt for some time that the Lord is stepping up the pace and that the next prayer cabin will be much sooner. I have not heard of anything yet, but I want to invite you to consider the possibility of playing a major role in the next one—prayer is a great place to start! Come, stay, and experience the prayer cabins first hand if you haven't yet, and then dream of how perhaps the Lord may use you to help grow the Prayer Cabin Village. I am convinced that if we had 20 of them they all would be kept busy. God is mightily using these in our guests' lives.

Check out the following story written to us by a husband and wife in full time pastoral ministry.

Dear Randy,

Words cannot express our appreciation..... As I write this, I am writing for both my wife and I, however, at the same time I am expressing my heart.

We do not think for one moment that it was a "chance meeting" when God brought us all together. NO! Only the hand of God could do what He did when He did it and had the perfect people there waiting to be used of God to touch our lives deeply. You were so much more than God's hands extended.

We came to The Wilderness Fellowship Ministries broken and desperate. Broken from life and the situations that have come with it and ministry, desperate to "decompress" and truly hear the voice of the Lord.

Your heart, openness, enthusiasm, love, care, longsuffering (at 2am) and your generosity opened up our hearts to allow God to touch us in ways that He could only orchestrate and you were open for Him to use.

You set the stage...and the Holy Spirit did the rest. When we walked into the Bo Cabin...He was already there to meet us in His peace and sovereignty. From the hectic pace of life to instant rest, like letting air out of a hot air balloon, we both fell in the arms of our loving Savior. The peace and tranquility that we experienced there in the atmosphere that your hands helped to create prepared us to meet with Him. He was there waiting for us in a small log tabernacle on the edge of the hill.

Your enthusiasm and desire to share the vision also infused us and helped us to refocus on what God has called us to do. We were captured by yours, both past and present. Though we were only there 5 days, we are able to go back there, even today, in the Spirit. We feel honored to take the first "tour in the Kubota" and that ride won't too soon be forgotten.

Your blood, sweat and tears, the vision of your father and continued on by your hands has prepared a place of severely great importance in our day and age. Especially with 1500-1900 pastors, ministers and priests leaving the ministry nearly every month. It is difficult to serve as a pastor in this day and age and your ministry genuinely cares! The Wilderness Fellowship Ministries and your "Prayer Cabins" is a Spiritual Hospital, a place of meeting, a healing place for those who serve in the ministry. A

place of restoration, prayer, peace, and a breath of fresh air. It was all of that and more for both of us.

Thank you Randy and Renee and family (staff) and your dad for being who you are! For serving Christ in The Wilderness...for your great vision...for the 40+ years of building, not just log cabins and other buildings... but the countless lives both directly and indirectly. By touching the lives of Pastors...your ministry extends far beyond The Wilderness, far beyond!

Eph 3:20-21

With much love and appreciation,

In His Service and Yours,

-P & J

KUBOTA

by Randy Klawitter

The Lord has provided again, and we were able to purchase a wonderfully useful piece of equipment that will not only help us work, but also share The Wilderness with others. This unit, although already a few years old, was like



KUBOTA

new when we got it, and is already serving us very well. We've taken guests on tours and worked it hard already. We were also able to purchase a used set of Mattracks for it so it will convert to a "sno-cat" type unit in the winter. Here's a picture with the tracks on. It also has regular wheels and tires that can be switched out for no-snow months. Please rejoice with us over the Lord's provision of this very versatile and useful unit.

DONATIONS

ONLINE GIVING

Thank you to those who have already been using this feature. One-time or automatic monthly recurring gifts can be set up. Click on the *Give Online* link on our Home page.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Check with your Human Resources office at your work place to find out if they will match gifts you make to non-profit organizations such as TWFM.

THRIVENT CHOICE

The Wilderness is now a participating organization in Thrivent Choice, a charitable grant program that allows eligible members of Thrivent Financial to recommend where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable outreach grant funds each year. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to The Wilderness Fellowship. To learn more, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Did you know?

PART IV

By Dick Klawitter, Founder of TWFM



Did you know?that farmer Brask named the beautiful high ridge on the east shore of Rice Lake, "Jerusalem Hill"? That beautiful lake and sunset-facing view, led us to ask permission from my mother and father-in-law, Clarence and Myrtle Johnson, to put a small mobile home on Jerusalem Hill. Their "go-ahead" excited Lois and I to begin looking for a trailer, which we found in the Twin Cities. This was about 1960. Using my Dodge Power Wagon 4x4 tow truck, I had no trouble towing the 27' mobile home from the Twin Cities up onto Jerusalem Hill.

Very soon we realized that we needed to do something to keep the cattle out of "our" area. I asked two boys, Gary Eikum and Denny Vennie, from our home church, St. Paul's Lutheran in Minneapolis, to come and help me build a double rail white birch fence around Jerusalem Hill.



It wasn't long and we had couples, friends, and families coming to the campout with us. This meant we had to clear an area east of Jerusalem Hill for tents and pop-up campers. We also made a hillside worship and seating area on the east side of Jerusalem Hill where many memories of singing and sharing were made. (Anybody remember the times Pastor Herb Mjorud ministered to us, or have any special memories of our times of praise, worship, or encouragement that have hung with you?) I remember, but I wonder if anyone else remembers, the rainy Memorial Day weekend when every single vehicle and trailer had to be towed from the camping area by

Rice Lake, all the way out to the black-top road, with Grandpa Johnson's Farmal H tractor. What a muddy mess! Here also is an old photo. Does anyone recognize the people in this picture taken by our trailer up on Jerusalem Hill?

To be continued...



WEBSITE STATS AND UPDATE

Just want to update you on the phenomenal response we have had to the new website. We are blown away as to how many visits to the website we've had and the response it is generating. Facilities have been very busy this summer and fall and many bookings coming in each day into the winter. We still run an average of one new guest visit literally every other day. Please check it out and pray for those who stumble upon us who just really need a time alone with Jesus. Here are the most current stats as of the end of October:

- **2,063 people have visited the site**
- **41% of the visitors are new**
- **Pages most often viewed: Home page (2,630) and Prayer Cabins (1,938)**
- **Average time spent per visit: 4 minutes and 42 seconds**
- **3525 sessions making for 13,695 pageviews**

New Website Feature!!

You can now check facility availability on line. Please check the website before you call to make your reservations.

This will save you and the office a lot of time in making reservations.

PRAYER CABIN SHOWER HOUSE DRAIN FIELD GOES IN!

We have been praying for a conventional septic system for the new shower house for months. All former soil tests did not pass. One last try led us to an area where we had not thought of checking and "Bingo" it had the necessary sand and gravel consistency that allowed it to pass! Praise the Lord with us. This saves us nearly \$2000 in cost over a mound system and saves us an \$80 pumping fee every 2 months. It was completed in less than one day. PTL!



SEPTIC WORK

STAY INFORMED OF UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would like to keep up to date as to what is coming next for Prepare Series or anything else here at The Wilderness, please go to our website and under the far right heading Connect with us!, click on Stay Informed! where you can sign up for either the newsletter or the email reminders. Just check the boxes you want, click on Keep Me Informed! and you're in! We send out the announcements about 2 times a month, so be looking for it in your emails. You can unsubscribe at any time as well so no worries there. Give it a try.

SYRUP FOR SALE



If you are interested in some great maple syrup please give us a call or stop by and visit. We still have syrup left from last season.

WILDERNESS MAPLE SYRUP CAN BE PURCHASED AT THESE LOCATIONS:

NORTH HEIGHTS LUTHERAN BOOK STORE IN ARDEN HILLS, MN

WURDEMANN CHIROPRACTIC IN NORTH BRANCH, MN

SYREN GENERAL STORE IN SIREN, WI.

GRANTSBURG MO JOE COFFEE SHOP IN GRANTSBURG, WI

WEBSITE-GENERATED VOLUNTEER PAGE

It is a huge blessing to have had two different friends of The Wilderness use our new Volunteer Opportunities page. There are many things to help with and many skill levels available so check it out. On our webpage under **Connect with us!** at the top far right, choose **Ways To Support Us** then click on **Volunteer!** and you will get a list of ways you could help.

The guys in the picture here did just that, and came to cut, split, and stack firewood for us. They got a great amount of work done and we were excited to have them come. What an encouragement they are. The other helper who contacted us offered to list things for sale on Ebay or Craigslist, etc. Thank you so much, guys!



VOLUNTEERS!

THINGS FOR SALE

We have a number of pieces of equipment for sale: Two pickup trucks, one Yamaha Pro Hauler 4-wheeler, one Polaris 4-wheeler, one 3-wheeler, a leaf and wood chipper, and more. If you might be interested in any of these please contact Randy.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND REQUEST FOR PRAYER



Just before this letter was going to press I received word from Ethan and Christa that they would be leaving the TWF Staff team the end of the year. As we have talked and cried, Ethan has assured me that all is fine and that they are not leaving due to unresolved issues and

or the like, but instead to follow a new journey they feel the Lord is leading them on. Ethan has faithfully served by my side for 3 years and it is very hard for Renee and I and the staff family to imagine how we will ever manage without them, but we know the hand of God will lead them. We ask that you please pray for them and for us as we all make this transition. We send them off with our blessing and deepest love. Please pray that God will fill the big hole left here in their absence, with His perfect choice and fit to help us carry on.

-Randy

GUEST FEEDBACK

“Thank you so much for making this affordable! It was such a restful, quiet place away from all people and responsibilities. I really needed that before charging into the tornado that will be senior year at the U of M!” – **JS**

“I love this place and can’t wait to come back again! My husband gave me a gift certificate for a prayer cabin stay for the past 2 Christmases – and that will be my request again this year. Who needs more “stuff” when you can have the gift of rest and quiet with the Lover of your soul? Thank you TWFM for all you do!” – **DR**

“Beautiful Cabin / wonderful setting – what a blessing! The new shower house is lovely! Thank you for all you do to provide this lifeline to people like us who so need some time to get away ‘into the wilderness’ and hear God speak to them.” – **P&AG**

“Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus and providing this amazing cabin for others. It is a huge blessing.” – **VG**



Besel Cabin Photo
by Ethan Deal

“You are providing a wonderful environment where old wells can be re-dug and new wells in Him can be discovered. Thank you so much for your service to His Body, the Church.” – **TH**

TWFM SOCIAL MEDIA



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*Make sure to look for our logo to know you’ve found our official FaceBook page!

PERSONALIZED GIFT CERTIFICATES

Suggestions:

Pastors, Friends, Family, Wedding Gift, Anniversaries



Gift Certificates may be ordered and purchased online or by mail. Please follow instructions on our website.
www.wildernessfellowship.com

Memorials

GIVEN BY

Bill & Rhonda Lajko
Dick & Louise Klawitter

Vi Fladland-Pugh
Daniel & Kimberly Strand
Victoria Agency, Inc.
Jacquelyn Todd

Della Alm
Shannon Bonnett
Rich & Kris Besel
Donate Well (matching gift)
Sarah Henry
Leah Steffen
Mildred Besel and friends
Mark & Marilyn Barrett

IN MEMORY OF

Almyra Kapphahn
Roy Johnson; Mark Johnson;
Marshall Gardin; Merwyn
Holldorf; Harry Dahl; Marvin
Drinkwine; Marge Thoreson;
Sheldon Knutson; Chris Jeska;
Marlys Lenz; George Folke
Anderson

Don Fladland
(Bud) Art Anderson
Don Dahl
Mr & Mrs Clair Dittberner;
Bea Merkins; Gene Wagner;
Mr & Mrs Ken Berry;
Spencer Berg

Lois Klawitter
George F. Anderson
Reinhart Besel
Ardesse Barrett
Paul Henry
David Steffen
Reinhart Besel
Ardesse Barrett

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 21 AND FEBRUARY 18, 2017 - PREPARE SERIES – (2 PART SERIES)

LOVING YOUR KIDS ON PURPOSE DVD SERIES

It takes time, attention and wisdom. We need to become students of who our kids are. The best way to prepare our children to handle the multitude of options they will have as children of the King of kings is to invest in developing a heart to heart connection. This connection replaces the disrespect factory and introduces the honor factory. Please register online at www.wildernessfellowship.com

FEBRUARY 19, 2017 – TWFM ANNUAL MEETING – 3:00PM

Come join us in Johnson Hall for a recap of God's faithfulness to The Wilderness in 2016. Dessert will be served following the meeting.

MARCH 18, 2017 – PREPARE SERIES – AWAKENING THE KINGDOM – BRIAN FENIMORE

Have you been trying to connect with the Lord and feel like it just doesn't work? Do you feel like you gain no ground when you pray, fast or meditate? If so, then this seminar was designed with you in mind. Please register online at www.wildernessfellowship.com

UPDATES TO ALL TWFM EVENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR
ON OUR WEBSITE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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THE WILDERNESS
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES
Fostering Godly Intimacy



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