



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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Website

www.wildernessfellowship.com

"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

MARK SWENSON

EVERYTHING CHANGED IN A SECOND

Former staff member who came in the late 1990's, builder of the Bo Prayer Cabin, remodeler of the Lakeside Cabin, helped Randy with stone work in Founders Fireside Retreat Center, built the Prayer Cabin Shower house, rebuilt the Windy Hill Farmhouse after the fire in 2017, headed up the planning and building of the new Mercy prayer cabin, etc.....One could honestly say he has "left a Mark" on The Wilderness and all who have known him. Mark Swenson has always been a dear friend and one whom I have been

blessed to know and work with here in the ministry of The Wilderness over the last 20 years. On Sept. 12 while riding his motorcycle home from a good day's work here in the area, Mark went off the road and in seconds the course of his life changed dramatically. With severed spine, damaged lungs, broken neck and a number of other issues, Mark found himself in Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN, looking at a long road to putting his life back together and relearn basic life skills all over again. When Renee and I stopped to see him on our way home from a much-needed vacation time in Branson, MO, he was in good spirits and not only planning the next chapters that God was going to write through his life, but complaining about how the doctors kept interrupting his work of trying to follow up on all the building projects that remained unfinished. Amazing perspective and a desire to move forward and impact the Kingdom of Heaven from where he now sits—a wheelchair. Mark is a fighter and one of the hardest workers I know, so from the hospital room he has already touched others through his CaringBridge site, www.caringbridge.org/visit/markswenson2. I encourage you to go there and read his story. You will be blessed and encouraged in the Lord. Also wanted to encourage you to help him in any way the Lord may lead you to. You can also help here:

www.gofundme.com/mark-swenson-severed-spinal-cord. Please keep Mark and Michelle in prayer and encourage them any way you can. He truly has been a brother and encouragement to the ministry of The Wilderness Fellowship. Let's bless him back and encourage him in the new chapters that the Lord is going to write through him.

MERCY CABIN UPDATE

GETTING CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE

We are getting really close. After Mark's accident I asked the Lord to provide another builder to bring an excellent finish to what Mark and his son Jake and co-worker Erik made such an excellent start on. God brought to us a "Yes" from Larry Merrifield, former board member, neighbor and excellent builder. So, at this point, the inside is nearly done and ready for stain and finish. Then chinking, rock work by the propane stove, interior electrical finish and



MARK & MICHELLE SWENSON



lighting, flooring, base, screen porch screening, screen door, walk way completion, the outhouse built and set into place, and we'll be pretty much ready to move in, furnish, and swing wide open the door. Please pray that all these "getting close to the finish line things" will go quickly and without hiccups! We'll let you know when it is open. But it should be pretty soon. Yeah!!

WILDERNESS WORSHIP

CONTINUED GROWTH

As I write this, the Facebook views of the last Wilderness Worship live stream have topped 1008 in just 5 days. We praise the Lord for this favor and ministry outreach. We have even had people contact us from New Zealand and Australia saying they have joined us in worship. So this is reaching not only our community but touching people from all over the world. There were between 120-130 people who joined us at the Fellowship Center for the last evening of worship and praise. We want to continue to offer high quality programming and video presentation to match. For a year now, we have worked on a limited scope of 2 cameras and have done the best we can with their limits, but all along we have had the capacity to operate 5 cameras remotely from our video booth. We would like to add at least 1-2 more to help keep the video presentations fresh and cutting-edge. Make this a matter of prayer. Perhaps the Lord will prompt someone to help us with these purchases.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK 8.18.18



A VISION FOR GROWTH

WORSHIP LODGE CONFERENCE CENTER

What if? This is a question that could have any number of outcomes. But what if the Lord allowed for the continued growth of the Worship Nights? What if the Lord grew the "Experience the River" day conferences to the point that we had to divide up and have one group come every other month just to make room? What if a training center and/or Bible School grew out of this community hunger for the Word of God? What if we had a place for students to come from all over the world, many nations, into The Wilderness to hear "God speak tenderly to them"? Well, I can tell you one thing, we'd need a bigger building, a bigger staff and a bigger budget. But one thing

we already have going for us is this: we already have the BIGGEST GOD who could do it. I often feel so lacking in the “vision” department but I know that this “campus” could be used in powerful and huge ways to impact the body of Christ and impact the world. *Lord Jesus, Let it be so for your GLORY alone! Raise up those whom you want involved. Raise up the finances to build. Raise up the circle of wise counselors and leaders to train and equip your body. Provide the wisdom and faith needed to walk it out. We declare this for your own glory alone. By your power, Lord Jesus Christ, release every puzzle piece needed to accomplish all that you have prepared for us. AMEN!*

EXPERIENCE THE RIVER

OVERVIEW AND 2019 SCHEDULE

The new day conferences have been a huge blessing and a “great time” to those who have come. With a love for worship, teaching, fellowship and a meal together, why wouldn’t it be a great time? Each month the attendance is growing and we anticipate that it will continue to grow as word gets out. See the ad in this newsletter for the upcoming events. We invite you to come and “Experience the River” with us. We believe you will come away blessed and encouraged by the power of His Holy Spirit. Join us! Check out the 2019 schedule of speakers, dates



DAVE HEINRICH TEACHING ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

and times. Mark your calendars now! Better yet, call and reserve prayer cabins or group cabins in advance for these events. They will book up fast.

-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.

Did you know?

PART XII

By Dick Klawitter, Founder of TWFM

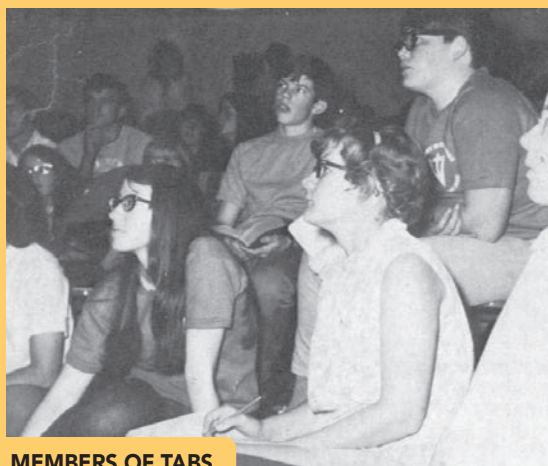


I ended chapter 11 asking, “Have you heard about TABS?” Here’s the story. Shortly after arriving at Glendale Lutheran Church in Seattle, WA, I was asked by the church parish worker, Amy Dye, to take over the leadership of the High School Youth Bible Studies. I agreed to attend the Bible Study held at her home. There were 3 girls, Amy, and myself. A small beginning and with no idea of what lay ahead. I agreed to give leadership to the Bible Study. As the Holy Spirit began stirring in the lives of the teenagers, many of them wanted to bring their school friends. They decided it was necessary to give their teenage Bible study a name. The vote was an acronym, TABS—Teen Age Bible Study. Chris Morgan, an artist, designed a red and white TABS button that the kids wore to school. This brought on the question, “What’s TABS?” The answer was, “Come with me on Tuesday nights and find out.” Do I dare to tell you that TABS attendance grew to a 1-hour prayer time, ½-hour sing and share time, followed by 1 ¼-hour Bible study, and from 5 high schoolers to a maximum attendance of 185, with an average of 120 youth.

Out of the TABS youth group came The Commitment, 60 high school teens committed to Christ and to sharing this commitment with other youth. They traveled through Washington State sharing the good news through Gospel music, readings, skits, and personal testimonies of their walk with Jesus. TABS youth also enjoyed work camp in British Columbia, canoe trips, Cascade Wilderness hikes to Holden Village, plus many other special events which were focused on helping the youth to grow in their relationship and commitment to live all out for Jesus, coupled with a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leading and the unchangeable authority of the Bible, God’s Holy Word.

Why do I share this with you? Because it led to what The Wilderness is today, with its goals and motivation, its seeking to lead individuals, families, youth groups, church families, into a Holy Spirit led, abundant life in our troubled hurting world. This can only happen when God’s Word has become our daily guide, our “Owners” manual, instruction and correction book. Let me know if I can help you. May God bless you and your loved ones.

- Dick



MEMBERS OF TABS



URGENT NEED

**\$8000 GIVEN TOWARD ROAD GRAVEL,
\$32,000 MORE NEEDED**

Last spring we nearly had to close down the ministry due to impassable roads. For the April Prepare Series and Worship Night we had to use tractor and trailer to get 80+ people to the Fellowship Center and back to their cars. For the better part of a year now we have been praying for this need to be met which will greatly impact the ability of guests and ministry to continue through the spring season here at TWFM without burying their cars up to the axels in mud. There is good reason we normally call it "Mud Season" but that could all change if there were enough funds to gravel the roads. This is long overdue and with the lateness of this newsletter we may not be able to get it done this fall but to have the funds for it would make a huge difference here. Would you consider lifting this need before the Lord, that we would see this need fully met, above and beyond our normal operating expenses?

WINTER RESERVATIONS

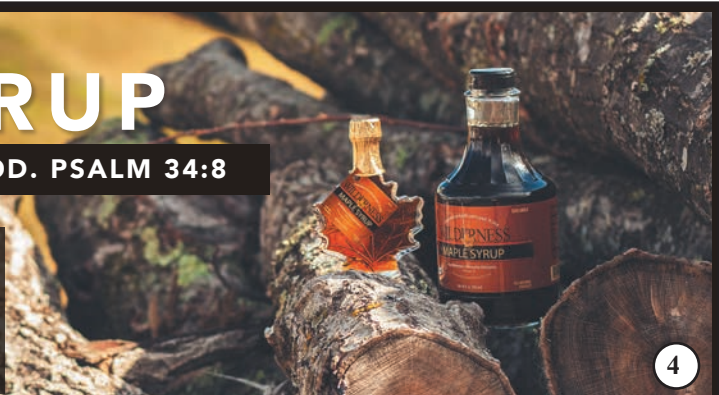
Remember we are open year round, so make your reservations now. Every season is a special time as we witness the design, glory and splendor of the God of creation as He changes each and every season according to His design. Every day brings a new and beautiful day never been lived in and never to be lived in again, so why not spend it here in a prayer cabin, group cabin, retreat center or, if you are brave... a tent. We know Jesus will show Himself in a special way to you and draw you deeper and closer to Himself.



Wilderness MAPLE SYRUP

O TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD. PSALM 34:8

**WILDERNESS MAPLE SYRUP CAN BE PURCHASED AT
THE WILDERNESS AND AT THESE LOCATIONS:**
WURDEMANN CHIROPRACTIC IN NORTH BRANCH, MN
SYREN GENERAL STORE IN SIREN, WI



GUEST FEEDBACK

"This time in your lovely woods has been a huge blessing for my heart. My loving Father graciously met me here. He indeed spoke tenderly – even when bringing me face to face with sin. I'm forgiven! My Father has given me a 'door of hope' as I enter a new season of life and ministry." **-MF**

"A year ago I was at a very low point in my life. By God's grace I am not at that point this year! I owe so much to meeting with the LORD at this Prayer Cabin. Being alone with the LORD, unburdening by heart before Him; allowing His Word and His Spirit to 'wash' me." **-FK**

"Wonderful place. As we hoped, God met us here, and His light did shine into the cabin. You have a powerful ministry here – may God continue His favor on you in the future." **-P&CA**

"Thank you for your heart to provide respite. We all need this more than we know, resting in His Presence here." **-NL**

"I appreciate you leaving the light on for me. I have been here enough that it felt like coming home. So good to walk by the lake and sing praise to the Lord!" **-KO**



Besel Cabin Photo
by Ethan Deal

"We have rested, we have read, we have worshiped. We are full. We are content. Sunrise at the beach, sunset at Rice Lake – loved hearing the cows calling. Stargazing at night under a mighty blanket of stars. Thank you." **-J&SO**

DONATIONS

ONLINE GIVING

One-time or monthly recurring donations can be given on our website. Click on Ways to Support Us under the Connect With Us menu on our home page.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

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

THRIVENT CHOICE

Thrivent Financial members: this is a charitable grant program that allows you to recommend where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable funds. You must designate the charity of choice each quarter. Please consider directing to The Wilderness Fellowship.

Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

AMAZON SMILE

The Wilderness Fellowship can earn a small percentage on your purchases, if you select us as the charity of choice when shopping on Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0175560>.

PERSONALIZED GIFT CERTIFICATES



Gift Certificates can be purchased online or by mail. Please follow instructions on our website.

www.wildernessfellowship.com

EMAIL UPDATES AVAILABLE SIGN UP TODAY!

Keep up to speed with what's happening at The Wilderness! Any new needs, special events or program information is sent out via our email list.

It's easy to sign up!

Go to: www.wildernessfellowship.com/stay-informed
enter your name and email and
click "keep me informed".



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**THE WILDERNESS
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES**



Memorials

GIVEN BY

Daniel & Debra Satern
Vi Fladland-Pugh
Helen Baxter
Todd & Cheryl Riggs

Dick & Louise Klawitter

Tom & Kathy Lindstrom
Marianne Van Oort

Paul & Cheri Staswick
Harland Norderhaug
Margie Hathaway
Randall & Kathleen Iblings
Lois Robson

IN MEMORY OF

Irene Steffen
Don Fladland
Carole Ann Walker
Jacque Bona;
Jewell Agrimson;
Connie Pearson
Ardell Nelson;
Carole Walker;
Meta K. Johnson;
Erhardt H. "Ed" Paasch;
Lois Klawitter;
Marv Westrom
Harriet Lindstrom
Violet Gruenberg;
Gary Miller
Sid & Marguerite Staswick
Fern Barkley
Fern Barkley
Jean Schmidt
Elsie Trapp

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 15TH, 2018 – CHRISTMAS WORSHIP NIGHT - 7:00PM

A special night of worship featuring a mix of sacred Christmas carols and worship songs.

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2019 – EXPERIENCE THE RIVER - CARL WESLEY ANDERSON - 12:30PM

Love Speaks. A look at the Inner Guidance of the Holy Spirit, and how the Spirit works in confirmation by giving us a "sense" within of a green light, yellow light, or red light in our daily decisions of following His ways. To register for this event call 715-327-8564 or visit www.wildernessfellowship.com/events. Registration deadline is February 1st, 2019.

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2019 – TWFM ANNUAL MEETING - 3:00PM

A night to enjoy some delicious desserts as we look back on the past year and celebrate all that God has done!

APRIL 20TH, 2019 – EXPERIENCE THE RIVER - DAVE HEINRICH - 12:30PM

Dave Heinrich, from Northgate Church, will be back and sharing more with us about Spiritual Warfare. Join us for a day of teaching, worship and a catered dinner. To register for this event call 715-327-8564 or visit www.wildernessfellowship.com/events. Registration deadline is April 5th, 2019.

WILDERNESS WORSHIP NIGHTS – 3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH – 7:00PM

An hour and a half of worshiping the Lord in song! No agenda, no preaching, just worship. If you're unable to attend in person you can join us on our FaceBook livestream.c

MAY 24TH-27TH, 2019 – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Keep an eye out on our website for info on Memorial Day Weekend events at The Wilderness!

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

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X

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