



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:

Donor Appreciation Dinner/Scholarship Auction

Sunday, November 19 will be the evening set aside for our scholarship auction/donor appreciation dinner. Refreshments and fellowship begin at **4.30 pm** with the dinner starting at **5.00 pm**. All camp supporters and friends are invited to attend. Loren Smith will serve as the keynote speaker.

Sunday, November 26 -- Our on-Line Advent Bible Study begins a week before Advent actually starts. Join us on the Sunday after Thanksgiving starting @ **5.00 pm**. Join us as we celebrate the season of Advent with an exploration of the book of Romans.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. -- 2 Peter 3.18

Presbytery Approves Gift Agreement Glacier Presbytery Camp on Threshold of a New Era

by Rev. Tim Lanham -- Glacier Presbytery Camp Director

On Thursday, August 31, Glacier Presbytery approved a gift agreement with Prairie Kraft Specialties that will add four cabins and one cottage to our physical plant. The four cabins will replace the old "Forest Row"



COTTAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN GREAT FALLS

cabins which had been unused since 2021 due to safety concerns. The cottage, which features indoor plumbing as well as a small kitchenette, will be able to be available in a variety of ways -- including use as a space for individual clergy/lay pastor retreats.



The journey which got us to this point has been a long and winding road -- one which began with a windstorm in January 2021. Coming after an unusual Winter rain, the wind blew over many trees on the camp property and surrounding area. One tree fall destroyed an existing Forest Row Cabin while another cabin was seriously damaged. In verifying the damage for insurance purposes, an engineer questioned the viability of the remaining

DAMAGE FROM THE JANUARY 2021 STORM

Forest Row cabins -- expressing concern that they were "not up to current building code."

Much back and forth occurred between the Camp Committee and the Presbytery Cabinet over the viability of the undamaged Forest Row cabins and risks involved in using them. For the 2021 and 2022 seasons, the cabins were unoccupied. In 2023, it was decided to use insurance money to secure and stabilize the cabins and thus make them useable for our campers.

This work was scheduled to begin in June of 2023, overseen by Loren



LIKE THE COTTAGE THE CABINS WILL BE BUILT IN GREAT FALLS AND TRANSPORTED TO CAMP

Gift Agreement Highlights

Smith -- a Camp Committee member and professional engineer, and owner of Prairie Kraft Specialties. In assessing the work that was to be done, a suggestion was made to Loren. Rather than put time and money into renovating cabins that were already sixty years old, "why don't you just put up new cabins in their place?" That question provided the seed which germinated into the gift agreement.

Instead of investing resources into the old cabins, the idea came to replace them with new ones. These new cabins will provide us with the camper capacity that was taken away when the storm wiped out two of the Forest Row structures and the rest were deemed unusable. The addition of a cottage will provide year

One of the three current KOA Cabins, which have served the camp since the mid 1990s. The new ones will be similar.



The Big Picture:

- Current Forest Row Cabins would be dismantled.
- 5 new KOA cabins
 - Four 2 room cabins
 - One cottage with plumbing, bathroom, kitchenette.
 - All cabins will contain KOA style beds.

Funding/Ownership:

- No monthly or yearly payments will be expected.
- Loren Smith will carry this on the books of Prairie Kraft with the following expectation of payments. Funding would come from:
 - Cabin "naming rights" to individuals and congregations who donate the cost of a cabin
 - Targeted funding through money raised for this project .

•Prairie Kraft retains ownership of any unpaid cabins for nine years or until the death of Loren Smith, whichever comes last at which point they become the property of the Presbytery.

round space for people to enjoy the camp's beauty and solitude.

As of this writing, work is underway on cabin construction in Great Falls. It is anticipated that

two cabins will be brought over and placed on site at the camp before Winter closes in.

TIM TRAVELERS UPDATE -- February 11-27, 2024

“To The Ends of the Earth”

“And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
-- Acts 1.8b

The Route of Paul’s 3rd Missionary Journey: The TIM Travelers will pretty much follow this route through Asia Minor and into Greece, although our journey will take us to Rome.



The promise of the Resurrected Christ in the opening movement of the book of Acts was fulfilled in the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul -- which took the gospel from the relative isolation of the Eastern Mediterranean all the way to the seat and capitol of the empire in Rome itself. In putting this tour together, my original dream had been to start our journey in Jerusalem and then proceed all the way to Rome. The constraints of time (and the current unrest in the Holy Land) make it

more reasonable to start in the Cappadocia region of Asia Minor (what is now Turkey) and travel into Macedonia and then Greece. Biblical cities that will be our points of call include Iconium, Thessalonika, Ephesus, Athens, and Rome. For fans of the Greek poet Homer, we will also visit the ancient city of Troy.

Two features of our group make this trip especially attractive. Altogether there will be no more than twenty of us -- which is much preferable to the group of 60 I was with in touring the Holy Land ten years ago. A second feature is that we will spend more time at the historical sites and less time at the gift shops. (Although, don’t worry, there will be plenty of opportunities to pick up souvenirs.) A few spaces remain available -- contact me if you are interested: timothy@glaciercamp.org.

November 19 Set for Donor Appreciation/ Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner

Loren Smith to be Keynote Speaker

“All the Ends of the Earth Shall Remember, and Turn to the Lord...” -- Psalm 22.27a

Pilot and businessman Loren Smith will keynote our donor appreciation/scholarship

fundraising dinner on Sunday, November 19, 2023. A member of Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, Loren has been involved in camping for many years.



LOREN SMITH AND HIS PLANE AT SCHAEFER MEADOW

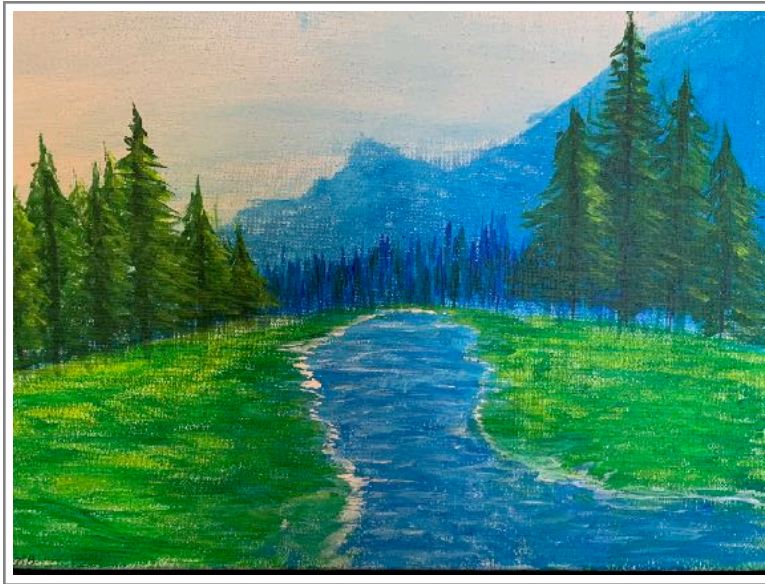
His company, Prairie Kraft Specialties, builds cabins, cottages, bathhouses, and other structures that are used in KOA campgrounds across the nation and the world.

The theme for this year’s dinner comes from Psalm 22. It expresses the significance of our faith’s witness -- a witness that reaches out to the ends of the earth with the life-giving, life-sustaining power of the gospel. In our world and society, the Church takes on many different roles and its ministry reaches out in many different directions, from championing recycling efforts to

11/26 Donor Dinner Highlights

- 4.30 pm -- Social Hour
- 5.00 pm -- Dinner
- 5.30 pm -- Keynote Address
- 6.00 pm -- Auction

“Mountain Spring”



providing a safe space for Twelve-Step programs to help people caught in webs of addiction. But the Church’s most urgent calling involves the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind. Our camping ministry is one of the places we do this through an intentional outreach. Roughly 50 percent of our campers come from unchurched families. Many more kids have only a passing church connection. Our camping ministry regularly provides the only exposure to the gospel witness that some children will receive.

Monies raised at the Scholarship Auction help us fulfill a long term commitment at Glacier Presbytery Camp -- that no young person be denied the opportunity to attend camp due to inability to pay. Your support is needed now more than ever as costs for camp increase and needy families have less an ability to pay.

Items are currently being accepted for our live and silent auction. Artist and three season counselor Aaron VanBrocklin has offered two of his paintings (shown here) while Lori Newbury is making a quilt featuring tee shirts that have been signed by our Summer 2023 campers.

Your support of our scholarship program is critical to our ministry. For 2023, of every dollar we took in camper fees for our Summer program, twenty-two cents came from our scholarship account. With inflation, issues with the economy, and a need to raise our rates for camps in 2024, scholarships will be needed more than ever. The blessing of our increased camper capacity will make this need even more urgent. Thank you for your support!

A Sunny Day at Logan Pass



Advent On-Line Study: Exploring the Book of Romans

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. -- Romans 1.16

Beginning actually a Sunday prior to the start of Advent (November 26), our on-line Bible Study will focus on one of the most significant documents in our New Testament -- the epistle of Paul to the Romans. What makes this such a special and unique book? Here are some of my ideas:

1) *The Intended Audience.* The majority of Paul's epistles were written to specific congregations in an effort to address pressing challenges and issues. 1 and 2 Corinthians are good examples of this; so too are Galatians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Each congregation had certain problems (can you imagine that?!) that they struggled to deal with. What is the fate of those who die before Christ's return? Is it appropriate to eat meat that had been offered to idols? In

This Roman military diploma granted Roman citizenship to a Roman cavalryman named Tertius. Paul's relationship with Rome and its empire was complex. It was critical to him that the gospel come to this most important city.



order to become a Christian must one first become a Jew? These and other urgent, pressing questions prompted these letters.

By contrast, Romans represents a well thought out, carefully crafted treatise on the Christian faith. My New Testament professor taught us to think of Romans as the Apostle's "Last Will and Testament." Compared with his other correspondence, Romans is broad and comprehensive. An argument could be made that Romans represents Christianity's first systematic theology. The arrangement and style of Romans is both careful and deliberate. It reflects Paul's desire to convey Christian principles to future generations of believers.

2) *Format and Style*: Have you struggled to read Romans on your own? If so, you are in good company. I myself find making sense of Romans difficult. There are places in the text which are so dense that I feel like I am reading the fine print of my home owner's insurance policy. The formal, technical style of Romans makes its ideas complex and sometimes hard to grasp. But like other challenging parts of Scripture, Romans rewards those who persevere in their efforts to make sense of it.

3) *Entrusted to a Woman.*

Statements from Paul's writings have, for many centuries, been used to justify discrimination against women. After all, didn't he declare in 1 Corinthians 14 that "women should be silent in churches"? These kinds of prejudices and attitudes can be deconstructed by looking at Romans 16. This epistle (which could be considered the most important of Paul's writings) was entrusted to "Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae." (Maybe Paul knew Phoebe, if she got lost, would stop and ask for directions where if the same thing happened to Titus or Timothy they would wander around with it indefinitely.)

Bas Relief Depicting Paul's Martyrdom @ Rome.
According to Christian tradition, he died at the hands of Nero.



There is so much to explore in Romans, I am not sure how much we will cover in four short weeks. None the less, good times and lively discussions await as we explore this important and foundational text of the Christian community. Study guides for each session will be available so even if you miss a couple of sessions, you can still be in the loop with what we are studying. If you are interested in joining us, reach out to me via email: timothy@glaciercamp.org and I will add you to the list of participants!

TIM Talks Retrospective

Why Should Anyone Care About Tim Talks?

by Stan and Lena Cornell
photos by Sandy Smith

When Tim asked us to answer that question, we thought that should be a piece of cake. After all we have been attending Tim Talks for umpteen years.

Bible study has been, is, and always will be an important part of our lives and faith journey. We believe that you can never get enough.

You can do Bible study on your own, but you get no feedback or conformation that your insight or conclusions are valid. There is a story in the book of Acts called “Philip and the Ethiopian” (Acts 8:26-35 NIV). The jest of the story is that he cannot understand what he is reading unless someone explains it to him. Tim Lanham fills that role for us with his Tim Talks.

Tim does this without the use of technical theological jargon – input/comments from the attendees is always welcome.

Faith is a lifelong journey nurtured by knowledge. That statement echoes Augustine’s position that first comes faith followed by knowledge which generates greater faith, followed by more knowledge and so on.



MORNING COFFEE ON THE EAST DECK IS PRICELESS!



MONDAY DINNER @ THE LANHAM'S HOME IS A NEW TIM TALKS TRADITION

For the most part all of the attendees are members of Glacier Presbytery, with a few exceptions, who have been coming to Tim Talks for several years. This means that there is a synergy among the group and acceptance of diverse opinions. Sometimes we just have to agree to disagree – that’s O.K. New folks are always welcome.

Last of all the location is

fantastic. Morning coffee on the east deck with the sunrise over the Mission Mountains and across Flathead Lake is priceless. You can shut the world out if you chose – no TV and you can shut off your cell phone.

We encourage you to share the experience – invite a friend or two.

Editor’s note: The next TIM Talks will be in April 2024 (dates to be set). Our discussion topic will be God’s Covenants of Grace.



THE AUTHORS, ON RIGHT, SHARE IN FELLOWSHIP

Director's Reflections

Emmanuel Moment or **Thoughts on a Journey Home**

"... and they shall name him 'Emmanuel,' which means, "God is with us." -- Matthew 1.23b

The shadows catch up with me, and I realize that I have outrun the daylight at this place where the highway pivots and my journey for the next fifty odd miles will take me more south than east. The last bits of daylight disappear from my rear view mirror. I am hurrying into the dusky twilight of this late September's day.

Like the daylight, the traffic evaporates at this point.

For a while, mine was just part of a larger school of vehicles aimed along this stretch of highway. You could compare us to the wilderness pilgrims in the book of Numbers -- a decidedly mixed multitude. A pristine new Suburban pulling behind it a pristine new Airstream trailer is followed by two or three ancient clunkers, driven by folks as anonymous as their old and indistinct vehicles.

Add to the group a few Amazon Prime trucks, a FedEx triple trailer semi, several pickups (no road in Montana would be complete without them) and one fancy import whose driver is so important he has to pass everybody, and you get an idea of the companions who journey with me along this pilgrim way. For the last forty miles or so, we traveled down this stretch of road individually but also together, like dancers choreographed in a ballet.

But I left the Airstream behind a couple hills ago. The truckers all seemed to turn off where this highway intersected another one. The fancy import driver crossed two lanes of traffic to exit at the rest stop (maybe that is why he was in such a hurry). The clunkers and I stayed together longer. But one turned off into a little town and the other seems to have drifted into oblivion.

I am alone now. Even the radio station which had been keeping me company for the last hour or so has disappeared below the noise level. In some respects, I miss the friendly little voice at the hour's top and bottom apprising me of everything -- including "breaking news as it happens!" -- that is going on in this part of the world.

At this point, though, I have heard the top news stories enough to repeat them verbatim. There is the unfortunate murder, an unfortunate traffic accident, and the local Pheasants Forever annual dinner at the civic center (tickets are still available from Chester). I didn't realize it at the time, but the repetitive news reports mixed in with equally repetitive country music songs had become tedious.

I turn the radio off. Like the evening air, the silence feels surprisingly refreshing. Lights from a single car behind me gleam in my rearview mirror. But within the next mile or so, it passes me. And soon, so soon, the red traces of its taillights disappear over the horizon. There are four lanes for traffic on this interstate highway. But for now I am the only traveler along this particular part of the way.

At this point, I feel -- honestly, I don't know how I feel. A third of the way into my journey, I am already tired. But not tired tired, if that makes any sense. Home is still a long ways away. But weather on this Autumn evening is not a concern. And whatever spells of weariness arise out there (like the undulating hills that lead over to the next divide), I know I can keep going and power through them.

Of course at a place deep inside me, there dwells this full measure of sadness -- a reality which has been a constant companion since my wife's death just about a year ago. I can try to push it around or stuff it deeper inside me or even pretend it isn't there. But something will happen. And sadness will make its presence felt like the shock from an electric fence or the sudden eruption of a geyser in Yellowstone.

One thing I have learned along this hard journey is that grief is a very amorphous thing. It comes in ways and places you can't expect or imagine. A beam of light, reaching through an unshaded window. The rustle of fallen leaves. Even the aroma of a freshly mown hayfield will trigger a thought, a memory, an emotion resulting in a kind of chain reaction which takes me back to that awfulest, saddest, and most heinous of all places where I find myself standing over the lifeless body of this person I loved more than any other.

In some respects, I am stuck there -- tethered to that place, that moment, that space and time. For I realize that part of me died there along with her. Yet life, like this highway I travel along, keeps going. And that is the challenge I face as well. To keep going. To continue on this journey. To keep moving forward along that twisting, turning highway of space and time which the Lord, in his ever-gracious Providence, entrusts to me.

As these thoughts come to me and clot together, I can feel grief's gravitational force exert its pull on my body and soul. The burden, which is always there, seems heavier and I wonder (as I have wondered many times over the past dozen months) if it is more than I can bear. And I feel this temptation just to stop. To give up. To surrender to sorrow's irresistible force.

But quitting has never been part of my nature. And I resolve to carry on. To keep going. To hurry along this mortal way. Literally, figuratively, and spiritually I have miles left to travel -- miles and miles to go before I sleep. That way stretches out before me, reaching toward a distant horizon. I wonder if I can make it.

Yet I look again and can see, through my bug-spattered windshield, stars from the constellation Orion. Their exquisitely beautiful light shines, so it seems, just for me. They beckon and I follow as they lead me towards home. Home. To that place of home. And in the quiet, I can hear as if the Lord himself speaks the Promise, which makes this long journey bearable. "Behold, I am with you always -- even to the end of the age¹."

I take comfort in this assurance of Emmanuel -- God-With-Us.

And I hurry along my way.

Tim Lanham, Director

¹ Matthew 28.20b