

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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THE BEST IS YET TO COME

by Randy Klawitter

I am flooded with thoughts of God's faithfulness as I write to you at the beginning of this New Year. It's funny how my mind bounces backward and forward. Looking back to the past faithfulness of God and forward to the promise of His faithfulness to come. All I can say is He is Faithful! Like the old saying, "You can stake your claim on that!" The thing that has been on my mind is this: in spite of the potential of all manner of craziness, in this spiraling, out of control world, I hear God saying, "The Best Is Yet To Come!" I want to stand on that and "stake my claim on that!"

What a joy it is to know that we don't have to walk alone into the days, weeks and months ahead. Not only is the Lord willing and promising to walk with us, we read in His Word that He has already gone before us. So... He knows the way. Cool! Huh? Wow! Having your encouragement and support is also a huge blessing...

(continued 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) ...and joy to us here at TWFM as we move into a new year. As Marilyn continues to dream on Prepare Series along with the help of husband Mark, and Ethan serves to help cover the myriad of things that need fixing or doing, and Brianna works to prepare and pray over those facilities she cleans, and Cheryl manages the office, books and over all internal workings of reservations and guests, and me, well just enjoying working along side each of the team wherever needed and trying to give leadership over all, we are overjoyed to have your daily prayers, support and encouragement.

We are all excited for what God will do in this New Year. We are excited for the lives that will be touched. We are excited for the healing that will happen. We are excited for the team members that God will bring to us in the way of volunteers. We are excited because we believe "The Best Is Yet To Come" and HE WILL LEAD THE WAY!

GOD HAS PROVIDED AGAIN!

Jehovah-Jireh, Our Provider! Let me bring you up to date!

- 2015 ended all bills and salaries paid in full.
- Funds provided for the purchase of a much needed grapple rake.
- New pick-up truck provided for. Just before the last newsletter went out I received a call from an individual who wanted to put forth a \$7000 challenge toward meeting the need for a new work truck for TWFM. I almost slipped a piece of paper in the last newsletter presenting this need, but decided to first go talk to a precious friend of TWFM and ask for counsel.



GRAPPLE RAKE ATTACHMENT



NEW WORK TRUCK

I walked away from that meeting with a check to match dollar-for-dollar the \$7000 challenge. The Lord provided us with a great truck that I believe will serve us for a long, long time.

- Web design project. I have been swamped for the last year and just have not been able to take on this new project. I think God's timing is perfect and I am now walking through this huge project with a web designer who is helping us with this very important project. Please pray for wisdom in this task. I want our site to point first and foremost to Jesus, His glory and His presence here at TWFM. We look forward to sharing with you the launch of this new site when it is ready. We'll keep you posted. Please keep us in prayer.

- Prayer Cabin shower house got its first heat today. We are starting to insulate it to hold some heat as we do the electric wiring. As well as providing some good friends to help frame it, God has provided an electrician friend of TWFM to get it all electrified, which should start Jan 25th. I give thanks to God for how He is providing the

right people at the right time.

- God is providing people to fulfill roles here for what God has planned for TWFM. (Welcome aboard, Brian Stephany—Board Treasurer) I love the line that says, "God is preparing you for what He has prepared for you". I believe the Lord Jesus has great and fantastic things in store for TWFM in 2016.



PC SHOWER HOUSE

- Many "new" people are coming to TWFM. 2015 saw 192 new guest reservations averaging slightly more than 1 new reservation every other day! Wow!

I am excited! God is at work here in our midst and in the lives of each visitor. He has encouraged me through so many people as they have shared their gifts, talents, skills, finances, letters of encouragement and blessing on TWFM. One thing that the Lord has laid on my heart is that we are to walk in FAITH and not fear, for The Best Is Yet To Come!



- 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.

WORDS FROM THE WILDERNESS

by Mark Barrett

A few months ago I constructed a field-stone cross in the pasture. Geologists think that this area of Wisconsin was formed by glaciers many years ago. Could be, as I surely was not in want for building material of all shapes and sizes. The placement of the stone cross was on a hillside, at the base of a wooden cross, so as to mimic a shadow of that cross. Even as I set about to gather the stones, some from the field, some from the rock pile, Father God began to download on me. According to the Word, we are all living stones. Some of us He gathers from the pasture of life, a normal life without anything special or dramatic. Just sitting in some field when He picks us up for His purposes. Others He retrieves from the heap of life's rock pile. These are the ones who have been discarded into some pile because of some problem; they got in the way and were not usable how or where they were. These, too, He hand-selects and carries them to the Cross. Wherever He gathers from, their usefulness must begin at the Cross. As I began to set the rocks in place, he assured me that I didn't need to clean them off but that over time the rain (the Holy Spirit) will come to wash them off (with the Word, Ephesians 5:25). I am overwhelmed as I see how we really are like all these rocks. Some are bigger, some smaller. Some are round and smooth; others are rough with jagged edges. Some lightly colored, some are dark, and some are a mixture. Yet... (cont. on page 3)

(cont. from page 2) ... all have a place, a purpose, and a use. Each is fitted together to form as it were a shadow of the cross. Again, according to the Word (1 Peter 2:4,5), we are fitted together.

We have (or should have) no say in where in His design He chooses to put us, or who He puts us next to. Some of the larger rocks are placed as foundation stones. The smaller stones placed along side of these are no less important, for they offer support necessary to keep the large ones in place, especially in the steep (difficult) areas (of life).

I would not suggest that my labor is a work of art. But as I stood looking at this stone cross, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the words the Psalmist penned: "How good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalms 133:1) A few weeks later I had occasion to return to the site. Even in that short time, the image of the Cross being still visible, had begun to be encroached upon by weeds and pasture grasses. Again the Holy Spirit reminded me how readily and easily the normal weeds and grass of the pastures of our life grow up. Unattended, they cover up and obfuscate the image of the Cross. Perhaps this is what Jesus was alluding to when He told us we needed to take up (embrace/care for) our cross daily. (Luke 9:23)

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

You may have, from time to time, found yourself wanting to give more to The Wilderness Fellowship Ministries than your budget would allow. I recently made a

discovery and have a suggestion you may want to take advantage of. As a means of a tax write-off, many large corporations offer to their employees matching funds when the employee donates to a tax-deductible organization. TWFM is a faith-based organization that does not have church or denominational affiliations, which is very attractive to companies with such benefit programs. Many contributions are matched dollar-for-dollar, an easy way to double your giving. Your donation can be designated as to which project you would like it to be applied to (i.e. the shower house, the firewood storage pole barn, the mower). You can also give an honorarium in memory of an individual who had a significant impact on your life. Certain benefit plans allow for past donations to be combined and matched. Check with your Human Resource staff for your company's guidelines.

PICK-UP NEEDS A HOME

We have a pick-up truck that needs to be cleaned up and sold. A 1991 Chevy 2500 Heavy Duty ¾ ton 4x4. It seems real happy to move forward but does not like to back up; needs tranny work. Has good tires and heavy duty carrying rack on the 8' box. Front receiver hitch and very little rust. Starts and runs good. Would make a great farm truck. If you are interested give us a call.



TRUCK FOR SALE

Did you know?

By Dick Klawitter, Founder of TWFM



My dad grew up on a farm in Forest, WI, till the age of 14. At that time he began going to a pre-ministry training school in St. Paul, MN. While there as a young adult, he met his future wife, my mother. Since I had grandparents and aunts and uncles who were farmers, I grew to love being on the farm with them and their machinery and animals. I spent many summer's weeks being a "city boy" farmer. One summer I even worked on a farm near LeSeur, MN.

In the summer of 1947, at the age of 14, I had the privilege of going to Luther Park Bible Camp near Chetek, WI. The Word of God was used by the Holy Spirit to challenge us to commit our life to follow Jesus. On the last night of camp the Holy Spirit broke through the hardness of my heart as the Gospel was shared by the evangelist of the week, W.E. Klawitter, my own dad. I rejoice in the many blessings that are mine as a child of the King of Kings, my Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

That summer, at the age of 14, I purchased with money I had earned on my paper route, my first automobile, for \$40: a 1932 Chevrolet. I had a hard time waiting to get my driver's license, which I got three days after my 15th birthday. (Guess who was asked to drive to baseball games, etc., because he was the only one in the class who owned a car?)

In the fall I was privileged to have my parents enroll me for my high school education at a Christian School, Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, MN. Where Bible Classes, Chapel services, Christian teachers and many fellow students encouraged me in my walk with Jesus.

Fast forward – to the beginning of my junior year. I was introduced to a sophomore girl. I soon discovered that we enjoyed doing things together and also that her parents had gone to Minnehaha in the 1920's, and that they were farmers near Grantsburg, WI. That fall I was invited to meet her family and spend the weekend at the family farm where I could help with chores and fieldwork. I was also taken to see another 93 acre farm about 5 miles away which was rolling hills and woodland, used for pasture and hay fields. This farm was known as "the old Brask farm" which her family had purchased in 1940. Little did I realize what God had planned for this farm!

Stay tuned...more to come!

TWFM SOCIAL MEDIA

TWFM is excited to join the Social Media Network! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see just what God is doing here at TWFM throughout the Year. Stay up to date on Upcoming Events, God's Provision, Maple Syrup, Staff Family, and Much More.

Follow us on Instagram
WILDERNESS_FELLOWSHIP



Like us on Facebook
**THE WILDERNESS
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES**



NEEDS

- Forklift to move firewood baskets and tend to the Maintenance Center needs.
- A firewood storage/processing facility/roof. This is basically a large open-sided building that we can process and store our firewood in for drying. 40' x 80' would provide good space for other things that just need to be under roof and free up valuable space in the Maintenance Center. Rough estimate approx \$10,000
- Firewood processor or volunteer workers to come and help cut and split firewood for winter heat and for maple syrup cooker.

PERSONALIZED GIFT CERTIFICATES

Suggestions:

Pastors, Friends, Family, Wedding Gift, Anniversaries



Forms to purchase a gift certificate can be downloaded on our website
www.wildernessfellowship.com

SYRUP FOR SALE

Still have maple syrup for sale.

If you are interested in some great maple syrup please give us a call or stop by and visit. The next season is upon us soon and we still have quite a bit from last season. The syrup operation and the sale of our finished product is a significant way that God provides for TWFM. Please keep us in mind as you buy gifts throughout the year. Our Maple Syrup always tastes good on vanilla ice cream with crushed pecans, whip cream and a cherry... But be careful it can be addicting.



SYRUP 2016

The 2016 Syrup Season is soon upon us. If you are interested in coming some day when we are setting up the system, cooking, or cleaning up at the end of the season we would love to have your help. Call and let us know you want to help. One thing you can do from home is pray for a great season!

WILDERNESS MAPLE SYRUP CAN BE PURCHASED AT THESE LOCATIONS:

NORTH HEIGHTS LUTHERAN BOOK STORE IN ARDEN HILLS, MN

FROM THE HEART BIBLE AND GIFT IN FOREST LAKE, MN

HOSANNA LUTHERAN BOOK STORE IN LAKEVILLE, MN

WURDEMANN CHIROPRACTIC IN NORTH BRANCH, MN

ABELER CHIROPRACTIC OF ANDOVER, MN

SYREN GENERAL STORE IN SIREN, WI.

JIM WRIGHT IN ST. PAUL, MN

May still have some syrup: 651-633-5910

MEET THE BOARD: Keith Brask

I live in Lakeville, Minnesota, with my wife, Cindy, and son Matthew (13), and daughter Rachel (10). I'm a Residential Contractor, and I've been building for 40 years. I joined TWFM board 21 years ago and joke that I got grandfathered into the board.

The Wilderness Fellowship has a special place in my heart because it is part of my family heritage. My great grandfather homesteaded The Wilderness property in the 1800's. My grandfather cleared the adjoining property to the north for farming and built the home where my dad and I were born and raised. My dad took over the farm when my grandfather retired, and farmed his whole life. As a kid, I went hunting and horseback riding in those woods and got to know every hill and trail. I have watched The Wilderness grow and develop from the very start and have seen God's faithfulness at work through the years. I am proud that part of my heritage has been used to touch thousands of lives through the years. A godly heritage is a wonderful gift to be treasured. The Bible encourages us to teach God's Word to our children, ensuring the gospel will be passed on to every generation. (Psalm 78:4).



KEITH & CINDY BRASK

It has been a blessing to have had a small part in what God is doing. Meeting with Randy, the staff, and the board members has been a privilege. We look forward to what God is going to do next.

GUEST FEEDBACK

"As brief as my stay was, I was introduced to a place of refuge that will easily draw me back...at times alone and at times with family or friends. The burdens I brought with me were replaced with direction and a 'right spirit.' In His grace," - **PM**

"It really is like being on holy ground as soon as we drive onto the property. It's impossible to not smile and say, 'Ahhh...!'" - **CL**

"What a blessing to come here and seek the Lord in a quiet place! I am a heavy dreamer and had a flood of dreams that needed my time to ponder their meaning and I found that here. I now have a new direction that is clear to me. I stand amazed at the wonder of God that never ceases. Blessings on your ministry!" - **LW**



Bo Cabin photo by
Lauretta Jacobsma

"The verses you left were completely connected to why I was here – Then you left the WORD open to the page with Psalm 72; again another confirmation that God's heart is wrapped around 'those who have no helper' Psalm 72:12. I will be the MC for a fundraising banquet for refugee families and I know I'm supposed to use this scripture that night. Isn't God amazing??" - **PM**

Memorials

GIVEN BY | IN MEMORY OF

Vi Fladland-Pugh Ruth Pearson	Don Fladland Julie Richter; Charles Pearson
Jacquelyn Todd	Mrs. Oprah Hedrick; Mrs. Hazel Carlson; Mrs. Debbie Todd; Mr. William Tommerdahl
Richard & Louise Klawitter	Marvin Westrom; Lois Klawitter; Annabel Satre; David Ahlquist; Virgil Ronholdt; Arne Simongaard; Charis Jensen; Robert "Bob" Thorsbakken; Jim Engelhart; Julie Richter; Roger Danielson
Victoria Agency, Inc. Pastor Bruce & Laurel Stumbo	Don A. Dahl Vern & Eva Kragness
Lois Robson Richard Trapp Kenneth & Karen Landro	Virgil Ronholdt Kay Trapp Fred & Dorothy Dahlberg
Bob & Patty Patch Laurice Ronholdt Kathryn Kvinge Della Alm	Karl Hoff Virgil Ronholdt John Kvinge Lois Klawitter

Honorariums

GIVEN BY | IN HONOR OF

Dick & Louise Klawitter Steve & Beth Goblirsch Reed & Roni Schoephoerster Joann Boushek Edwin Emerson	14th Wedding Anniversary Bud Hestness the grandkids! Rick & Sheila Boushek Morris Emerson
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ONLINE GIVING

We can now receive donations online!
Please visit our website:
www.wildernessfellowship.com
and look for the
"Give Online" link.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 19, 2016 - PREPARE SERIES EVENT – GARDENING

Some of the topics that will be presented by Wisconsin's Master Gardeners will be: garden design, soil testing, companion planting, and chemical free gardening. The gardeners will also be demonstrating how to save your seeds. The day will end with planting seeds that you can take home.

APRIL 16 AND MAY 21, 2016 - PREPARE SERIES EVENT – FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS

Have you ever found yourself thinking any of the following statements?

- 1) "There's no unforgiveness in my heart."
- 2) "There's no way I could ever forgive them for what they did."
- 3) "They don't deserve to be forgiven."
- 4) "I've forgiven them, but I'll never be able to forget what they did."
- 5) "I really have forgiven, but I still struggle with feelings of hurt."
- 6) "I can't or won't forgive."

This event is designed to help us deal honestly and fully with any unforgiveness that may be in our hearts.

MAY 27-30, 2016 - MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CAMPOUT AND FIRST ANNUAL "AMAZINGRACE"

The Wilderness Fellowship brings you our own "AmazingGrace" Event! Explore The Wilderness property and race against time! Come, camp for the weekend or come Saturday, May 28th for the day and learn facts about The Wilderness Fellowship and God's Grace in this exciting, one-day race. This is one Memorial Weekend you do not want to miss! Designed for all ages, this family-friendly weekend will bring you closer to each other as you discover each group member's strengths and talents. AmazingGrace is designed to challenge all ages and stages. We hope to help your family grow together this Memorial Weekend.

Stay tuned for more information to come in the next newsletter.

Call now to make your camping reservations!

UPDATES TO ALL TWFM EVENTS WILL BE POSTED TO THE BULLETIN BOARD ON OUR WEBSITE.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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THE WILDERNESS
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES
Fostering Godly Intimacy



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