

REFRESHING TIMES

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Mission Statement

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

The Wilderness Fellowship
Ministries

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EXCEEDINGLY BEYOND

WHAT I COULD ASK OR THINK!

by Randy Klawitter

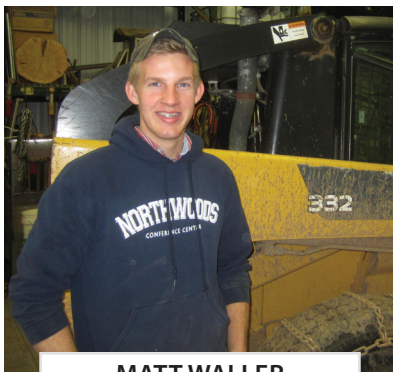
When Ethan left the ministry here, I couldn't imagine any way our plans for January 2017 could still happen; primarily the plans of Renee and I going to Texas to be with our daughter and her husband to help them celebrate and adjust to the new baby due the first part of January. I thought, "I can't leave! How could someone new, possibly, in such a short time, have the ability, skill, and character to step in and responsibly cover the multitude and magnitude of the daily routine, let alone the things that 'possibly could go wrong in winter'?" The fact is that winter magnifies the potential burden that when something goes wrong it can be far more difficult to handle. Freezing, snow plowing, animal care, furnace, cars not starting, and heat not working, were just some of the things to consider. I seriously struggled with this and had pretty much resigned myself to the fact that I would not be going anywhere. But God was on top of this already! God raised up a man to "stand in the gap" here at TWFM for me; a young man of upstanding character, with a responsibility and work ethic rarely found in young men today. This is how it happened.

The phone rang in my office shortly after the last newsletter went out. The gentleman on the other end was a local father saying, "We heard of your need and perhaps our son could help you through this time." Scripture talks of the power of a "good name". I knew this family. I knew their heart for the Lord. I knew the character training they lived out. I began to consider the possibility. If I could line up some additional "resource" people that could be called upon in case of... (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) ...an emergency that this young man couldn't handle, perhaps, just maybe, maybe I could go. Thinking I had at most 2 weeks, I decided to hire Matt and give him a crash course as he job shadowed me in nearly everything I could imagine that he'd need to know. I also wrote out pages of step-by-step instructions as reminders for him to refer back to. Matt also job shadowed Brianna cleaning prayer cabins, outhouses, shower house, and Fellowship Center, to learn what needed to be done to prepare them for guests. Needless to say, it was information overload for Matt, but I am here to say that I quickly saw the work of a young man committed to thoroughness and excellence coupled with an ability to work hard and fast to accomplish the tasks I put before him. A peace began to settle on me and I began to feel I just might be able to go. Then, just 3 days later came the phone call, "Labor had begun in earnest!" The peace of God said, "It will be ok!" so Renee, Brianna and I jumped in the car and headed for Dallas, TX. Have fun Matt!



MATT WALLER

Indeed, God had provided a man to step in and I have nothing but praise for Matt's handling of this huge responsibility. I give praise and thanks to God for bringing Matt Waller to us and we all look forward to working with him throughout the winter and spring. He is a quality young man through and through and a joy to work with. Thanks, Matt, for the incredible gift you gave me: a worry-free time away with my precious wife, daughters, son-in-law and grandkids. Oh, by the way.... Harrison Lloyd Deal was born Jan 7th, 2017. We were able to leave early morning on the 8th, drive straight through 20 hours, and arrive there at 1:15 am Monday Jan 9th. Spent a glorious week resting and enjoying being a grandpa, grandma and auntie. God is so good! But there's still more....



HARRISON LLOYD DEAL

Another man also stepped up to make this possible. A friend of the family who also lives close by, also a man of responsibility and character whom I trust, was willing to house sit our house and care for Brina, our dog. Leaving our house in the winter is kind of a big deal as our heat is a "throw another log on the fire" type of furnace. Toby stepped up and did a great job of keeping the "home fires burning". His faithful, diligent service to us was a powerful part of that Peace that the Lord gave me in leaving, and a huge gift as well. Thank you, Toby, for blessing us so well.

Why do I share all of this? To give praise to God, for one. He is and always has been faithful. I want to encourage us to remember that. The ministry is facing some real needs in the area of staff, finances for staff and building "The Covering" which I shared in the last newsletter, and wis-

dom for plans and development of other buildings, prayer cabins and programs. It is easy for one to focus on the surrounding needs or challenges and become overwhelmed by them. I've been there and experienced that up close and personal. Every time, though, God has proven Himself faithful and is already there ahead of me. I have recently written about how meaningful this true statement has become to me and again I see it is so true! Grasp this for yourself. It is powerful and you will begin seeing the hand and power and provision of God in your own life.

"God is preparing you for what He has prepared for you!"

This is a truth you can absolutely bank on and we are confident that the days of 2017 will prove it over and over and over again. Can't wait to see it. Join us in believing and seeing!

PRAYER CABINS SEEING RECORD VISITS

Besel Prayer Cabin was in use all but 3 days in January and one of those was Jan 2nd, a day when we were closed. The Lord is using this newest prayer cabin in mighty ways to touch the lives of those who are seeking a place of quietness before the Lord. All of the Prayer Cabins have seen an increase in usage and we are excited about what the Lord has in store for more Prayer Cabins in our near future.

PRAYER CABIN #6 IN THE WORKS

In the last newsletter I shared that I thought that the Lord was "stepping up the timeline" regarding funding for new prayer cabins. Well, it appears that #6 is knocking at our door. Please pray for clarity on construction type, floor plan, carpenters, roofers, electricians, etc. This may go up yet this summer. I'd like to see the Lord "fast track" this one so it can be put into use quicker than any of the other ones were. Please pray!

STAFF UPDATE

We are waiting on the Lord for His choice and revealing of who will come and join the ministry team here. The hole left by Ethan and Christa's move is being felt, but we have also seen the Lord's great blessing of excellent help during this time. The Lord has given me His peace in this transition. For this I am thankful. I believe that the Lord has great things in store for The Wilderness in both the near and long range future. We are seeking His leading, guiding and provision for all that He wants to birth and develop here. In the meantime, we are working to do the necessary remodeling of the Sunrise Cabin to repair some water damage, so it will be ready to house future staff. We also have some other smaller carpenter projects that are in need of being done in the Main Staff House in preparation for Volunteer Staff, so please keep this in prayer also, for skilled volunteers who could possibly take this on and help us get this done. Thanks.

GOD'S ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS OF 3 YEARS AGO

Three years ago we were crying out to God over a major staff need. We were without an office Administrator/Manager/Secretary/Bookkeeper. Renee and I were trying to do what we could to keep things "afloat" but we were most definitely in need of "professional help" (perhaps others thought that too, ha). Well, the Lord provided greatly! It seems the Lord does "above and beyond" quite often here. It is so amazing to look back and see His hand. I really need to remember this for the days that I just can't seem to see a way. Anyway, that's what Cheryl has been as our office administrator:

above and beyond! If you have called here you find her voice most often. She is professional, knowledgeable, full of grace yet firm when she needs to be, and so pleasant to talk with. I just can't believe that it's been 3 years already and yet I thank God each day for His provision of Cheryl. If she has been a blessing to you drop her a short note of encouragement and thanks: office@wildernessfellowship.com. Put in the subject line: "Thanks Cheryl". She will be blessed. Thanks, Cheryl!



CHERYL

- Randy

Randy Klawitter is married to Renee, and they have four children, three 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.

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Did you know? PART V

By Dick Klawitter, Founder of TWFM



In the Fall issue of Refreshing Times I asked: "Does anyone recognize the people in this picture taken by our trailer on Jerusalem Hill?" Little did I realize the encouraging blessing that we would receive from one dear friend who spotted herself and husband among others that she recognized. The following are excerpts of a letter that she shared with us. Thank you so much, Kathryn, for being one of God's special encouragers!

Dear Wilderness:

Within an hour after the fall issue of the Refreshing Times came I sat down and read it cover to cover. Then I concentrated on "Did you know?" by my good friend Dick Klawitter!

Before I realized what he was asking, I said to myself, "That's me in that picture sitting at the table. I think it is dear Lois (in pink) standing behind someone I don't remember. The big white & blue bowl on the table is mine too!"

She then went on to list the names of a number of long-time, dear friends who were a part of the very foundation stones of The Wilderness. She continued....

How well I remember that very spot! It was exciting to be there! Many were St. Paul's couples and we were of one accord and appreciated the fellowship so much. Of course I remember Paster Herb Mjorud!

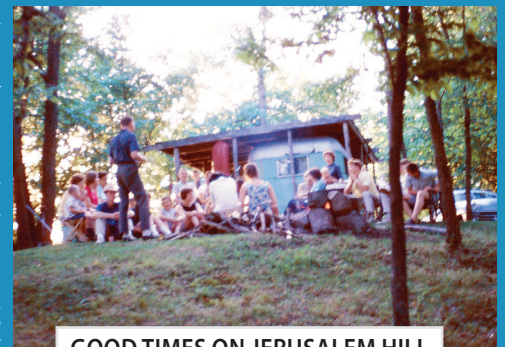
We were at The Wilderness several times over the years. John (husband) came sometimes to work and I think son, Dan, did too. John and I were there for a couple's retreat with Dallas and Linda Strom as leaders. They talked us into sharing as well, which we did.

This is Memory Lane for me.....God has His hand on what He started—The Wilderness. Thank you, faithful Klawitters and Staff.

Love you, Kathryn Kvinge

Words fall short to express the memories and joys that flood my heart as I read a letter like this. The roads built, the camp-sites cleared, the buildings remodeled, the trails cut, the foundations built, the logs cut and peeled, and the trees planted. The vision that God laid on my heart back in the mid 50's could not have been accomplished without the faithful gifts and hard-working volunteers in those early years. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN, was our home church from 1953 to 1964, and so it was this family of dear and precious friends who rallied around Lois and I and played a major role in laying the groundwork and foundation stones of what is now The Wilderness Fellowship Ministries. The memories flood over me with just the mention of the name of one of these dear saints who have invested so much and encouraged me so greatly. My heart is full of thanks, full of praise to God, and full of hope for the future. God has done and is doing great things through this ministry and it excites me that God is raising up new people to carry on.

Until next time, let me close with one of my favorite songs, which we have sung countless times while gathering at The Wilderness... To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!....and continues to do.



GOOD TIMES ON JERUSALEM HILL

MEMORIAL DAY 2017

Join us for Memorial Day Family
Campout, May 26-29, 2017

We are so excited to announce that Dr. Larry Guthrie will be with us for Memorial Day Weekend this year, May 27-28. He will be bringing 4 sessions: Saturday and Sunday, both morning and evening. These sessions are appropriate for all ages. Three sessions will be on the theme of Lessons from the Sheep, and one session will be on the Gospel in the Stars:



DR. LARRY GUTHRIE

In Genesis 15, God speaks to Abraham, telling him to look to the heavens and count the stars. When Abraham obeyed and looked overhead, he believed, and God counted that as righteousness. So what was it that Abraham saw that caused him to believe? The premise of this lesson is that Abraham saw the gospel written by the meaning of the names God gave to the stars. While mankind quickly perverted God's purpose for the stars, the truth remains that they testify of a loving creator who had a plan for salvation from the very beginning.

Dr. Larry Guthrie joined full time ministry back in 1979. During the past 35+ years he has served at Christian camps such as Fort Wilderness and Forest Springs, written home school curricula, designed character training materials for schools, and spoken at various venues around the world. Most recently Larry taught and developed curriculum for Harvest Home Farm where he used God's creation to teach about the creator's invisible attributes, eternal power, and divine nature. (Romans 1:20) His radio program "Food for Thought from Harvest Home Farm" reached an audience of more than 12,000,000 twice daily.

Larry is a graduate of the University of Illinois and taught seven years as a public school science teacher before becoming an Asst. Professor of Education at Indiana University Northwest. He is now retired and lives in the small community of Pigeon Falls, WI. Larry and his wife Lois have two married children and seven grandchildren.

The rest of Memorial Day weekend will be yours to enjoy hiking, camping, and being together as family. Please join us. There are still family cabins and campsites available. Please come and enjoy some time in The Wilderness. We look forward to having you. See you this summer!

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

WURDEMAN CHIROPRACTIC IN NORTH BRANCH, MN

SYREN GENERAL STORE IN SIREN, WI.

GRANTSBURG MO JOE COFFEE SHOP IN GRANTSBURG, WI

PLATINUM HEALTH SOLUTIONS IN ROSEVILLE, MN

NEED A VOLUNTEER TO HELP

Many have shared how incredible the new Prayer Cabin shower house is. Everyone is loving it! Well, almost everyone... Brianna (housekeeping) has a few complaints stemming from the fact that the woodchips that are supposed to stay outside often find their way inside. So we're asking the Lord for someone with the "know how" to put pavers down in front of the door so as to stop the woodchips from being tracked in so much. Maybe a crew of a few guys for a day or two could get it done. We are thinking about 7' x 8'. If you'd like to help us by doing this please let me know. I've not done pavers before so it's something I'd like help with. We will provide the materials and a Prayer Cabin, you provide the know-how and labor. Let us know by calling, emailing, or filling out the Volunteer Form on our website. Thanks.



PC SHOWERHOUSE

GUEST FEEDBACK

"Wow! I'm blown away by your hospitality! I've been so strengthened in my relationship with God while staying here at the Timothy Cabin. May God abundantly bless you for your amazing service to His children!" – **NT**

"As always...I want to thank you for all you do to make these prayer cabins available. Each time I come God meets me here and I am tremendously refreshed. Many blessings." – **DT**

"Thank you so much! God moves in and through you all and in this place with power and grace. Blessed every time and leave built up to move back into life." – **VR**

"Thank you for the verse that you wrote on our card. It got us facing the right direction. Our marriage has been refreshed and our eyes refocused on the One who can renew and breathe life (and life abundantly) into dry bones."

– **M/TL**

"How can I explain to you what these two days have meant to me? Many are coming to understand the struggles that our soldiers face when they come home from battle – but far fewer understand what the family endures....fear, hurt, grief, anxiety, depression, and "fight-or-flight" reactions. I arrived here battle-weary and without hope. But Jesus was waiting for me with open arms. Here I found grace and the strength to fight for my family another day. Thank you for this sanctuary." – **SPK**

"The personal verse left on the table to welcome me in my cabin feels like an answer to a question I have been putting and holding forward before God. It gave me assurance, and I was very comforted to have received it." – **ZH**



Besel Cabin Photo
by Ethan Deal

"Thank you, I came here a broken man in need of healing. You allowing God to work in your life has given me a place to do that." – **TJ**

DONATIONS

ONLINE GIVING

Thank you to those who have already been using this feature. One-time or monthly recurring donations can be set up through our website. Click on *Ways to Support Us* under the *Connect with Us* menu 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.

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

IN MEMORY OF

Bob & Patty Patch

Karl Hoff

Dick & Louise Klawitter

Debbie Putnam Kylo (former TWFM staff); Gerald Johnson;

Linda Hathaway;

Jim Hathaway

Vi Fladland-Pugh

Don Fladland

Michael & Tina Lajko

Almyra Kapphahn

Sandra Dahl

Donald A. Dahl

Grace Holte

Wayne Holte

Della Alm

Lois Klawitter

Richard Trapp

Kay Trapp

Janet Roberts

Lorraine Baker

Paul Kragness

Stu Read

Rey & Julie Miller

Mark Johnson

Maureen Harder

E. Bradley Harder

Laurice Ronholdt

Virgil Ronholdt

Maynard Lenz

Marlys Lenz

Dale & Arleth Anderson

Lois Klawitter

Paul & Cheri Staswick

Sid & Marguerite Staswick

Kathryn Kvinge

John Kvinge

Steve & Beth Goblirsch

Godmother; Sig Sennes

Mary Sacco

Debbie Kylo

Honorariums

GIVEN BY

IN HONOR OF

Paul & Cheri Staswick

Dick & Louise Klawitter

Joann Boushek

Rick & Sheila Boushek

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 on our website: www.wildernessfellowship.com

APRIL 15, 2017 – PREPARE SERIES – AMONG US MINISTRIES – JOHN & COURTNEY REDELSHEIMER SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE: PASSOVER AND RESURRECTION LIFE FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

We invite you to journey through Passover as we explore the days leading up to Jesus' last supper, crucifixion and resurrection, and to explore what these days mean to us today, in light of His truth and His Spirit. He has promised all of us that are in Christ, that He makes all things new. What is He making new in you this season? Please register on our website: www.wildernessfellowship.com

APRIL 16, 2017 – EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – 6:00A.M.

Join us in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord! Service will be held in the outdoor worship area on the hill facing Spirit Lake. Breakfast will be served in Johnson Hall following the service. Bring lawn chairs and dress for the weather. It is helpful but not necessary to let us know you are coming, by signing up on our website calendar: www.wildernessfellowship.com

MAY 26-29, 2017 – MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND WITH LARRY GUTHRIE

See article on page 4.

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

X



X

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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