



GLACIER CAMP NEWS

[Jesus] said to them, "Come away to a secluded place all by yourselves and rest a while." – Mark 6.31

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lenten On-Line Bible Study -- Starts March 9 @5.00 pm

The book of Galatians will be the theme of our four week Lenten On-Line Bible Study. See the article in this edition of the *News* for more information. We always have a good, engaging discussion. To Sign up, email: timothy@glaciercamp.org

Spring TIM Talks Set for May 4-6 -- Theme: "Women and Witness -- An Exploration of Different Women and their Witness to Faith in 1 and 2 Samuel.

Scripture often shares with other cultures of the ancient world a prejudice against women. But there are places where women play important and surprising roles. At the Spring TIM Talks we will take a look at women in 1 and 2 Samuel. Hannah, Abigail, and the wise woman of Tekoa play critical roles in this drama. Join us in May to find out how God uses these women and others in shaping life and history.

Welcoming Children Into God's Love

editor's note: Glacier Camp was blessed to have Sophie Heinz offer the keynote address at our Donor Appreciation Dinner in November- The text of Sophie's address follows. A video of the speech is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/s8MMAb-yieA>.- TCL

Good evening, everyone! My name is Sophie Heinz, and I'm truly honored to be back in Montana, though this time I traded long sunny days and lake swims for



SOPHIE AND LIZ ENTERING MONTANA

crisp chilly air and frosted mountain tops. Normally, I only get to experience camp in the summer, so it's a treat to be here during the off season. If you don't know, I come from rural Illinois, where the 'highest mountain' is, well, the top of a corn stalk.

Even though I've just finished my second summer here, I'm still—and always will be—in awe of the beauty that surrounds this place. The mountains, the lake, the open skies—it's all a testament to God's artistry, and it fills me with gratitude every time I return. I know many of you have spent years coming here, but I encourage

you to look around tonight and tomorrow morning with fresh eyes and an open heart, to see the wonder of His creation anew.

Back in January 2023, I had just reapplied to work with the Girl Scouts in Illinois alongside my best friend, Elizabeth. The day they offered me a position, Liz called to tell me about a small camp she'd found up in Montana. We'd never been that far west, and moving there for the summer felt like a big leap. But something about it sparked my curiosity. I decided to apply to Glacier Presbyterian, and soon enough, I had an offer there, too. Suddenly, Liz and I faced a big decision: stay in Illinois with the Girl Scouts or head out to Montana for three months. And so began what we called 'Girl Scouts vs. Montana' days! We went back and forth, constantly debating what we should do.

After weeks of wrestling with the choice, I thought, 'If I'm not 100% sure about Montana, maybe I shouldn't go.' So, in mid-March, I called my sister Trinity, who I'm very close with, and told her I wasn't going to Montana. I'd stay with the Girl Scouts in Illinois. And I'll never forget what she told me 'I knew you wouldn't go.' and then she asked if I had told Liz yet.



HAVING FUN IN THE CRAFT SHACK

But I hadn't; it felt like too much of a letdown and I wanted to wait until later in the day to tell her the bad news. Well later came, and instead of me calling her she called me. She sounded so sure, saying, 'I'm 100% Montana, what about you.' And you know what I said? Me too!' So I had to call my sister Trinity back and tell her I'd changed my mind—I was headed to Montana. From that moment on, I never had another 'Girl Scout Day.'

Looking back, I know that it wasn't my sister, it wasn't Liz, and it wasn't my own decision that brought me here. It was God, guiding me to Glacier Presbyterian. I believe He cleared the path, took away my doubts, and gave me the courage to come here. Every day since has confirmed it. I was meant to be here. And every moment at this camp has shown me why. After being 100% Montana Liz and I packed up our car in Illinois and drove all the way to Glacier Camp. It was a 25 hour drive, and we didn't know exactly what to expect, but we knew we were in for an adventure. That first summer, I started as an overnight counselor, and right away, I learned that there's no experience quite like spending six straight days with these kids. Living with them day and night, you see how much they carry with them—sometimes from homes where they don't feel seen or

heard. But at camp, we get to make them feel like they truly matter.

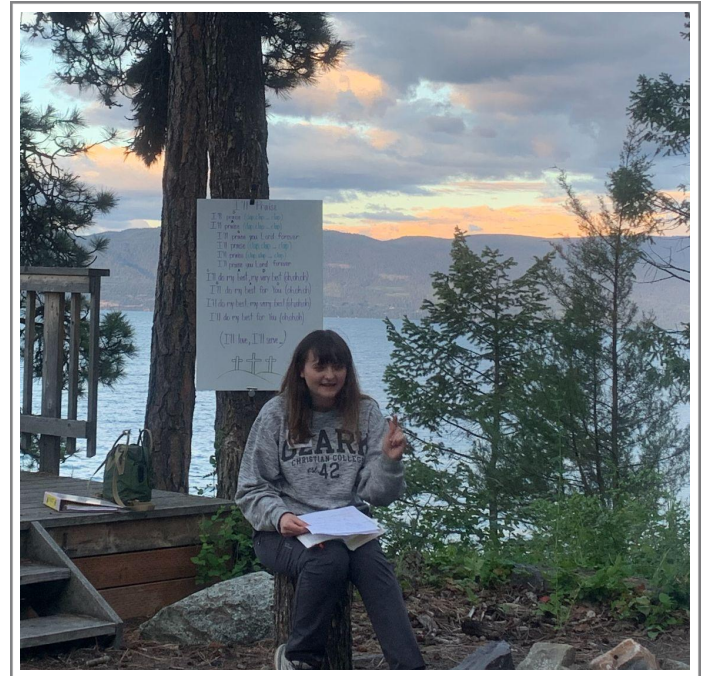
That first summer, I also had the chance to give my very first message to the campers. I'll admit, I was nervous, but as soon as I started sharing, I could see how they were listening, connecting, and opening their hearts. It quickly became my favorite part of camp, and now it's something I look forward to each season—sharing God's love and message with the kids and seeing how it touches them. And yes, you learn other things, too. Like how a 60- pound, 9-year-old can snore like a mini-chainsaw. Every night.

That's just one of the countless moments that make me so grateful to be here. It's the little things—the late-night talks, the quiet prayers before bed, and the simple moments of joy that remind me why I love it here. This camp isn't just a place to spend a week; it's a sanctuary. Since 1931, Glacier Camp has been a place of love, joy, and transformation. That's nearly 100 years, nearly 100 summers, 100 summers of traditions and summers filled with lake days, campfires, and games bringing kids closer together and more importantly closer to God.

And while we hold onto these treasured traditions, we're always finding ways to grow. Last season alone, we built a new dock, reopened the craft shack, and made the upper camp even better by restoring our ropes course and bringing archery back near the hatchet throwing area at upper camp. We even cleared out our beloved Camp Out site and centered an entire week around it called 'Adventure Camp,' where we slept up there multiple nights. And that was just one season of improvements—imagine what we could do with your support where your contribution directly supports these kids and future kids for, who knows? 100 more years...?

One of the biggest surprises about being a counselor is how much these kids teach me. We come to thinking we're here to guide them, to help them grow, but they end up showing us what it means to live with courage, openness, and trust. There's a verse in Matthew that reads, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 18:3). I see that truth here every day. The way these kids open up, overcome challenges, and find joy in the simplest moments renews my own faith and reminds me of God's incredible love for us. I feel deep in my heart that the work we do here is sacred, and that the lessons these kids teach us are truly gifts from Him.

I always tell the kids that they're not just making memories; they're part of the legacy of this camp. I know that one day, when they're older, they'll think back to those days of campfires, lake swims, and games with friends, and they'll remember how much they were loved here.



SUMMER 2023 -- SOPHIE LEADS CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

This legacy wouldn't be possible without the generosity of so many who believe in this mission. Last year, we were blessed with some incredible gifts: a set of paddle boards from our wonderful Whitefish Presbyterian Women along with a boat load of other amazing gifts that brought endless fun and adventure to the lake, we were also gifted with two new cabins last summer and 2 more next summer, that gave more kids a chance to stay with us, and a pontoon boat—complete with enough gas to run for two days during our H2O Camp—from Mr. Huffine from his boat rental company in Polson. The excitement those gifts brought was unforgettable. Seeing the kids' faces light up as they explored the lake on paddle boards or took their first ride on the pontoon boat was a powerful reminder of how these gifts transform their experience here. As counselors, we know how much these gifts mean to the camp, and we treat them like gold, making sure we care for them so that generations of future campers can enjoy these blessings.

Every donation, whether big or small, directly enriches their time at Glacier Camp. These gifts don't just add to the camp; they add to the kids' lives. They allow us to create the kind of experiences that become treasured memories, the ones they'll carry with them long after camp ends. But of all the improvements we're blessed with, the heartbeat of this camp is our scholarship program. For so many of our campers, coming to Glacier Camp wouldn't be possible without it. These kids come from all kinds of backgrounds, some from homes that may not feel safe, others from foster care, and many from families who are simply making ends meet. The scholarship fund removes the weight of payment from their shoulders, letting them be what they're meant to be: just kids, surrounded by God's love, in a community that sees them, values them, and believes in them.

When I think of our scholarship fund, I'm reminded of Matthew 19:14, where Jesus says, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' Jesus taught us that there's nothing more sacred than welcoming children into His love, and our scholarship fund is a powerful way to do just that. When you support this fund, you're helping us remove any obstacle that might keep a child from feeling God's love, from experiencing a week at camp, and from discovering their own worth.

Every dollar given toward the scholarship fund is a direct investment in a child's spiritual journey, an answer to the prayer of a parent or guardian who wants their child to feel safe, loved, and connected to their faith. It's a way of showing them that they are part of God's kingdom, embraced by His grace, no matter where they come from or what they've been through.

By supporting this scholarship fund, you're not only giving them a chance to play, laugh, and make friends; you're giving them a chance to learn about the kingdom of heaven that Jesus



LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME ... MEETING GOD IN NATURE

spoke of. It's a gift that can truly change lives, and it's a way of fulfilling His call to welcome each child no matter their financial burden, just as He would.

One of the things that makes this camp truly unique is our curriculum, crafted thoughtfully by Tim, our camp director, and Aaron, a familiar face who last year was one of our Male Leads and will be returning as our Wilderness Coordinator. Each lesson, each devotion, is designed with our campers in mind, meeting them right where they are on their faith journey. What I love is us counselors get to immerse ourselves in this curriculum and mold these messages to share in our own way, bringing our personalities and stories into it. This isn't just a job—it's a shared journey of faith that we all walk together, side by side.

What makes this camp so special isn't only the mountains or our Flathead Lake, but the way faith is woven into every part of camp life. Each morning begins with songs, a message and a prayer, and our small group bible study. Each evening, we gather again for more songs, another message and as always end with a prayer. Here at



FAITH LIVED TOGETHER IS AT THE HEART OF OUR MINISTRY

Glacier Camp, we don't just talk about faith; we live it together, and that's something everyone feels deeply. As counselors, we're not only guiding the campers; we're growing alongside them. Every message we share strengthens our own faith, too. Each of us brings our own life experiences, and as we share these, we're reminded of how God works uniquely in every life. It's powerful to see how stories of courage, forgiveness, or trust resonate with campers, helping them realize that God is with them in their own challenges.

This faith is not just on the schedule; it's an active part of who we are and what we do. Whether gathered around the campfire or in a small group, we feel God's presence with us. We're reminded that camp isn't just for making memories—it's where we all deepen our relationship with God in ways that stay with us long after we leave. So tonight, I'm here to ask for your help to keep this camp going, to ensure that every child who needs a week here has the chance to experience it. Our scholarship fund is the heart of that mission. Every donation, no matter the amount, makes it possible for a child to spend a week in this sacred place—to feel Christ's love and discover the peace that Glacier Presbyterian Camp offers.

Psalms 127:3 reminds us, 'Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.' Each child who steps through our doors is a precious gift from God. By supporting them, you're not only giving them a week at camp; you're nurturing a future filled with faith, hope, and love. Your gift becomes a part of their journey with God, leaving an impact that will last long after they leave this place.

As we look ahead to summer 2025, I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates and programs that are coming to camp. We're bringing back H2O Camp, a camper favorite, really utilizing our beloved Flathead lake during the hottest week of the summer. And that's just the beginning. This year, we're also focusing on the adventure side of camp. We'll be using our Camp Out site even more with not one but two Adventure Camps, each with a unique level of intensity to fit different experience levels.

For our older campers, we're introducing Night Owl Camp, where they'll explore the beauty of Montana's night sky under the stars. And for our younger campers, we have Trailblazers, designed to get them excited and build their skills, preparing them for when they'll join the older kids in future camps. It's all about creating an unforgettable summer that grows with each camper and celebrates the adventure and beauty of God's creation

Now what I'm really looking forward to next summer, is that Glacier Camp will be in incredibly capable hands. We have a strong team of returning staff, each with a personal commitment to making camp unforgettable. Olly and I will be back as lead counselors, Aaron will serve as our Wilderness Coordinator, guiding kids through the trails, and Alex will be our Waterfront Director,

keeping things safe and fun at the lake. And with Joe Dayrider joining us as Program Director, you know camp will be in good hands guided by him. This team is filled with people who come from all walks of life, each with a unique connection to this camp. We're united by a love for Glacier Camp and a shared mission to help kids grow in faith, friendship, and confidence. With your support, we're ready to make next summer one that these campers will carry with them for a lifetime.



2024 LEADERS IN TRAINING

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being here tonight, for believing in this camp, and for being part of something so much bigger than any of us. This camp has welcomed kids and changed lives, especially mine, for nearly a hundred summers. With your support, we can make sure Glacier Presbyterian continues to spread the love of Christ to every child who walks on these grounds. So, let's keep opening doors, let's keep building hearts, and let's make this camp a place where God's love is felt for a hundred more summers. Thank you, and may God bless you all for being part of this journey with us.

Summer Camp 2025



Even though it is only January, the Summer Camp season will be here sooner than we can imagine. We are excited to have information available on-line -- so you can browse the brochure and even register. Our theme "Running the Race" comes from Hebrews 12.1-2 New offerings include a Trailblazer Camp -- an adventure camp for juniors and junior highs, a senior high Night Owl Camp. But don't worry; old favorites are still on the calendar too including Classic Camp, H2O Camp, and Leader-in-Training. We are happy to have many of last Summer's staff returning and also look forward to welcoming new campers to our Glacier Camp family. Sign up now!

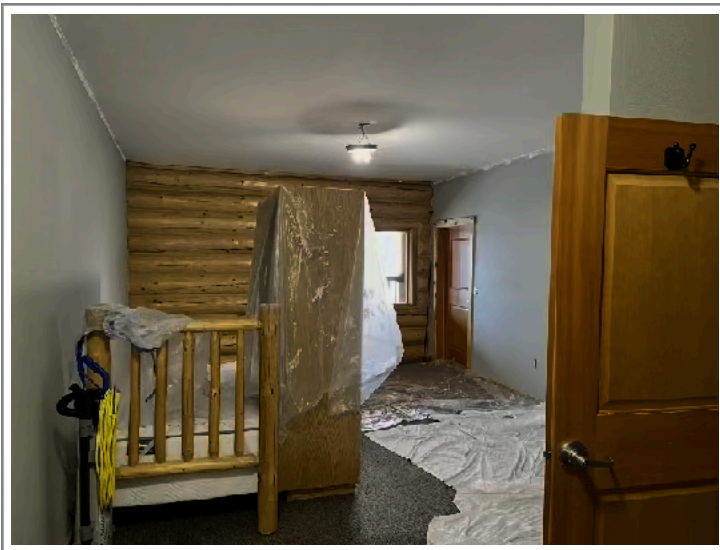
2025 Summer Camp Dates
Staff Training:, June 1-13
Camping Season -- June 15 through August 1
Complete Information On-Line;
<https://www.glaciercamp.org/summer-camp>

New Year -- New Beginnings



Change comes with the new year. And this is true for Glacier Camp and its ministry. Visitors to the O'Neil Chapel will notice the grounds around it cleaned and refreshed. Gone are the concrete slabs that were dumped on either side of the chapel after the deck collapse in 2017. The area in front of the chapel now provides adequate space for parking or another place for games or outdoor fun during our camping season.

Spruce Lodge turns twenty years old in 2025! (Really, can it be that old already!?) And to celebrate, the lodge rooms are getting refreshed. New sheets, curtains, and bed spreads as well as fresh paint, upgraded light fixtures and other amenities are just some of the changes that you will notice when you visit the Lodge. The goal is to make the rooms more appealing and more comfortable for our guests -- providing a better overall experience.



PRE-REFRESH



POST-REFRESH

Lenten On-Line Bible Study -- Galatians

Our on-line Bible Study returns for the season of Lent. Starting on Sunday, March 9 at 5.00 pm, we will explore the epistle of Paul to the Galatians. Galatia, unlike Philippi or Ephesus, was not a town or city but instead a region in what is now central Turkey. Acts 13 and 14 describe Paul's ministry in this region, with stops in Perga, Iconium, and Antioch.



6th Century Christian Worship Site in the Galatian Region

Perhaps one of the earliest documents in our New Testament, Galatians has been described as “the Magna-Carta of Christian Liberty.” At issue was the critical question, which defined Christianity as a distinct and separate faith rather than one of the many

different sects of Judaism: In order to belong to the body of Christ, does one have to become a Jew first? Paul answers that question most emphatically: “NO!”

Appropriate to study during the spiritually reflective season of Lent, Galatians bears witness to how quickly and easily people can stray from the gospel’s essential message. The epistle opens not with

customarily warm greetings, but a strong rebuke: “I am

astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel!”

Galatians also testifies how the power of faith destroys the castes which separate humankind. The broad spectrum of humanity, Paul declares, is brought together in and through Christ Jesus. This unity is defined in the remarkable assertion of Galatians 3.28: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

My favorite part of Galatians involves the promise of freedom. “For freedom,” Paul wrote in Galatians 5.1, “Christ has set us free!” What does that mean? How does this freedom reshape our lives and our faith? Most importantly, how can we “stand firm, therefore, and not submit again to the yoke of slavery”?

These and other themes of this great text will be explored in our study. As an added bonus, some of us who participated in the “Footsteps of Paul” journey will be able to share our impressions of what was the region of Galatia. You might be surprised how closely it resembles our own Montana.

The link for our study will be: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81018960783>. For more information, email timothy@glaciercamp.org. I look forward to our lively discussions on this very important Scripture! See you on March 9!



SOMEWHERE IN EASTERN MONTANA? NO, THIS IS THE LANDSCAPE OF THE GALATIAN REGION

From Your Camp Committee Moderators

Well, here we are. 2025 has arrived! The Glacier Camp Committee, along with our talented staff at the Camp, have been developing and implementing improvements to the operation that we expect to show great results this new year and into the future. Isaiah 43: 18-19; "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!

With 2024 behind us we are now ready to reap the rewards of the perseverance and commitment of our staff at the camp. Here are just some of the accomplishments that enable the Camp 'Spring Forward' in 2025:

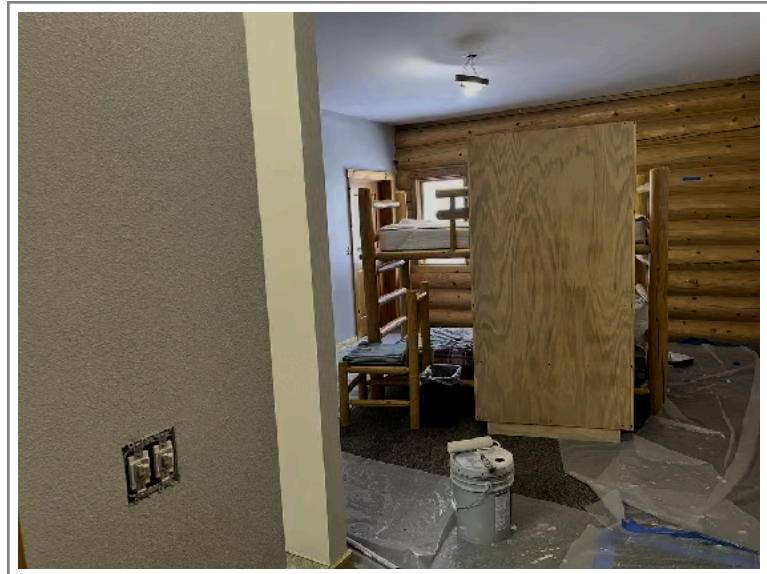
Addition of a Camp Manager for general oversight of the whole physical camp area and property there in. Also, the oversight of the needed personnel. The addition of a Maintenance Supervisor has improved the general condition of the property and will lead to further improvements as we move forward. The need to contract outside services has been

reduced. There are now part-time employees available on call for housekeeping and other customer services. We have an official position as a Executive Chef. (at this time this position is open, and a candidate search is underway)

Now we have a Lodge Manager to oversee the operation of the Lodge including the marketing for the booking of guests and events. The lodge has seen a major improvement in cleanliness, organization and service levels to our guests. Bookings/reservations have increased dramatically with this on-site position and consistent availability.

A major project is happening currently to 'freshen up' the guest rooms and hallways with fresh paint. Also upgrading the rooms with different beds and décor. As we move forward, we also have other opportunities that we are researching that could lead to further growth and sustainability of Glacier Camp. We are excited about these and a committee we are committed to these endeavors. Of utmost importance of our discussions is that we stay true to mission of Glacier Camp.

Joe Hoseck and Marsha Anson -- Co-Moderators



A NEW THING -- ROOM 205 READY FOR ITS NEW COAT OF PAINT

Director's Reflections

Thoughts from an Evening in Late December

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! --2 Corinthians 5.17

The late afternoon sunlight fades away. And the day -- like the year now almost passed -- comes to a tired end. Like a sigh, a breeze stirs the naked branches of the cottonwood tree and the willows down along the creek bottom. The moment captures a feeling of weariness as I hurry to attend to a few chores before the darkness settles in.

These days after Christmas are regularly a challenge. The holiday season's energy and excitement fade like the force from a spent bullet. The enthusiasm and anticipation surrounding the sundry celebrations related to the Lord's nativity get cast aside, tossed away like derelict Christmas trees. The decorations get packed up, along with what seems to be the animating spirit of the season.

I notice how quickly the holiday lights disappear too. These lights -- pretty lights which pinpricked Winter's epic darkness with bright and cheery colors: I look for them. And they are mostly gone. With their passing, I am reminded how life so quickly settles into an ordinary routine, once the Christmas season comes to an end. And we are left to face the long challenge of Winter on our own.

I don't feel particularly tired. The sense that overcomes me could perhaps be best described as weariness. The shadows which had begun to gather all around me quickly meld into night. Even though Winter's solstice is now past and the daylight hours slowly lengthen, the morning and its promise seem distant, remote, so far away. It is out there. But from this prospect, the morning's promise is as ephemeral as a dream.

My mind catalogs the challenges, the duties, the demands weighing upon me. And with the breeze, I catch myself sighing as well. In the quickening darkness, I confront myself and my inherent fallibility. I can feel the mortal force which pulls me ever closer to that point of ending. I remember with nostalgia the era of my youth. Its energy and vigor would propel me through these long, long Winter's nights.

But this moment in this setting of time, where the month and the year trickle away, finds me in a difficult and challenging place. I struggle to wait through the night for the morning. To endure through another Winter (even what might be an open one) and claim the hope of Spring -- that seems to be a challenge as great as staying up until the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. I could do that once quite easily. Not so much any more.

Fortunately, this particular night is clear. And along with the darkness comes the starlight. There isn't any moon, so the night is particularly deep out here in the country -- far removed from any city lights. But the stars are correspondingly brilliant, flung as they are across the great canvas

of heaven. Their light reaches out as if from eternity. It veritably shimmers out of the midst of this vast ebony sky. I look up.

And I wonder. I wonder. I wonder. A primary source of my weariness, I realize, is because I have devoted so little time these last few days to wondering. The stuff of life so easily and so quickly becomes routine -- particularly in this season after the holidays where the force and power of the ordinary reduces human existence to realities as mundane and unadorned as the chores I currently attend to.

But the starlight directs my attention away from the commonplace and quotidian. And I think not of myself and this moment's pedestrian challenges but of creation's sheer majesty and the divine hand which scatters these stars across this vast sky and calls them, as indeed we are called, by name. The wonder of creation draws my thoughts to creation's God. It is quiet outside. But I can hear the heavens declare the glory of the Lord.

The Milky Way's powdery splendor arcs over my head. Its light seems to be so near at hand I feel as if I can reach out and touch it, even though such thinking is both vain and audacious. The very idea is, of course, absurd. But perhaps such absurdities mixed with appropriate measures of wonder might propel me beyond this post-Christmas rut I currently occupy.

On a hill to the south, I hear a coyote cry out through the night. Other coyotes respond in kind -- like a congregation calling out to a preacher in the midst of a homily: "Amen!" "Hallelujah!" "Praise be!" The sound is at once eerie, but also compelling and lyrical. It is as if this unadorned Winter's night has become alive with sight and sound. And the wonder I feel is now deeper than this Winter darkness.

In an instant, there is only silence. But even this sudden quiet is tinged with the sacred. The occasional breeze has become a wind. It blows not hard but steady from the west-southwest, and lacks the regular savage bite which frequently comes with late December's wind. Another source of wonder, I feel its presence press across my face and think of Genesis 1 and the Spirit's movement over the face of the deep.

Then I hear, as if spoken just for me, the words of the exalted Christ: "Behold, I make all things new.¹" The great promise comes through the darkness. It bears the hope of new beginnings even at this place along the ragged edge of this deep and long Winter's night. The burdens I had been carrying are suddenly made light. And with faithful anticipation, I look toward the morning and the promise of all things made new.

And with all creation, my joyful prayer rises. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Tim Lanham, Director

¹ See Revelation 21.25



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