



## Prayer Requests

- \* Pray for all summer camps across Canada and the USA. Many camps have been devastated financially by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- \* Pray for summer 2021 that we might be able to run some sort of program so that the gospel may be preached.
- \* Thanksgiving that Wilderness Ranch has been able to stay financially viable due to low infrastructure costs and creative programming this past summer.
- \* Pray for each young person who attended the Wilderness Adventure Bible School this past summer. Pray that God would continue to work in their life and grow the seeds that were planted.

What has God been doing in your life recently? This is a question that is designed to take us from a surface conversation to a deeper, more intimate conversation about the intricacies of life that we have been dealing with. It is a question that deals with the spiritual more than the physical. It is a hard question for us to ask to each other and it is often even more difficult for us to answer. So here I am asking you; what has God been doing in your life recently?

I don't live under a rock so I know each one of you has had a significant alteration to your regular day to day activities. Most, if not all of us have been pushed out of the comfortable and into the abnormal this past year. So I bring up the question again; what has God been doing in your life lately? In troubled times it is often easy to let the spiritual things slide and focus on the physical and the tangible. In troubled times it is easy to become spiritually blind.

Before I go on much further I thought I had better share with you what God has been doing at Wilderness Ranch lately. Wilderness Adventure Bible School was a huge success. Twelve young people came out to Wilderness Ranch for six weeks and learned a vast amount about horses, blacksmithing, leatherwork, butchering, and the Bible. A unique community was formed as they so often do at Wilderness Ranch. God worked in the lives of each person that was a part of the Bible school. A common phrase that I heard throughout the program was, 'God brought my life back on track through Wilderness Adventure Bible School.' For all involved there were some mountaintop experiences both physically and metaphorically. Many of these mountain top experiences started off around a campfire with that simple question, "What has God been doing in your life lately?" One of the focuses of our program was to allow the students to create, using the mediums that were around us. The program finished with each student presenting his or her final project; something that they created during the program out of leather or on the forge, or any other medium they had to work with. Part of the final project presentation was identifying how their faith walk paralleled or coincided with the creative process of their final project. It was a mountaintop experience for me to see these young people share their faith with one another through creative process and reflection. It was beautiful to see what God had been doing in their life.

So what about you? What has God been doing in your life? As I write I am reminded of the story about Cleopas and the unnamed individual from Luke 24 who journey with Jesus from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The Bible says that their faces were downcast. Their eager expectation of a Messiah coming and redeeming Israel were smashed to pieces as they watched their Messiah be nailed to the cross. Has 2020 left you feeling a little downcast? I know I have had some downcast days. There have been times this past year when I have felt absolutely hopeless. In Cleopas' and the unnamed individual's hopeless state Jesus comes and walks along beside them. What is interesting and beautiful and mysterious about this whole story is that Cleopas and the other guy have no idea that it is Jesus who is walking with them: they are kept from recognizing them. As they journey Jesus opens up the scripture to them and tells them the rest of the story. He shares how his death and resurrection was part of God's plan to redeem Israel and the entire human race.

Someone once told me that because the second individual is not named we can put ourselves into this story. We can become the one walking with Jesus and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus. In these troubled times I see no better place to put ourselves. It is when we walk with Jesus that the scriptures are opened up. It is when we break bread with Jesus that our eyes are opened to recognize him.



I don't know what is happening at Wilderness Ranch next summer, I don't know what will happen in our country over the next couple of months. However, I do know that Jesus walks with each of us, even when we are kept from recognizing him. When we share our troubles with him, He can open up the scriptures and make sense of our troubled situation. I encourage you to read the road to Emmaus story from Luke 24. I also encourage you to ask someone what God has been doing in their life lately. You might be amazed at what God has been up to in this troubled time.

As you can see we haven't included a brochure in this mailing. Because of the uncertainty that we live in we don't really know whether or not we will be able to run a regular program at Wilderness Ranch again. Instead of a brochure I have included fridge magnets. Please put this magnet on your fridge and when you look at it remember to pray for Wilderness Ranch and remember that no matter what road you are walking on, you are not walking it alone.

God Bless and have a merry Christmas,  
Ken Olson

### Wilderness Ranch has a new website: [www.wildernessranchalberta.com](http://www.wildernessranchalberta.com)

All of our 2021 programming information will be available on our website. Stay tuned for updates as to what our 2021 programing will look like.

Due to the pandemic Wilderness Ranch has had to forgo some of our annual fundraisers such as the Annual Pie Auction. If God puts it on your heart to give to Wilderness Ranch this Christmas please do. There are three easy ways to give to Wilderness Ranch:

- Send an E-transfer to **wildernessranch@platinum.ca** (be sure to include your donor information for tax receipt purposes)
- Send a check payable to Wilderness Ranch to PO Box 1804 Claresholm AB T0L 0T0
- Donate using a credit card online at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org)

You are receiving this camp mailing because you have donated to Wilderness Ranch. If you would like to be taken off the Wilderness Ranch mailing list please email the director ([kennethdavidolson@gmail.com](mailto:kennethdavidolson@gmail.com)) with the words "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Please include your full name and address that you are receiving this mailing at.

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\* Would you prefer to receive a digital copy of the Wilderness Ranch mailing? If so email the director at [kennethdavidolson@gmail.com](mailto:kennethdavidolson@gmail.com). Include your name and address. Email me from the email address that you would like to receive the digital copy. Include the word 'Mailing' in the subject line. FYI the new website will have a copy of the newsletter posted as well.  
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