



# 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:

**January 11**

**A Living Hope -- Peter and His Epistles**

**Epiphany On-Line Bible Study Begins @ 5.00 pm**

Peter will be the focus of our Epiphany Bible Study -- both the individual and the two New Testament books which are attributed to him. See more information in this edition of the News!

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**February 6-8**

**Winterfest Returns!**

Mark your calendars! After a two year hiatus, we are bringing back Winterfest, a retreat for Middle School and High School!

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**February 13-14**

**Valentines Weekend Getaway**

Plan on a romantic weekend getaway with your sweetheart! Enjoy good food and cozy Spruce Lodge accommodations. Let the fire in the Fireside Room chase away the Winter cold and blues.

## Scholarship Fund Raiser Breaks All Records

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. -- Luke 6.38*



GENERAL PRESBYTER CHUCK CARLSON GIVES THE INVOCATION

The promise of Luke 6 was realized in the Spruce Lodge Dining Hall on Sunday, November 16 as a record turnout for our donor appreciation dinner resulted in a record amount

raised for the Camp's scholarship/camp ministry fund. By the time matching funds and gifts received by mail were tallied, \$40,000 had been raised to support our residential camping ministry. These commitments assure our ability to fulfill Glacier Presbytery Camp's longstanding goal -- that all children and young people can participate in our residential camping ministry, regardless of their ability to pay.



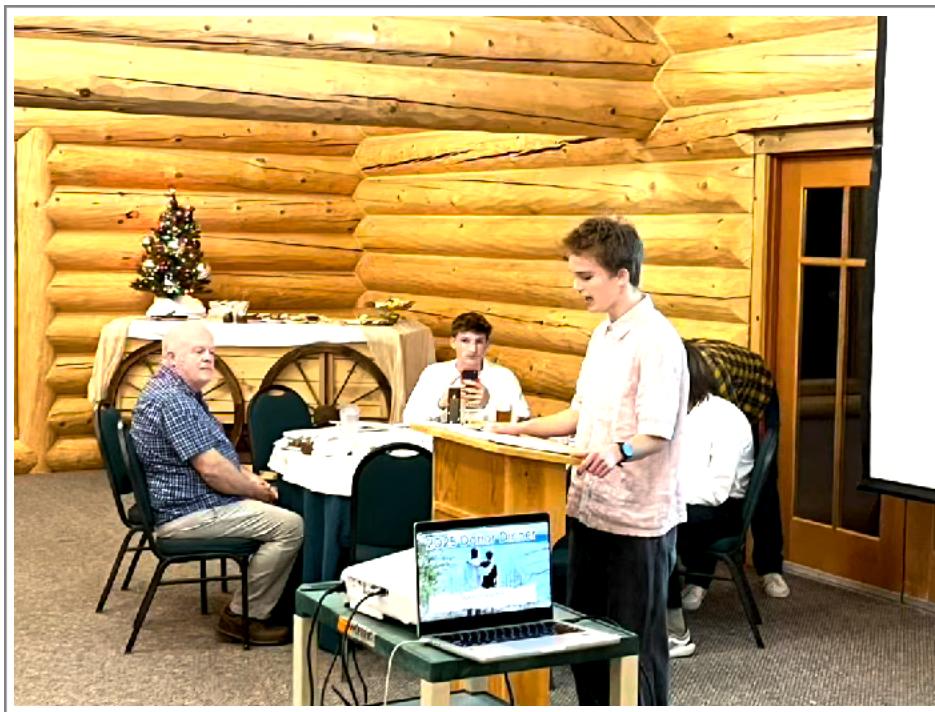
JACK AND MATTHEW

(editor's note -- you'll be able to read Jack and Matthew's reflections in the January edition of the Glacier Camp News.) Both of them look forward to the day when they can serve our ministry as counselors -- bringing the fun and grace they had at camp to a new generation of campers.

The night's keynote speakers, Jack Huffine and Matthew McClintic, spoke of the importance of camp for their own lives. Veterans of many Summer seasons (both Jack and Matthew were introduced to our ministry as day-campers), they reflected on the significance of this ministry for their lives. Enduring friendships, outdoor experiences, and the opportunity to grow in one's relationship with God and Jesus Christ -- all these were blessings Jack and Matthew experienced at camp.



SHANNA, JENA, AND AARON -- READY TO SERVE THE FEAST!



MATTHEW MAKES A POINT, WHILE HIS DAD AND FRIEND CHRIS LOOK ON

challenges to any form of ministry -- and in this regard, Glacier Presbytery Camp is typical. Yet the challenges we faced in 2025 proved to be particularly formidable. Issues related to staffing, financial pressures, developing new models for ministry (a big part of this dynamic related

What made this donor appreciation dinner so special? In his remarks, Jack reflected on the word “vibes” -- that unique amalgamation of energy, enthusiasm, fun, food, and fellowship which make Sumer camp such a distinctive experience. I would say that this particular night had those same “vibes,” where everything came together.

Every year, of course, brings unique



JACK SPEAKS ABOUT THE “VIBES” WHICH MAKE CAMP SPECIAL.

to hosting guest groups at Spruce Lodge concurrently with our residential camps) resulted in challenges that were, if not overwhelming, regularly difficult to navigate.

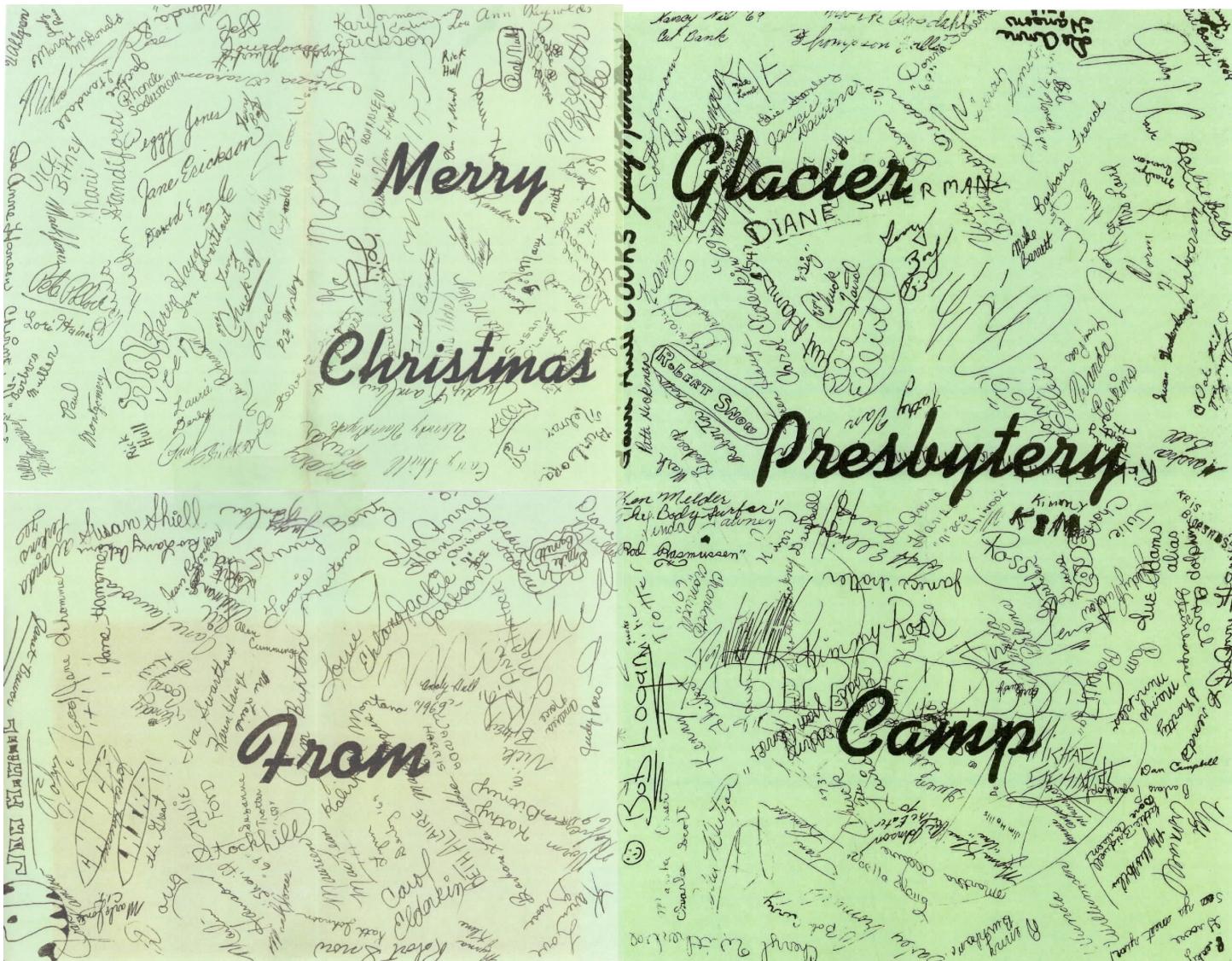
But as we gathered on this very special night, there was a collective sense among the Camp's friends and supporters that, by the mercies of an ever-gracious Providence, we had passed safely through these challenging times. The poet of Psalm 18 reflected: "The LORD was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me..." During our time together that evening, there was a distinct feeling (or, to use Jack's term -- a "vibe") that the Psalmist's experience was also ours. Through this year's stormy and turbulent challenges, the Lord was our support and brought us to this broad place.

During this season of Advent, as we reflect and remember and look toward the future with hope, I wish to offer my deepest gratitude for all of you who through your prayers, your support, and your

commitment made this night (and, really, this year) so satisfying and so memorable. Your commitment to our ministry in Christ's name enables us to touch and bless the lives of young people in remarkable, even extraordinary ways. For all of our society's technological sophistication (and the subsequent

digital isolation it engenders), the essential touchstone of the human experience comes down to relationships -- shared, collective interactions with living, breathing people. As Matthew noted in his speech: "It is great to have these relationships and knowing at least part of it is based on my belief in Jesus. Being able to share with others can be quite scary at times but I am learning if you just step out there you never know whose life you can impact or even change." Your support helps us bring these relationships to new generations of young people. Thank you so much!





# Glacier Presbytery Camp Christmas 1969 Greetings from the archives of Dale and Pat Keil

# **TIM Travelers Tour --Rome to Reformation**

## **Autumn 2026**

**End-of-Year Letter from the Spruce Lodge at Glacier Camp Manager.**

As this year draws to a close, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many blessings that have touched Spruce Lodge at Glacier Camp. This sacred place has long been a refuge where people encounter peace, community, and God's creation, and it is your support that helps us continue this mission.

To our donors: thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. Your gifts sustain the work we do and help ensure that Spruce Lodge remains a haven where individuals, families, and ministries can gather, grow, and be renewed. Because of you, we can continue welcoming guests into a space where God's presence can be felt in the quiet of the forest, the laughter shared around a table, and the stillness of the mountain air.

To our volunteers: your servant hearts shine brightly here. Whether supporting events, caring for the grounds, helping with projects, or offering your hands wherever they were needed, your willingness has blessed our community deeply. You model Christlike service in every act of kindness and dedication, and we are profoundly grateful.

To our guests—from couples who celebrated their weddings, to groups who gathered for retreats, to the many church communities who came seeking renewal and fellowship: thank you for choosing Spruce Lodge as the place to pause, reconnect, and celebrate life's sacred moments. Each visit brings life to this ministry, and we hope your time with us strengthened relationships, deepened faith, and offered rest for your spirit. We pray that your experiences here continue to bear fruit long after you return home.

And to our staff: your hard work, compassion, and steadfast commitment have carried us through the year. You create a welcoming home for every guest and uphold the mission of Spruce Lodge with grace and dedication. Thank you for the heart you pour into every day.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to being a place of hospitality, renewal, and spiritual refreshment. With your continued partnership, we trust that God will guide our steps and bless the work we share.

May this season bring peace, hope, and joy to you and those you love.



With gratitude and blessings,  
Terri Rector  
Spruce Lodge Manager

## *A Living Hope -- Epiphany Bible Study Explores Peter*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." -- 1 Peter 1.3

Glacier Presbytery Camp celebrates the season of Epiphany with an on-line Bible Study devoted to the exploration of Peter. Both the actual person and his adventures/misadventures as Jesus' disciple and the two New Testament books attributed to him will be the focus of our exploration.

Our Roman Catholic friends, using the famous confession made by Peter in Matthew 16, believe this was the individual chosen by Jesus to be the first pope. But was that really true?

What does Scripture actually say about the person who was perhaps Jesus' best known disciple? What can we learn about him and his faith from the stories shared about him in the gospels?

And what about the two epistles which bear his name? A dominant theory from many New Testament scholars suggests that the dating and literary style of these two short books makes their actual authorship by the disciple who was called to become a "fisher of people" by Jesus "improbable."

Our study will look at these questions and many others as we explore this fascinating person of faith and history and the biblical books which bear his name.

Join us beginning January 11 @ 5.00 pm Mountain Time for this time of study, fellowship, and share exploration as we follow the exhortation of 2 Peter 3.18 and "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

## *Winterfest Fun Returns, February 6-8, Celebrating God's Gift of Abundant Life*

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -- John 10.10b

Middle and High School youth will have an opportunity to take a test-drive of our 2026 Summer Camp theme featuring the Lord's promise of abundant life. After a two year hiatus, Winterfest returns to Glacier Presbytery Camp.



Join us starting at 7.00 pm on Friday evening, February 6 for fun, games, fellowship, and sharing. Saturday will feature two options. Retreaters can spend the better part of the day skiing Blacktail. For those of you who aren't into skiing, we will have outdoor games and activities here at camp.

Registration information and publicity will be available after the first of the year. Cost will be \$200 per participant with a discounted price of \$175 for groups of five or more. Adult chaperones can come at no cost. Scholarships are available. Lift tickets and ski rental will be an additional charge.

Check the [glaciercamp.org](http://glaciercamp.org) web page or our social media platforms in early January 2026 for more information.

## "It's About Time!"

### Capital Campaign Launches

"It's about time!" My friend's statement surprised me. I was enjoying a cup of coffee and chatting with some other people during fellowship time following worship at one of our Presbytery's churches. Word had come to her that Glacier Presbytery Camp had begun the launch of its long anticipated capital campaign. She continued: "I've been waiting for years to see this happen!"

Then, she repeated herself: "It's about time!" And, before she hurried off to a committee meeting, she added: "You'll be getting my check in the mail soon."

Over the years I have been in the ministry, I have worked on many financial campaigns -- from annual stewardship drives to special offerings to campaigns intended to raise funds for particular capital expenses.

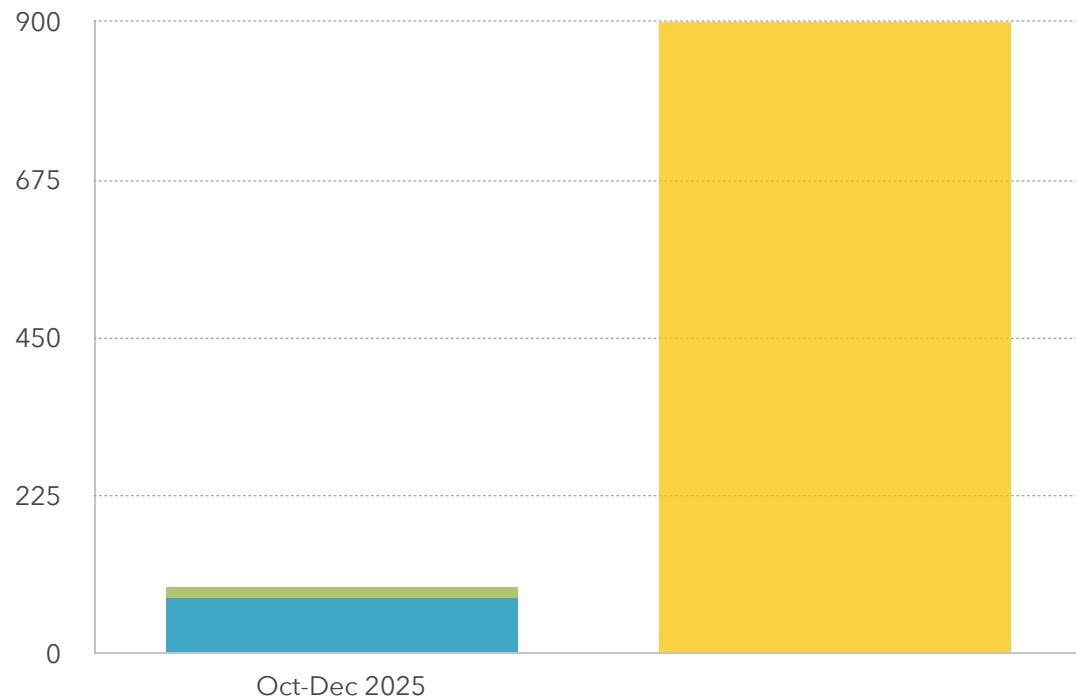
(To be honest,

these are endeavors I truly love. Stewardship is a spiritual discipline I find to be very personally meaningful -- especially since it reminds me of all the Lord has given me and how blessed I am to be able to give back.) But never have I experienced this kind of enthusiasm related to a capital campaign. The friends and supporters of our ministry have been waiting for this opportunity. And now it is at hand.

At this writing (December 15), we have already received cash gifts and pledged commitments to our capital campaign totaling \$95,000 -- more than 10% of our goal. Details about the campaign are included on pp 10-11 of this edition of the News, with more information coming in future newsletters and on our website/social media platforms.

  Cash Committed (in thousands)  
   Pledges Committed (in thousands)

  Goal (\$900,00)





# Valentine's Weekend Getaway

*Spruce Lodge at Glacier Camp*

*February 13&14*

Join us for a romantic weekend for two.

Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm Dinner: Beef Tenderloin followed by a relaxing evening cozied up by the Lodge fireplace.

Stay the night in one of our cozy Lodge rooms.

Waking up to an amazing brunch overlooking Flathead Lake on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am.

Reservations required, Limited rooms available.

Friday: Check-in 3pm, Dinner 6pm

Saturday: Brunch 9:30am

*Dinner only: \$90 per couple, Friday 6pm*

*RSVP by Feb. 6th 406-844-2114*

*info@glaciercamp.org*

17482 O'Neil Road, Lakeside, MT. 59922



# Glacier Presbytery Camp Capital Campaign FAQs

## Celebrating God's Gift of Abundant Life in Jesus Christ

*You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. -- Psalm 23.5*

Our Summer 2026 Camp theme -- Jesus and God's blessing of abundant life -- is an appropriate theme for Glacier Presbytery Camp's capital campaign. In Christ, God has blessed our ministry in so many different, powerful, and abundant ways. From providing Christian hospitality to guest groups using Spruce Lodge to sharing with our residential campers the enduring blessings which come through faith in Christ, Glacier Presbytery Camp is a place where abundant life can be discovered, understood, and shared. This capital campaign provides a unique opportunity for people to celebrate and further our ministry.

**Background:** *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? -- Isaiah 43.18, 19*

Glacier Presbytery Camp's ministry, for the last ten years or so, has faced significant challenges. The 2017 deck collapse and subsequent lawsuits (the last of which was settled at the end of 2023), the challenges of the COVID pandemic, and other issues have cast shadows over the work we have been called to do. Those challenges are now behind us. Glacier Presbytery Camp is at a stable and secure place in its ministry, where we can look toward the future with hope. Our Capital Campaign celebrates this new day and anticipates the new things God is doing in our midst.

**The Goal:** *Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. -- Matthew 7.7*

The goal of this capital campaign is to pay off the remaining principal on the Spruce Lodge mortgage and to cover the cost of some capital improvements related to the installation of the new KOA cabins and the cottage which serves as the residence for our Lodge Manager. These costs come to approximately \$900,000. Early donations and pledged commitments already total close to \$951,000 -- which indicate a high level of enthusiasm for this effort.

**Ways to Participate:** *For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us. -- 2 Corinthians 8.1-3*

There are many ways you can participate in this campaign. Every contribution to this effort is meaningful and highly valued by our ministry! Here are some ways you can help:

Pray: Please pray for the camp and its ministry and especially this endeavor. Your prayers have been a critical source of strength and support for the work of Glacier Presbytery Camp -- especially in the face of great challenges. One of the sustaining forces during the uncertain COVID days were notes which explained: "We are praying for you."

Share: God is doing so many good things through the ministry of Glacier Presbytery Camp! In 2025, we had the most campers since the pandemic! With the new KOA cabins fully functional, we anticipate being able to reach more young people with God's gift of abundant life in 2026 and beyond. Exciting things are happening! You can help our ministry by sharing this good news!

Give: Please consider making a financial gift to our campaign. Your commitment can be a one time cash gift. You can also express your support by making a monetary pledge to the campaign. Pledged commitments can be spread out over three years and be made through gifts of cash. Gifts can be in the form of appreciated stock or other securities as well. Every gift, no matter its size, will be received with gratitude and appreciation and securely devoted to this particular effort.



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OUR ONLINE DONATION SITE

Scan to Give,  
Select “Mortgage  
Reduction”

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## Director's Reflections

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# Of Light, And Its Power -- Remembrances from a Long Ago December Night

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*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. -- Isaiah 9.2*

It happened right about this time of year, some ten odd days before Christmas. And though many years now have gone by, I still remember this experience -- as though it happened just yesterday. The phone call came in the evening. Not terribly late, but late enough to make you think the caller's news would not be good.

On the other end of the phone was the night nurse at the care facility. Something happened to my mother. Could I come down, right away? My wife Gigi and I left immediately. I remember the temperature wasn't cold. But (this being December in Great Falls, Montana), the winds were howling through the night. In fact as I opened the door to get into the car, a gust of wind tried to rip it out of my hands.

We didn't know what the problem was; the nurse provided no details except that our presence was needed. I remember walking down the dimly lit corridor toward the wing in the nursing home where my mother was. We paused to enter the code that would unlock the door that led to her unit. (Mom was in the memory care facility.) As I opened it, I wondered what we would find.

The nurse met us at the doorway to her room. An aide was standing next to her bed. My mother was agitated. She tossed back and forth and the efforts we made to calm her had no effect. She spoke. But there was no coherence to her words. I remember, though, the look in her eyes. They glistened with fear. Something happened that scared her. Something made my mother very much afraid.

Who knows what the cause of that fear was? By this time, the Alzheimer's from which she suffered robbed her even of the ability to recognize me. ("There's a familiar face," she would say when I came to visit. That was her way of acknowledging that she should know who I was but didn't.) The chances of her being able to explain what happened, what induced these tremors of panic were somewhere between slim and none.

Her hands trembled as Gigi and I tried to hold them. She thrashed back and forth in her bed, trying to talk but unable to do much more than stutter. The nurse quietly wondered if we should get the doctor to prescribe a sedative. We tried that once before but it had very unpleasant consequences. I stood there, in the shadows, trying to figure out what to do. A gust of wind rattled the window.

And I remember being overwhelmed by this epic sense of despair.

For a moment, everything was quiet. The only sound to interrupt the silence was my mother's labored breathing and a few words (really, they were just sounds) that she tried to utter. "Nnnoo! Nnnoo! I dddonnn't..." The night's darkness, at that point, became palpable. I

remember -- even now -- this uncomfortable, disconcerting sensation as the shadows reached into my soul. I had long been acquainted with the words of Isaiah 9.2. But in this moment, I found myself in the text itself -- occupying that land of deep darkness.

Then, in an instant, everything changed. The nurse went to page the doctor on call for official instructions to deal with the situation. The aide and I attempted to hold her hands still, but without success. Mom's arms flailed back and forth, up and down. Then, Gigi shared her idea. "Let's try turning on a light." She reached for the soft reading light above my mother's bed. I remember hearing the switch go "click."

What happened next seemed miraculous. At the very least, it was a testimony to the power of light. Immediately, her breathing relaxed. Her hands which thrashed at the shadows settled down. Instead of resisting my grasp, Mom's hand clasped mine in a firm and confident way. The crisis had passed. We all looked on in wonder. The nurse emerged in the doorway (in my mind's eye, I can still see her silhouette). Referring to the syringe in her hand, she spoke very softly: "I don't think Sylvia needs this now."

All this happened a long time ago. My mom, of course, is gone now. And Gigi is too; in Christ they belong to that promised place of grace where night is no more. Here, where I find myself, I continue on. I would be lying if I told you I don't sometimes struggle. For there are moments, like that night, when the darkness is deep and the wind howls and the shadows come alive. And I don't so much walk as I stumble through the darkness -- trying, struggling to find my way.

I wish, often, that the journey was easier. I wish that the shadows would somehow disappear and that the darkness could be shaken off like a bad dream and that the night which sometimes seems so long, so very long could at last be overcome by Scripture's promise of a never-ending day. However sincere or faith-filled these wishes might be, against the deep darkness of this world, my earnest longings are powerless to turn back the night.

Yet in those moments where, in struggling through the darkness, I come to despair's ragged edge, I can hear the soft, gentle voice of my wife come from that place of long ago. "Let's try turning on the light." And I do that, if not in a literal then in a figurative and spiritual way. The promise of the Light comes to me. That Light renders the darkness bereft of any power. The shadows are turned back. And there is grace.

In these moments, I remember that night from many Decembers ago.

And in the sudden quiet, I can hear the Lord himself speak -- as if just to me: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."<sup>1</sup> I hold those words and that promise close to my heart. For the Light does truly shine in the darkness. And the darkness cannot overcome it<sup>2</sup>.

Tim Lanham, Director

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<sup>1</sup> John 8.12

<sup>2</sup> See John 1.5



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