

# REFRESHING TIMES

*"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

**SPRINGTIME RAINS**  
Spirit lake is finally  
ice free!

## Mission Statement

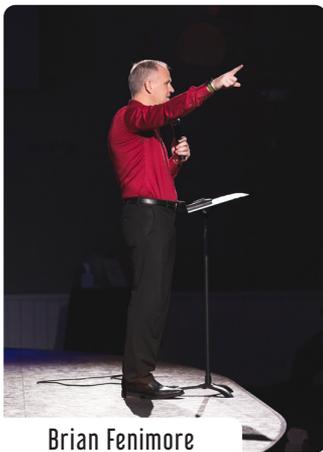
*To provide a place of refuge, peace, restoration, and hope, dedicated to help people establish intimacy with Jesus Christ and those they love.*





## Northwoods Conference Update—His Voice!

It was a weekend to remember. A weekend of impact, changed lives, healing, renewed hope, ministry and profound spiritual growth. But would you expect anything less than that, with up to 150 people gathering together to learn for the first time or the 100th time, that the God of all creation desperately desires to communicate with us on a daily basis? Brian Fenimore and Carl Wesley Anderson brought a power packed weekend of teaching, understanding, and scriptural truth, and proof of the fact that God does still speak today and you can learn to hear from Him. On our website



Brian Fenimore

we share with you the 4 main sessions so you can watch, review, or continue to learn and grow in the Lord Jesus and be blessed. The Wilderness Fellowship Ministries put on this whole weekend on a donation basis and we are so excited to see how God met our needs when we stepped out to follow-- His Voice. We so appreciate your support. Mark your calendars for March 24-25, 2023 and be watching our website ([www.wildernessfellowship.com](http://www.wildernessfellowship.com)) for more information on next year's conference.



Carl Wesley Anderson

Administrators and did a walk-through of the whole layout plan. We received the thumbs-up on 10 of the sites, but were told that we needed to go through another permit process for a variance regarding 2 of the locations because they were too close to a swamp. The deadline for getting the application submitted for that month was at 4:30 pm that very day. So, I quickly printed off the 9-page application and worked fast and furiously to get all the information they needed and had it at the Government Center that day by 4:10 pm. We will still need a few pieces to be done for the application to be complete, but they said they would work with us, so I praise God for favor in this. Also, God graciously provided another piece for us. We needed a certified surveyor to draw up the placement/location for these two sites. God had again gone before us, as the wife of the owner of the local survey company has been to the prayer cabins, so they know the blessings

received through the prayer cabin ministry and altered their already busy schedule to squeeze us in. We are trusting that the variance will be approved and then we will be able to move forward on all locations, as the funding comes in for each cabin. Once the variances are granted, we will be able to take anyone interested in funding a cabin and go for a walk and let them pick their cabin site. Yeah! How fun is that!! Please, pray

with us for every aspect of this project. I estimate that for all aspects of the expansion we will need nearly \$1,000,000 total to complete it. This includes building all the cabins, additional cleaning and office staff, possible additional office space and computer equipment, the second shower house, well and septic, additional road gravel for soft spots in the new road (showed up in the spring thaw) and parking spots for each cabin, additional road work for a turnaround, trail trimming and chipping, electric and propane infrastructure, and more. It's a huge project, but I believe God has people whom He has chosen to be a part of this. If any of you have felt the Lord tugging on your heart about this, please come forward and encourage all of us. The current time frame is to hopefully build 2 prayer cabins and the new shower house this summer, if all the funding comes in. The conditional use permit is good for 3 years. That means possibly 5 cabins in 2023 and 5 more in 2024. Lots of planning and plans to create, but if God wants it done He will bring it about. I desire to lift high praises to Jesus in all of this. He is ABLE!

## Prayer Cabin Village Progress

Progress is being made on the Prayer Cabin Village! Everyone we talk to is excited about having more prayer cabins. The need seems to be growing every day. We opened up Embrace Prayer cabin on Feb 2. From that date to the date of this writing is 63 nights. It may interest you to know that 50 of those 63 possible nights were filled. A total of 29 guests have already stayed in that new cabin. Also, from its first use to today, 78 reservations are on the books right now for Embrace Cabin. Wow! It is also currently booked every weekend but 1 through June. WOW again! This is the kind of use these prayer cabins are seeing. So, with that said, and as of this writing, not one of the 8 prayer cabins have a weekend open through the end of May. That is why we are feeling the need for more prayer cabins and are excited to expand the Prayer Cabin Village. So here is where we stand as of this writing.

We have chosen 12 spots for the next 12 cabins. On April 1, I (Randy) met with the Land Use



Embrace Cabin

## Cabins Funded

With that all said, we do have commitment for the next prayer cabin. As the last newsletter mentioned, that one will be called HOPE, which will "hopefully" be allowed to sit in the first of the two locations requiring the above-mentioned variance. Next, I have been approached by a dear friend of The Wilderness who has been coming to the prayer cabins for a number of years. She informed me that she wants to fund a prayer cabin and would like to call it GRACE. Just waiting on final word and funding flow for this one, but it is possible that HOPE and GRACE could happen this summer. Next, I received a call from another longtime friend and prayer cabin guest, stating that he and his wife want me to stop in at their home next time I am in the Cities because they want to talk with me about funding a prayer cabin. So, as you can see, God is moving on people's hearts. When we ask Him what He wants, listen to what He says, and then ask Him for what we heard Him speak, then sit with our hands outstretched in expectation, shouldn't we expect Him to fill them? Well, God's moving on hearts doesn't stop

there. Recently my uncle passed. Dale Anderson served on the TWFM board for 40 years. He was so committed and a faithful blessing. Well... Dale's wife and family called and are interested in funding or helping fund another prayer cabin. So, in God's time there's at least a start to another prayer cabin fund. There have been at least two other individuals who have indicated that they want to fund a cabin in the future. So, do you see why I say, "God is on the move"? I have to admit that it is very exciting yet very overwhelming at the same time. But God's got this! His timing and provision is always perfect. Want to be a part of it? You know what to do. Pray and listen for His Voice! Then do what He said. It's an exciting way to live.

## The Process

Once we get the land use variances all squared away, we will have to get building permits for each individual building as funding comes in. So, one step at a time and we will cross the finish line. All of this takes funds to move forward.

## Shower House Status

In our last newsletter I mentioned that a \$50,000 gift came in toward the shower house. That is about 1/2 of what we anticipate we will need. If anyone wants to help match this gift we need to see that happen. We are under a squeeze, as cement contractors are booking up and we need to get this going to be done before winter. Tile is being donated, so that is a huge blessing. The well estimate is about \$23,500, the septic system estimate is \$8,800, and plumbing is \$9,200, so we have a good start but not yet enough to complete this one. I am told that this shower house needs to be completed when Grace Cabin opens to meet code requirements of a water source within 400 feet of each cabin. Yeah, God can do it! Maybe it's already done and we The Wilderness Staff just don't know it yet.

## Events Coordinator! Right under our nose!



Betsy Miller

We have found her hiding right in our midst. Yup! Literally right under our nose. Who, Who, Who? you might ask. Drum roll please—let me introduce you again to our very own Betsy! Coordinator Extraordinaire! We all watched as she and Cheryl took on the challenge to do the Northwoods Conference and Marriage Retreats kind of out of necessity, and they did a fantastic job! Betsy displayed a servant heart and was always taking detailed notes and organizing it well, covering all the bases. So, Betsy, with pencil and tablet in hand will keep track of every jot and tittle to make events run smoothly start to finish. I must say of Cheryl and Betsy, that we could not be more blessed to have these two exceptional women running the office operations here at The Wilderness. They bring joy and professionalism to everything they put their hands to. Thank you, Cheryl for managing and leading so well. Thank you, Betsy for not only all you already so willingly do, but also for stepping into this new extremely important role.

## 50 Years of Ministry Open House

It is with humility and praise to God that we announce to you an Anniversary Celebration is being planned. The end of September 2022 will mark the completion of our 50th year in ministry. So, we would like to invite you to join us Saturday September 17th for an open house, giving praise to the Lord Jesus Christ for His sustaining blessing and divine provision for 50 amazing years.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Did you know?

### PART XX

By Dick Klawitter, Founder of TWFM



Hey, sorry I missed the last couple Refreshing Times. Got to play catch up now.

Let's step back to June of 1971 when Lois and I had a "Sharing The Vision" meeting with a group of special friends and relatives who also included our parents Clarence and Myrtle Johnson and Pastor and Mrs. Klawitter. At that time, we shared the fact that Clarence and Myrtle wanted to donate their 93 acre property, the old Brask Farm, for a camping and retreat ministry which had already been on our hearts now for over 20 years. Prior to this meeting, while listening to a speaker at a family camp in Washington State, it was like the Lord took a little penlight and lit up the words "the wilderness" from Hosea 2:14: "I will take my children into the wilderness and there I will speak tenderly to them." He said to me "That is what I want you to call that property back in Wisconsin." My heart leapt with excitement thinking after 20 years of waiting, could this actually be going to happen? Yes! God was on the move.

So back to the meeting with family and friends. As we talked, many ideas were shared as to how God might use this property. I hope to share more of those details later on in another writing, but one thing that came out of that meeting was that the Lord was leading me to ask Clarence Johnson, my father in law, about the possibility of acquiring any adjoining properties. This was a step of faith as we had no idea how God would provide the funds, but we moved ahead by faith, trusting that God would lead. Two properties were inquired about. 40 acres on the north end of the old Brask Farm and another 83 acre farm that bordered the east side of the old Brask Farm.

What happened next was nothing short of miraculous! You will have to stay tuned til next issue to find out what happened next, but one thing is for sure: God was on the move and STILL IS!

# THE ULTIMATE Marriage Retreat

WITH JON & AMY CLAUSSEN

2022 DATES:

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2

Call The Wilderness office at 715-488-8564 to find out more details and to register. Or you can register online at:  
[www.wildernessfellowship.com/events](http://www.wildernessfellowship.com/events).



(cont. from page 3) We don't know exactly what the weekend will look like yet; keep tuned to our website and facebook page for details. Would love to have you join us!

## Growth is stretching us!

As we continue to grow and develop more prayer cabins we will likely need more office staff and cleaning staff. We are not sure of the timing of this, but please be in prayer with us and for us as we go through the growing pains of being stretched. Bless you and let us know if you'd be interested when the time comes.

## 17 baskets in 3 hours

We were blessed to have a youth group come and do a service project to help us fill wood baskets this spring. What a HUGE blessing they were. They were great workers and just dug right in and got to it! 3 hours later, 17 baskets of wood were ready for the drying room. Thank you so much to this bunch of eager beavers. You're welcome back anytime! There are many more baskets to fill if anyone wants to help us get this done ASAP. Give a call!



East Balsam Baptist Youth

## Need for volunteers

Road trimming, landscaping cleanup, chipping, prayer cabin site prep, holes to dig for Hope Cabin when ready, and on and on the list could go. This ministry has been built by literally thousands of volunteers over the years and we are so

blessed to have you come and help. If any of you would want to come and help us this summer, we really could use your strong support. Call and set up a time when we could work together on some of these projects. We will need to direct which project suits the workers, so call and let me know your thoughts on this. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Mechanic needed to work on Geo Tracker

Our Tracker blew a clutch or a seal. Not sure which. Anyway, we sure could use it if repaired. Help!



Also, we are still looking for a Chevy 4-door Tracker. We have been told that we really need a tracker or same frame with automatic transmission. So we are looking for a slightly used 4-door, with 4x4 that we can put the tracks on. If anyone has one for sale or has a lead on one, please contact us.

## -Randy



Randy Klawitter is married to Renee, and they have four children, five grandchildren, two sons-in-law, 2 daughters-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, equipment operator, etc, and fills in wherever needed. If you have questions or comments, email Randy at [randy@wildernessfellowship.com](mailto:randy@wildernessfellowship.com).

## No organized plans for Memorial Day weekend this year

With the busy-ness of the Northwoods Conference, Marriage Retreats, and building projects going on, and the TWFM 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend in September, we are not planning any programming for Memorial Day weekend. Feel free to call and make reservations to come and join others in the fellowship of camping.

## MORLEY'S MAPLE SYRUP FOR SALE AT TWFM OFFICE





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WORSHIP IN THE PARK – AUGUST 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Join us at Crooked Lake Park in Siren, WI for a night of worship by the lake! We also have the pavillion reserved for the evening, so feel free to show up early and bring a picnic supper! We look forward to seeing you there!

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

You are invited to join us September 17, 2022 as we REFLECT on God's blessing and provision over the past 50 years and EXPECT great things as He leads us into the future! Look for more details coming soon on our website and in our next newsletter! We look forward to seeing you there!

## ULTIMATE MARRIAGE RETREAT WITH JON & AMY CLAUSSEN – SEP 30 - OCT 2

The Ultimate Marriage Retreat is a call to hope, greatness, and destiny for every marriage. We begin with the Father's original culture, and from His starting point, we drop a plumb line to help you build the ultimate marriage. It's time to learn what heaven's idea about marriage truly is – because it's way bigger than you think! Register today by calling the office at: 715-488-8564!

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

An hour and a half of worshipping 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.

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

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