



# newsletter



# Preaching at THE WILDS

# Preach the Word

## Colossians 1:28-29

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

by **Matt Herbster**  
Program Director • THE WILDS  
Brevard, North Carolina

When would THE WILDS cease to be what it is today? Could we still have a viable ministry without great games? Could we continue to fulfill our mission without hikes to the waterfalls? Is it possible that lives could be changed even without beautiful facilities? Of course the answer to all these questions is “yes.” THE WILDS is special (along with other things) because of the activities, beautiful location, dedicated staff, and zany Funtime. However, there is no question that the ministry of the Word of God – especially through preaching – is the most impor-

Each summer, THE WILDS brings in evangelists to proclaim the Word of God to the young people here at camp. During the fall and spring, THE WILDS program staff (Scott Ashmore, Matt Herbster, Rand Hummel, and Willie Partin) has the privilege of preaching the Word of God to the young people who come with their Christian schools. Please pray for each of us as we seek to deliver passionate, Bible-centered, Holy Spirit-filled messages. With God’s help, you can be confident THE WILDS will always be a place that follows the Scriptural admonition to “preach the Word.” ✨

tant part of THE WILDS. This past summer I received a newsletter from a Christian school that had brought seniors to THE WILDS for a spring Senior Trip. In this newsletter, each senior was asked to name his favorite part of their Senior Trip. Some mentioned special memories in New York City and some mentioned fun times at camp. However, there were several who mentioned the preaching at THE WILDS as the favorite part of their Senior Trip. As a teenager, I loved coming to THE WILDS for many reasons, but the preaching was by far my favorite part. The ministries of Tom Farrell, Rand Hummel, Ken Collier, Jerry Sivnksty, John Goetsch, Les Ollila, and others had a huge impact on my life.

newsletter

THE WILDS Christian Association, Inc. is an independent, nondenominational, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization created for the purpose of operating Christian camps and conference centers. We are fundamental in our beliefs, Bible-centered in our philosophy, and evangelistic in our outreach.

THE WILDS Christian Association, Inc. presently operates a Christian camp and conference center in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina that is open year-round. The camp has a carefully

selected and trained staff and averages over 20,000 campers per year. We also own property in New Hampshire in anticipation of a future ministry to be known as THE WILDS of New England.

In addition to providing a God-honoring music publication service as an integral part of our ministry, THE WILDS Christian Association, Inc. has also established the CampsAbroad program to assist others in the formation and operation of Christian camp ministries around the world.

THE WILDS Christian Association, Inc. publishes THE WILDS NewsLetter. Change of address information and comments should be sent to:

THE WILDS Christian Association, Inc. • PO Box 509 • Taylors, SC 29687-0009  
Phone: (864) 268-4760 • Fax: (864) 292-0743 • E-mail: newsletter@wilder.org

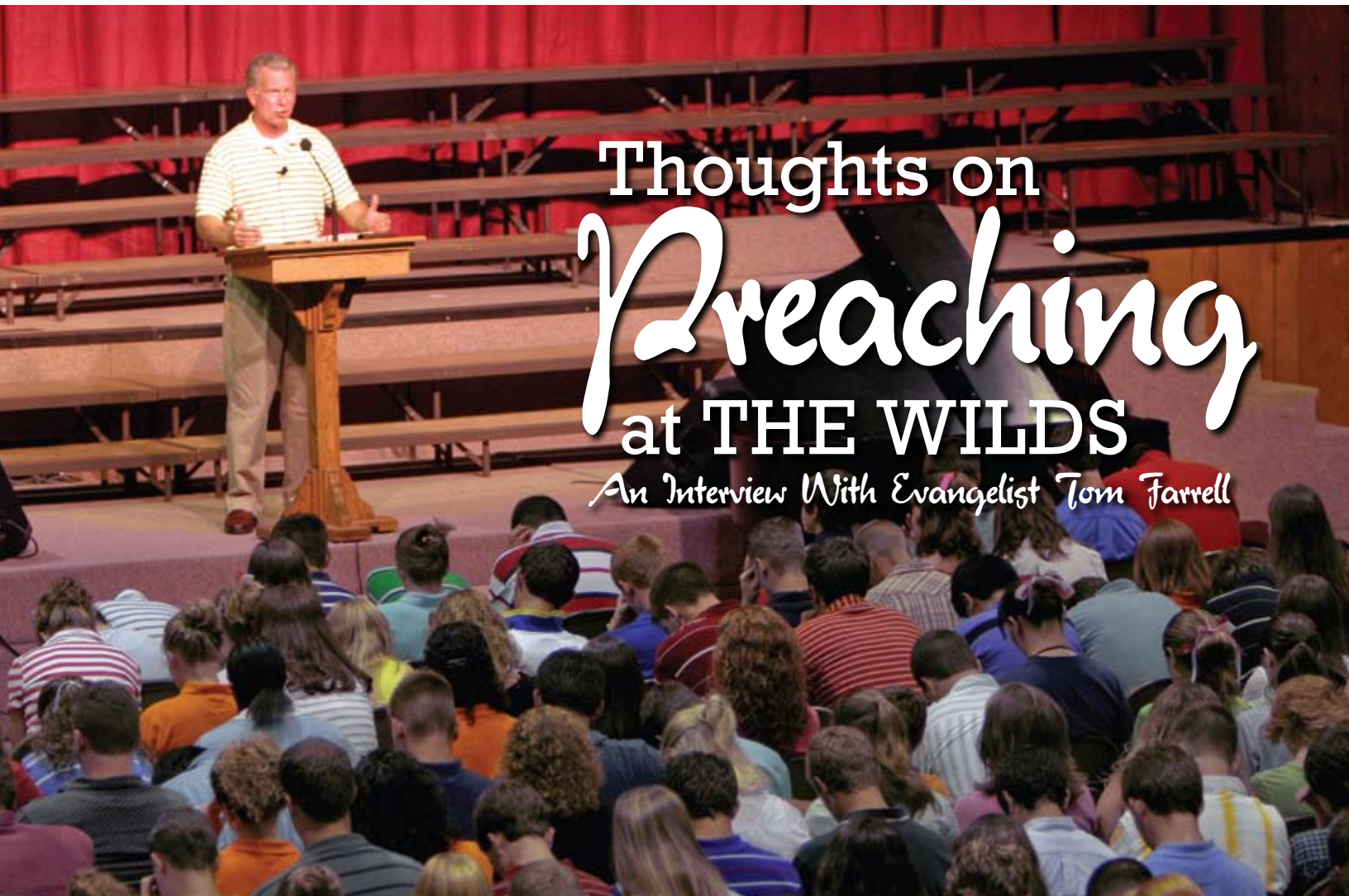
North Carolina Campsite:

THE WILDS • 1000 Wilds Ridge Road • Brevard, NC 28712-7273  
Phone: (828) 884-7811 • Fax: (828) 862-4813

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# Thoughts on Preaching at THE WILDS

An Interview With Evangelist Tom Farrell

## 1. What is the purpose and need of preaching?

Titus 1:3 declares, *But hath in due times manifested His Word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior.* The word “manifested” means to make visible that which is hidden, or to make known the purpose of God. The Lord has chosen the vehicle of preaching to declare His goals and guidelines from His eternal Word.

In II Timothy 4:2, Paul instructed Timothy to, *Preach the Word.* The word “preach” was used for an imperial herald who was to proclaim with authority the message the emperor gave him to announce. One commentator (Wuest) says, “The word is in a construction which makes it a summary command to be obeyed at once. It is a sharp command as in military language.”

Preaching, then, is not lecturing, nor is it just teaching. It is the authoritative declaration of divine truth by the man of God to people, demanding obedience. Preaching is one of God’s key ways of communicating His truth to mankind for the purpose of producing change to Christlikeness for the glory of God. Preaching is for today, is exalted by God, and should be exalted by God’s people.

## 2. How long have you been preaching at THE WILDS?

For the past 33 years, in one form or another, it has been my privilege to declare the Word of God from the pulpit at THE WILDS. Starting in 1974, I began to preach for the school camps and Senior Trips. For the next several summers I taught a soul-winning course each afternoon. My first week-long summer camp was in 1978.

## 3. Is THE WILDS a good place to exercise the gift of preaching?

While attending a camp as a teenager, the Lord got hold of my heart and changed my life through preaching. I love to preach at camps, and particularly at THE WILDS (see answers to question 4). THE WILDS tops the list of my favorite places to preach. And yes, I am a bit biased.

## 4. Is there anything done at THE WILDS that reinforces the preaching?

When I think of the liberty and joy that I experience when preaching at THE WILDS, four main reasons come to mind:



## ★ POWER IN THE PULPIT ★

**May 6-9, 2008**

Doctors, lawyers, and other professionals frequently attend seminars to sharpen their skills, making them more effective in their occupation. Certainly God's preachers need to be further equipped and encouraged for His high and holy calling, proclaiming God's Word.

THE WILDS, in cooperation with Tom Farrell Ministries, presents the third Power in the Pulpit, a conference established with a focus on preaching. Every general session and workshop is designed to help you have a stronger and more impacting pulpit ministry.

There will also be special sessions for your wives led by Regina Farrell, Trish McCoy, and Linda Phelps.

## ★ YOUTH WORKERS' CONFERENCE ★

**March 4-7, 2008**

This conference offers instruction on programs, recruitment, and training of youth staff, philosophy, counseling, and youth evangelism. It features more than 40 practical sessions in all! Each workshop is led by experienced, fundamental youth workers from around the country, as well as Ken Collier, Ken Hay, Matt Herbster, and Rand Hummel from THE WILDS. There is also a ladies' track. This conference gets essential information into your hands immediately.

### Outings

A golf outing and ladies' fellowship are planned for Tuesday. There is no charge for accommodations Monday night for those participating in the outing.

For more information, please call (864) 331-3293, e-mail [tw.fortifier.camps@wilds.org](mailto:tw.fortifier.camps@wilds.org), or visit our website: [www.wilds.org](http://www.wilds.org).

(Continued from page 3.)

### The Site Aids the Preaching

From the time people drive onto the campsite, they leave behind the concrete jungle and experience the beauty of God's handiwork. The majestic mountains of North Carolina, complete with flowing streams and awesome waterfalls, magnify the creative power of our great God. Well-kept buildings and grounds demonstrate to the camper that he is in a place where things are done with the spirit of excellence. The inviting lake, Ballfield, and multiple activities including the Superslide, Land Trolley, and Human Foosball, announce that lots of fun is ahead.

Folks are unplugged from radio, TV, MP3 players, and computers, so they can hear the voice of God both in the private reading and public proclamation of the Word. Good Christian music is played throughout the day, helping to create a wholesome atmosphere. This spiritually controlled environment is the perfect setting for both preaching and receiving the Word of God.

### The Staff Aids the Preaching

The staff is carefully selected and schooled in the scriptural philosophy that has been THE WILDS compass for years. Staff Training Week allows members of the summer team to come to a place of brokenness and total surrender.

Every department head brings his workers together for a spiritual challenge and prayer time on a daily basis. Campers are prayed for by name, and God's miracle-working grace is witnessed constantly.

The servant spirit is both taught and caught at camp. In Luke 22:27, Jesus said, *...but I am among you as he that doth serve.* As the campers witness the energy and excellence with which the staff serves them, they are more open to the preaching of the Word in the services. The staff is well aware that all they do in the process of the day helps to build bridges to the campers, and prepare for the preaching. They are consumed with the camp theme verse, I Corinthians 10:31: *Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Personal one-on-one counseling is done during the day as well as at each invitation. Decisions that are made by the campers are strengthened by the strong biblical follow-up of both counselors at camp and parents and pastors at home. Weekly sessions on discipleship and growth are taught to the sponsors and pastors to help them more effectively work with their young people.

### The Schedule Aids the Preaching

From its beginning in 1969, THE WILDS has focused on preaching. The schedule is constructed to place the preaching sessions at strategic times, helping the campers to listen more readily. After rising, cleaning the cabin, and eating a hearty breakfast, the first activity of the day is chapel. Immediately following the preaching in chapel comes the personal devotion time called God & I Time. This important part of the daily schedule allows the camper to develop the personal disci-



ing and conquering the temptations of life. Add to all this the emphasis on Scripture memorization and meditation, and you have a winning combination for successful Christian living.

### The Services Aid the Preaching

All the exciting activities and excellent meals are constructed to give the young people a wonderful, first-class time during the day so that they will be ready to hear and receive the Word of God when it is preached in the services.

The music program is designed to complement, not contradict, the preaching of God's Word. The young people not only see the staff serving, but also hear them singing choir numbers and specials that exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

The morning chapels are building times where either a book of the Bible or a Bible character is preached. The emphasis of chapel is Christian growth.

The evening services focus on salvation, separation, surrender, and service. Adequate time is given in these services to deal with the text, make application, and give a strong invitation with quality counseling afterwards.

Much is said today about "decision oriented preaching." The critics are opposed to preachers calling for decisions from the listeners, particularly publicly. The truth is, Jesus called for public decisions (Matthew 4:19-20, 9:9, Luke 9:23-24). No one is changed until he chooses to allow Christ to change him.

A close look at Luke 9:23 shows at least three parts to discipleship: 1) Decision (*if any man will come after me*); 2) Discipline (*let him deny himself and take up his cross*); and 3) Daily (*take up his cross daily*).

THE WILDS format for preaching provides the campers an opportunity to take all three steps. The administration is pro-preaching, and the philosophy and program prove it.

### 5. What is the long term blessing of preaching at THE WILDS?

As mentioned previously, the early days of my preaching ministry were spent at THE WILDS. Because of the volume of counseling that I did after I preached, I learned much about the daily needs and battles of people. This drove me to the Scriptures, to find practical principles to help people live victoriously for the Lord. Today I still seek to preach simple, straight-forward, scriptural messages.

There is not a week of my life that I do not meet folks who were saved under the preaching at THE WILDS. Regularly I meet people who have surrendered to full-time service and many who today are serving in ministry. I am sure every preacher who has preached at THE WILDS will agree it is a wonderful place to declare the Word. ➔

pline of daily Bible reading and prayer. A *God & I Time* booklet is provided to help them understand the passage that they are reading, which was already taught in chapel.

Before lunch, a third look at the passage taught in chapel is discussed in small groups called God & I Time follow-up. This directed discussion helps the campers to personally apply the Bible truths to their daily walk.

Three days during the camp week, a Christian Life Seminar is held, where additional messages are given dealing with confront-

# Coach H. Lee "ROCK" ROYER



by Ken Hay  
Chairman of the Board  
THE WILDS  
Taylors, South Carolina

Coach H. Lee "Rock" Royer, Defensive Coordinator of the U.S. Naval Academy football team, had the most contagious personality of any man I have ever met. The first time I talked with him on the phone, I felt as though I had known him all my life. He would witness to everyone he encountered by asking them if they had been "born again," and was called "Coach Born Again" by his coaching peers. His sermons were dynamic appeals for every camper to be sure he or she was truly born again. His most famous sermon was based on the three types

of people: 10% being winners, 10% being losers, and 80% being "shoulder-shruggers." With his association with the U.S. Naval Academy, and with Ron Brooks having been in the Army, we conducted an ARMY/NAVY week each summer. We still hear from former campers who remember those weeks, not just for the excitement and cheering, but primarily for the spiritual impact Coach's and Ron's preaching had on their lives. At 35 years of age, Coach's Cherokee 6 airplane crashed in tornadic winds on November 22, 1973, and he was taken into the presence of God whom he loved and served with all his heart. Written on the side of the plane was John 3:3, *Ye must be born again.* ➔

## My Preaching Experience at THE WILDS

by Rich Tozour  
Evangelist  
Kansas City, Missouri

I've had the privilege of preaching at THE WILDS several times since the fall of 1995. Preaching there has been one of the highlights of my ministry.

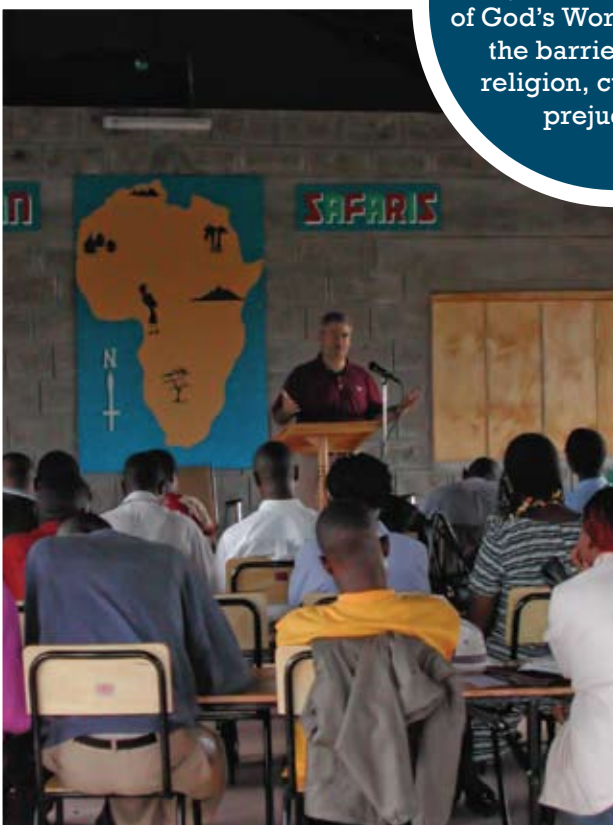
The purpose of preaching is to evangelize the lost world (Matthew 28:19-20) and to edify believers and equip them to serve in the local church (Ephesians 4:11-13). My time at this spiritual oasis in North Carolina has definitely helped me carry out my commission as a preacher. There is no better plat-

form for preaching than summer camp! The campers are set apart from the typical worldly distractions, and they are inundated with the perpetual preaching of the Word. The music at THE WILDS is the perfect complement to the preaching and the most suitable preparation of the listeners' hearts that one could ask. The role of the trained counselors is to reinforce what has been preached, not to detract from the preaching or to undermine it.

Truly, having the privilege of being a preacher at

THE WILDS has been one of the preeminent blessings of my ministry. Here on a grand scale is the opportunity to have a spiritual impact on the lives of hundreds of impressionable young people who have gathered together for the express purpose of hearing from heaven! I meet teens all over the country who have made godly decisions during their week at this wonderful camp. *To God be the glory! Great things He has done, and continues to do, at this marvelous mountain ministry.* ➔





# Faithful Preaching all over the world

by Matt Collier

Director • CampsAbroad  
Brevard, North Carolina

I could talk about colorful scenes and favorite memories for hours: images of places around the world where I have preached the glorious gospel of Christ. A converted airplane hangar – complete with wandering chickens and goats, battered canvas army tents with holes that pour water during rain, a shady mango tree, a room choked with dust from desert wind, a filthy school classroom, a church without a roof, on top of a mountain, cramped living rooms, an unfinished dining hall, a street corner. What a privilege! In my mind's eye, I see the upturned faces of people of all races, young and old, as they listen to the Bible preached. In every setting, the Word of God is powerfully effective. Even when results are not outwardly evident, we can be confident that *it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it* (Isaiah 55:11).

Allow me to share one favorite memory from the early history of CampsAbroad. In March 2001, the camp week in India was coming to a close. We sensed widespread conviction of sin, but all week the Lord had burdened our hearts to pray for laborers for India.

After a great day on Friday, we approached the evening service with anticipation. But five minutes before the beginning of the service, the down-pour came – a solid wall of water from the dark sky. Within minutes, the outside meeting area was flooded with three inches of standing water. The lightening and thunder was something to behold. Not wanting to cancel the service, we scrambled to safely move everyone into a small upstairs classroom. Picture the scene: campers crammed in wall-to-wall, bodies intensifying the already sticky heat, pouring rain combined with thunder, and a bad sound system that made hearing difficult, huge bugs attracted to the lights constantly dive bombed the campers, well, you get the idea. Every circumstance was against the success of that service. But greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. Through an interpreter, I preached from Exodus 35 about being a willing offering for the Lord, and the Lord called over 70 young people into full-time Christian service! That had nothing to do with the messenger and everything to do with God. Many of those young people are serving the Lord today.

Faithful preaching of God's Word steam-rolls the barriers of race, religion, culture, and prejudices. God is using the foolishness of preaching to get His work done...all over the world! ➔

Faithful  
preaching

of God's Word steam-rolls  
the barriers of race,  
religion, culture, and  
prejudices.



**the Wilds**  
**CAMPAIGN**  
*trails 2008*

**Register now for next summer!**

For teens, the ballot box is ready to decide who will be the next party in control—the Bull Moose Party, the Lame Duck Party, or the Red Tape Party.

Junior Boot Camp will have high-flying adventures between the Falcons and the Hornets in Sky Wars.

For more information, call (864) 331-3286, e-mail [tw.summer.camps@wilds.org](mailto:tw.summer.camps@wilds.org), or visit [www.wilds.org](http://www.wilds.org).

**You don't want to miss out!**



**the Wilds**  
**JUNIOR BOOT CAMP**  
**SKY WARS**  
**2008**

by **Rand Hummel**  
Assistant Director • THE WILDS  
Brevard, North Carolina

## Dear Campers,

I trust you had a great summer and you are experiencing one of the greatest spiritual years you have ever had. Speaking of experience, do you realize that at THE WILDS this past summer alone, over 30,000 hamburgers were eaten, over 50,000 Cool Beans drinks were served, over 60,000 laughs laughed at Willie's jokes (if he got you to laugh an average of five times), over 96,000,000 steps were climbed (that is if each camper went up and down the steps four times a day), and the messages preached reached over 288,000 ears (twelve messages each week reaching two ears per camper).

Most of the e-mails I get from campers do not mention the 96,000,000 steps, the 30,000 hamburgers, or the 50,000 drinks. Almost all the "thanks" I receive refer to the messages preached which proves to me that teens are listening! Now, if you think about it, you will have the privilege of hearing an average of 200 messages from your pastors and teachers this coming year alone. How should we handle all this preaching? Let's look at how the first chapter of James teaches us to listen to preaching in a way that honors our pastors and helps us to grow.





we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of

to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,

only and the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

When you listen to your pastor preach, in what ways can you be swift to hear? What could cause you to be slow to hear? How can you be slow to speak? Do you have a problem talking during church? We can learn much more by listening than talking. If we can train our hearts to be quiet both outside (so we don't bother others) and inside (so we don't bother ourselves), we will refuse to think our own thoughts while someone else is preaching thoughts about God.

Does your pastor make you mad when he uses God's Word to confront your selfishness and sin? Instead of being angry about what is preached, how can you be slow to wrath? Can you do right and get mad at the same time? How should you handle any disagreements you may have with something that has been preached?

This verse encourages you to confess all filthiness and wickedness before you are able to meekly receive the Word of God. According to this verse, what should you do before you go to worship? How can unconfessed sin hinder your ability to listen to the preaching of God's Word? Are you a meek receiver?



With these three simple thoughts in mind, this coming Sunday morning could be a bit different than maybe the last couple of Sunday mornings. For the next month, take these three biblical principles with you to church and notice the difference that you will experience. Speaking of experience, make sure you thank your pastors for their willingness to teach and preach God's wonderful, life-changing Word to you. Enjoy listening God's way.

Your friend,

*Paul*

# Biblical Meditation:

## The *Weapon of Choice* in the Fight Against Anger



by Steve Stodola  
Assistant to the Director  
THE WILDS  
Brevard, North Carolina

The world teaches some interesting ways of handling or “venting” anger: throw dirty clothes (throwing dirty clothes avoids the need to refold clean clothes...), throw Jello in the kitchen sink, count to 10, hit the bathtub with a rolled up towel, etc. Although hitting the tub is certainly better than hitting a child, these tactics are merely man’s ways to handle his problems apart from God; however, we as Christians have a choice to use a much more powerful weapon to fight the giant of anger: the written Word of God.

Even though this truth is not new news to us, we can still struggle with anger. Perhaps it is because we have not admitted the problem or have excused the problem away by calling it “frustration” instead of “anger.” It might be because we have no knowledge or limited knowledge of what God says about anger. Even then, just knowing what God says about anger is like holding a technologically advanced military weapon in our hands and not having a clue how to use it. This is where the

biblical concept of meditation enters the scene. Meditation is what the Holy Spirit uses to energize the Truth and make it effective in our lives. Biblical meditation, the process of mentally “chewing” on God’s Word, requires a lot of effort on our part, but in the end, it is the ultimate weapon of choice that defeats the sin of anger.

Over the past 30 years, Rand Hummel has counseled hundreds of teenagers and adults in the area of anger. Having struggled with anger as a teenager, Rand has a great burden to see Christians get the victory God desires for them to have over anger. This burden eventually led to his most recent book, *Turn Away Wrath: Meditations to Control Anger and Bitterness*. In this small book, Rand takes over 100 verses of Scripture and helps us meditate on them. You might even call it “pre-meditated Scripture.” Regardless of how large or small your fight is, *Turn Away Wrath* is a great tool to energize the Christian’s weapon of choice and make it effective in our battle against anger. ♣

# — THE — MORE IN STORE — PROJECT —

**Construction of the proposed new resource center and office complex** at THE WILDS, known as the *More In Store* Project, is scheduled to begin in the winter of 2008-2009. We are very excited about the expanded ministry support services and increased operational efficiencies that this facility will give us. It should be fully functional by the summer of 2010.

We started fundraising for this facility in the fall of 2006. God provided donations and pledges totaling almost \$700,000 at the well-attended banquets we had in various cities. In addition, through our recent golf tournaments and other giving (most significantly at year-end) we have received an additional \$226,000. Therefore, we presently have gifts and pledges totaling just over \$926,000 or about 77% of the projected total cost. We are praying that the balance of the necessary funds will be pledged or donated soon, and that the construction costs will be less than predicted. Will you pray about how you can be a part of this exciting project?

**Thanks**  
to each of you for meeting our needs and inspiring us to strive to be wise stewards of your eternal investment in God's work through THE WILDS.

Here at THE WILDS we have developed specific procedures as part of our philosophy of ministry that guide us as we strive to be faithful stewards of the resources with which God has blessed us. One of those procedures is that we will not borrow money to build a capital improvement project like this one. We believe and have experienced that, for us, there is much greater freedom to minister when we do not have to labor under the burden of debt.

We praise and thank God for guiding us in our planning and then providing for us through His people. Thanks to each of you for meeting our needs and inspiring us to strive to be wise stewards of your eternal investment in God's work through THE WILDS. I **TRUST** that you, as a supporter of this ministry, realize that all believers are accountable to God to do everything for His glory. ➔

by Dick Reid  
Vice President • THE WILDS  
Taylors, South Carolina

the  
**Needs**  
corner

## Items Received for THE WILDS

Oxy-Acetylene Cutting Torch • Lifeguard Rescue Tubes  
Professional Camera Equipment • Heavy-Duty Tow Strap  
5 Gallon Compressed Air Tank • Heating Pad  
Hammered Dulcimer

**Thank You!**

## THE WILDS Needs

- First Aid Kits (20) - \$85
- Pallet Truck - \$300
- Tractor-mount PTO Driven Leaf Blower - \$2,500
- Long Handled Turners (6) - \$26
- 6" Deep Full-sized Steam Table Pans (12) - \$50
- Bread Knives (2) - \$19
- Super Pan II Wire Grates - Sheet Pan Size (12) - \$48
- Dessert Plates (16 dozen) - \$26
- Salad Tongs (2 dozen) - \$2

## I want to help THE WILDS.

Enclosed is a gift toward the cost of the indicated need.

Rev./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

THE WILDS • PO Box 509 • Taylors, SC 29687-0009

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Careers:

**Stephen** ('01) and **Holly Ashmore** have joined the staff at Bible Baptist Church in Hampton, Georgia, where Stephen is serving as the music/youth pastor. They have three children: Joshua-age 3, Lillian-age 1, and Laura-age 2 months.

**Tony** ('82,'84) and **Leigh Ann Bryson** are serving in Lake Orion, Michigan, where Tony is the school administrator for Lake Orion Baptist School. They have three children.

**Andrew** ('00,'01) and **Danielle Doan** are living in Heath, Ohio, where Andrew teaches Bible and speech at Licking County Christian Academy. They have a son, Eldan Andrew, born 4/12/06.

**Jeremy** ('97-'98,'99,'01,'02,'03) and **Angie [Berg] McMorris** ('96,'97,'98,'99,'02,'03) are living in Greenville, South Carolina, where Jeremy is the youth pastor at Hampton Park Baptist Church. They have two children: Jay-age 2 and Christiana Hesel, born 6/15/07.

Dan and **Malinda [Heisey] Musselman** ('00,'02) live in Lawrence, Kansas, where Malinda is teaching first grade in the Santa Fe Trail district. Dan is working on a doctorate in Music Composition at the University of Kansas.

**Kevin** ('81,'82) and **Becky Norton** are living in Greenville, South Carolina, where Kevin is teaching 7th grade math at Bob Jones Junior High School. They have four children: Andrew, Catherine, Thomas, and Olivia.

**Michael** ('96,'98) and **Candace [Stephens] Wessberg** ('98) are traveling in full-time evangelism with the Tozour Evangelistic Team. They do music and children's ministries. They have two children: Zachariah-age 2 and Andrew Myron, born 8/3/07.

## Weddings:

**Clarissa Peltier** ('04,'05) and **Eric Brown** ('04), 5/18/07.

**Melissa Sanchez** ('05,'06) and **Woody Chipman** ('04,'05,'06), 7/14/07.

**Rachel Phelps** ('02,'03) and **Joseph Bhaskar Singapogu**, 7/27/07.

**Robert Wintenberg** ('04,'05) and **Kristen Domblesky**, 8/4/07.

## Births:

**Ryan** ('96) and **Elizabeth Neal**, Asher Lloyd, 8/16/06.

Matthew and **Emily [Doan] Sealy** ('01,'02,'03), Liam Edwin, 9/28/06.

**Kerry** ('96) and **Christiana Estes**, Kylee Joy, 10/23/06.

Mike and **Jenn [Hagen] Branham** ('00), Quentin Govoni, 2/9/07.

**Joshua** ('97) and **Diana [Norrell] Harney** ('96,'97), Ryan Jeffrey, 2/28/07.

Steve and **Joy [Bolesky] Miller** ('99,'00,'01), Seth Richard, 3/15/07.

**Jon** ('03) and **Sarah [Biddle] Abbott** ('01,'02,'03), Karin Joy, 3/25/07.

Michael and **Christina [Thornton] Ziesmer** ('95,'96,'98,'99,'00), Taylor McKel, 4/20/07.

Blair and **Emily [Bley] Frye** ('96), Marshall Harris, 5/20/07.

Keith and **Kimberly [Phelps] Wiebe** ('88,'89,'90,'91,'92,'93), Danelle Kimberly, 6/8/07.

Tappan and **Katie [Chapman] Hornor** ('98,'99), Kirsi Belle, 6/11/07.

Chad and **Wendy [Harrington] Carr** ('02,'03,'04), Emma Grace, 7/10/07.

Peter and **Jessica [Andersen] Blake** ('90,'91,'92,'93,'94,'95,'96,'97,'98,'99), Christa Joy, 7/11/07.

**Kevin** ('96,'97,'98,'99) and **Audrey [Steele] Gillen** ('99), Brooke Elizabeth, 7/12/07.

Paul and **Tracy [Davis] Morrison** ('94,'96), Brynne Maddison, 7/12/07.

**Rob** ('02,'03,'04) and **Amy [Payne] Garland** ('02,'03,'04-'05), Jacob David, 7/24/07.

Greg and **Lauren [Stricklen] Jones** ('02), Aubrey LeeAnne, 7/31/07.

**Rich** ('99) and **Mary Callison**, Patrick James, 8/4/07.

**Tim** ('92) and **Debbie [Vaughn] Locke** ('91,'92,'94), Jonathan Carroll, 8/6/07.

**Peter** ('01,'03) and **Elisabeth [Mair] Giegerich** ('97,'98,'99,'00,'01,'02,'03,'04), Emma Jordan, 8/17/07.

Steve and **Miriam [Gassman] Smith** ('95,'97,'98-'04), Cameron Steven, 8/23/07.

## Former Staff,

help keep us updated on your career moves, marriage, and children! Send announcements to:

THE WILDS,  
Where Are They Now?  
PO Box 509,  
Taylors, SC 29687-0009 or  
e-mail formerstaff@wilds.org.



**Back Row:** Jon Champ, Joel Rowley, Adam Hass, Abe Stratton, Ethan Johnk, Brett Castelloe, Rich Fuchs.

**Middle Row:** Jonathan Wilmoth, Grant Wickensimer, Elisabeth Mohler, Amy Ledbetter, Deb Harris, David Moody, Nathan Steadman, Bob Wetterlund

**Front Row:** Stephanie Moss, Julie Small, Paul Johnson, Matt & Rachelle Whitcomb, Bonnie Jordan

**Not Pictured:** Darla Karsies

#### **Returning 9/12 monthers:**

Adam Haas, Deb Harris, Ethan Johnk, Paul Johnson, Darla Karsies, Elisabeth Mohler, Stephanie Moss, Julie Small, Nathan Steadman, Abe Stratton, Bob Wetterlund, and Matt & Rachelle Whitcomb.

#### **New 9/12 monthers:**

**Brett Castelloe** is from Asheboro, North Carolina, and has a degree in Electrical Engineering from Bob Jones University (BJU) and Clemson University. He has been on our summer staff for five summers. **Jon Champ** is from Chesterfield, Virginia. He served on our summer staff in 2007. **Rich Fuchs** is from Chicago, Illinois, and is pursuing degrees in Bible and Speech from Pensacola Christian College. He served on our summer staff in 2007. **Bonnie Jordan** is from Raleigh, North Carolina, and has a degree in Administrative Management from

BJU. She has been on our summer staff for three summers. **Amy Ledbetter** is from Irmo, South Carolina, and has a degree in Women's Ministries from BJU. She served on our summer staff in 2007. **David Moody** is from Daleville, Indiana, and has a degree in Church Music from BJU. He served on our summer staff in 2007. **Joel Rowley** is from East Hartford, Connecticut, and has a degree in Computer Science from BJU. He has been on our summer staff for two summers. **Grant Wickensimer** is from Greenville, South Carolina, and has a degree in Radio & Television Broadcasting from BJU. He has been on our summer staff for three summers in North Carolina and one summer in Colorado. **Jonathan Wilmoth** is from George, South Africa, and is pursuing a degree in Cinema & Video Production from BJU. He has been on our summer staff for three summers.

# STAFF news

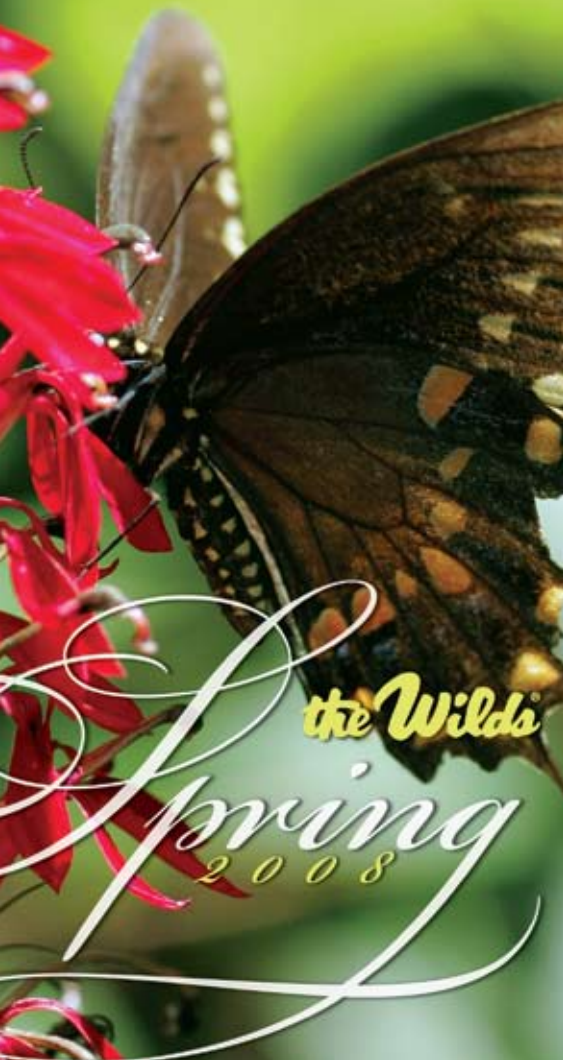
**Natalie Collier**, daughter of Ken and Mardi Collier, married **Michael Durso** on August 11, 2007. Natalie worked on summer staff in North Carolina for six summers, and Michael worked for four summers. They are living in Greenville, South Carolina, where Natalie is teaching freshman speech and working on a master's in Counseling at Bob Jones University. Michael is working and going to the seminary at Bob Jones.

**Christopher Lynch**, son of Mac and Beth Lynch, married **Laura Weathers** on June 30, 2007. Chris has worked many summers at our North Carolina campsite and is currently working full-time with the Choral Club at the office in Taylors, South Carolina. Chris is pursuing a master's degree at Bob Jones University. Laura worked for three summers at the campsite and is teaching at the Child Development Center at Bob Jones. She is also pursuing a master's degree.

**Andrew and Hannah Stoner** are happy to announce the arrival of Wyatt David, who was born on June 28, 2007. Wyatt weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce and was 20 1/2 inches long.

**Craig and Sophia Stouffer** are happy to announce the arrival of Andrew Brady, who was born on July 26, 2007. Andrew weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. He is welcomed home by big sisters, Ashley and Aubrey.

**S**pring is a time of renewal, a time of refreshment, a time of beginnings. Why not come away to THE WILDS during this wonderful time of year and renew your spirit, refresh your body, and start something new? Come and let God work in your heart through the preaching of His Word, the beauty of creation, and fellowship with other believers. For more information, please call THE WILDS office at (864) 331-3293, e-mail [tw.spring.camps@wilds.org](mailto:tw.spring.camps@wilds.org), or go to [www.wilds.org](http://www.wilds.org).



by Ken Collier

President • THE WILDS  
Brevard, North Carolina

**Our dearly loved and highly regarded**

Taylor, South Carolina, Office Manager, Melody Koenke, went to be with the Lord on September 7, 2006, after battling cancer for a long while. Her name Melody says so much about her character. Like most names with three syllables, Melody garnered a lot of nicknames, such as Melo and, my favorite, Melodious One. Shortening three syllables to five does not make sense, but such is the way with nicknames!

We miss her greatly, as she was the bright-spirited, efficient, curious, tough and tender, organized, and sacrificial hub of much of the communication in the Taylors Office. She was also the “go to” person for those of us on the campsite in North Carolina who had questions. The only way to keep her out of the office would have been to change the locks weekly. I remember one of those restless nights when sleep wouldn’t come for me. Going to our dining room table, I pulled out the computer and began working on overdue e-mails. Answering one brought up a question about another area. I jotted Melody an e-mail so I wouldn’t forget and three minutes later, the reply pops up... from our office...at 1:45 a.m. Her excuse for getting caught in the office? She was just “catching up” and had “just a couple more things to finish up” before going home. We thought about changing the password on the alarm and not telling her, but she would have managed another way. Such was our life with Melody.

Now she’s in Heaven with her Lord, and we have many, many remembrances of her time with us. Often we find things that “Melody must have handled.” Through the generosity of her devoted family and many friends, an appropriate structure has been dedicated to her memory. Directly below the new Snack Shop patio, there is a beautifully designed deck and walkway system that has become the true overlook of the Ballfield and activity area of the camp.

Melody Brought  
*Harmony*



Handy to the Snack Shop, it is a place to hang out with friends, to have serious talks about life matters, for youth groups to gather for “family reunions,” and for cabins to enjoy the lively discussions of God & I Time Follow-up. Melody was instrumental in developing many of the systems that get campers here efficiently and smoothly, and came up with many thoughtful things that make camp more enjoyable. Her mind was always turning on how to make things better. Melody was our friend and she brought her own special touch to everyone who enjoys THE WILDS. It’s very appropriate that an area of the campsite, harmoniously designed with the landscape, should honor her life as a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, co-laborer, and special friend. One could say...

*That’s our Melodious One.*



# LIVING MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts received as of October 31, 2007

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Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Max Council

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Given by: Clover Hill Baptist Church, Richmond, VA  
Women's Missionary Fellowship

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Women's Missionary Fellowship

## B. MACK HANKEY

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Gospel Fellowship Association, Greenville, SC

## EMMA HENSLEY

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Caryl Gunter • Michael Hamrick • Mr. & Mrs. Willis Meadows  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilson  
Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC  
Dillards, Greenville, SC: Frances George, Claudia Golden,  
Lori Ledford, Jimmy Nix, Lisa Owens, Terri Waldrop  
Vaughan & Associates, Inc., Greenville, SC  
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Mr. & Mrs. Gary Williams

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Women's Missionary Fellowship

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Covenant Baptist Church, Germantown, TN  
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Harvest Baptist Church, Monroe, GA  
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Mr. & Mrs. James Kirby • Mr. & Mrs. Cal Mair  
Marie C. Tilley • Dr. & Mrs. Pete Wallenborn III  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Welch • Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wickensimer  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Williams  
THE WILDS, Brevard, NC  
Rich Ladies

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Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Dick Reid

## TOM TIDEBERG

Given by: Clover Hill Baptist Church, Richmond, VA  
Women's Missionary Fellowship

## WILLIAM A. VALENTINE, SR.

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Mr. & Mrs. Stan Smith

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Given by: Clover Hill Baptist Church, Richmond, VA  
Women's Missionary Fellowship

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THE WILDS Living Memorials • PO Box 509 • Taylors, SC 29687-0009



# newsletter

Fall/Winter 2007

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