



# Riverside Reader



... a biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience



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## God's Faithfulness

By Darrie Nelson and Breanna Plank

We all have been experiencing a season of uncertainty and disappointment this year. It may be similar to what the Israelites faced when being told they would not enter the Promised Land. Or when they were finally able to take the land and God shared His unconventional plan for conquering Jericho. In these stories and others, it is apparent that God wants the Israelites to focus less on what they are capable of and more on what God's capable of. Through it all, God's faithfulness was revealed in the journey the Israelites took. This year, Riverside experienced God's faithfulness in a number of ways.

### Faithfulness in programming:

Although we had to cancel a few events and adjusted others, children, youth, and adults still heard the gospel preached at Riverside. We are so thankful that another year of memories was made, several lives were changed eternally, and still others were encouraged in their spiritual walk with the Lord.

### Faithfulness in guests' groups:

A short break in ministry during the "lock down" days of April and May led to renewed energy, excitement and gratefulness from our many guest groups once we reopened. It was a season of uncertainty for our guest groups. A number of groups canceled but there always seemed to be another family or small church group interested in our open weekends. Parts of November and December were the only months that have been uncharacteristically quiet at Riverside.

### Faithfulness in finances:

We are on pace to end the year in better position financially than last year. Many partners in ministry stepped up in June when we when we had a "matching gift" opportunity. In a few short weeks, the \$10,000 match was reached, helping to replace lost income during the shutdown months.

### Faithfulness in God's leading:

We have seen God's faithfulness as He has given discernment in balancing the varying regulatory standards and expectations as we tried to make all our guests feel comfortable. In spite of the circumstances we desired to keep Riverside a place for people to get away from the usual pressures of everyday life and reconnect with God, and that has happened.

### Faithfulness in change:

We have seen God's faithfulness throughout this period of constant change. In fact, much of this change has been extremely positive for Riverside. We have added four full-time staff members to our team, completed necessary upgrades to our facilities and even added some additional property. We have seen God's faithfulness in the ways He gave additional support in our areas of need. It's humbling to realize that in a period of struggle, God also decided to make it a period of provision.

God's faithfulness is evident throughout history, and Riverside experienced it this year, too. His faithfulness has been our Rock (Psalm 18:2), a foundation that we can stand on (1 Corinthians 3:11). He is the Anchor of our souls (Hebrews 6:19) and a place of refuge in difficult times (Nahum 1:7).

This year may have thrown all your well laid plans to the wind, but God is constant, dependable and FAITHFUL. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)." We pray that during this holiday season you are able to recall the moments where God faithfulness provided assurance in a moment of concern, and that His unshakable plan for the future remains at the forefront of your hearts and minds. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:14)." Merry Christmas.

# Perfect Timing

By Breanna Plank

Riverside has had a lot of changes over the last few weeks. With four new staff members moving to Riverside, we have been praying that these transitions run smoothly.

In the middle of this time, another change happened in our area. Neil Stedman, a long-time neighbor of Riverside, passed away from a long-term illness on August 9, 2020. He attended camp as a child, and his desire was that his home would be available for ministry use. This coincided with the exact time we were looking for housing for Mickey and David Kaufman, as they were preparing to move to Riverside in November. Since we still did not have housing for the Kaufmans, we were quick to make an offer on the house. Due to a lot of legal technicalities around the sale of the property, the steps were not as clear cut as when typically buying a house. We prayed fervently as dozens of phone calls were made, and, by the grace of God, we were able to close on the house within a few weeks, just before the Kaufman's planned moving date. This is a huge blessing for us, and we are grateful that the process happened as smoothly as it did, especially considering all the ways the situation could have taken different directions. Since purchasing the house, our staff's primary efforts have been cleaning, painting, and replacing carpet. It is now a refreshed home for its new residents, and the Kaufmans have been settling into it as of November. The house looks great, and we are very excited to have it as a home for our newest staff members. Riverside is grateful to all the people who were involved and contributed to making the purchase of this new home possible. We are praying for comfort for the Neil Stedman family as they enter into the holiday season. ■



## Lessons Learned at Fall Family Camp:

By Megan Nelson

- 1 The Bible is vast and things we take for granted within its texts are much more intentional than we can really imagine.** Thanks to Tom Guilliams, our speaker for this event. Our eyes were opened, if only a little, to the beautiful messages hidden in the word of God and the stories of Jesus.
- 2 You can never have too much coffee.** Many cups of coffee were consumed, and many good conversations were had on the porch, in the dining hall and in the retreat center.
- 3 Even if it's cold outside, and raining, it's still good to be at Riverside Bible Camp.** There was a warmth in the company and plenty of it. We had 28 registrations, representing singles and families. In total, almost 110 people attended Fall Family Camp 2020. 2019 brought in around 85 people, so it was wonderful to see the number go up in spite of everything!
- 4 Plans may change, but God never does.** Behind the scenes, a few key components to our weekend event were changed at the last minute. I now know that when the RSI (Riverside Servanthood Institute: young volunteer program) Coordinator cannot head up our kitchen staff for the weekend because of health issues, God will provide. A special thanks to Rachel Olla and Alayna Hielema for stepping in and doing a great job of keeping our dining room functioning! Also, if you've been to Riverside any amount of time, you probably know our very talented Lana Seefeldt, the head cook for most Riverside events. She was unable to attend, but again God provided us with Brenda and Tina Nelson to fill in the gap.
- 5 People love to celebrate and be a part of what God is doing here!** We had a fantastic Celebration Service, full of testimony to how God has been working through this crazy year, keeping us open, full and sane as we sanitized, kept personal space and did exactly what God called us to do. We have you to thank for this. Through your prayers, attendances and gifts, Riverside stayed open and thriving! God Bless, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!





# "Go At Once to Zarephath..."

By Darrie Nelson

When the word of the Lord came to Elijah in 1 Kings 17 instructing him to go at once to Zarephath, God had already miraculously provided bread and meat on the wings of ravens. Now Elijah was commanded to seek out a widow at Zarephath where the Lord was once again going to miraculously provide for the physical needs of Elijah. I suspect at the time neither Elijah nor the widow knew exactly how the Lord was going to meet the needs of them both.

It is the same at Riverside in countless ways. The minor, and major, ways God orchestrates His providence, His power and His plan through the natural course of events is oftentimes miraculous. One such event was a crazy, once in a lifetime, storm during the summer of 2019. This storm, with straight-line winds of over 100 mph, destroyed buildings and infrastructure at Riverside, but provided an opportunity to increase and improve these very same buildings.

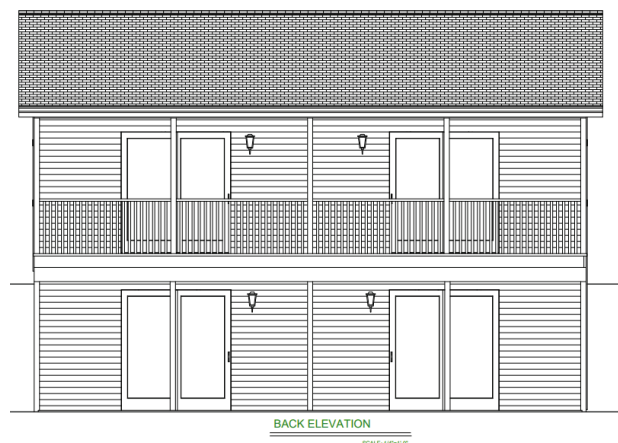
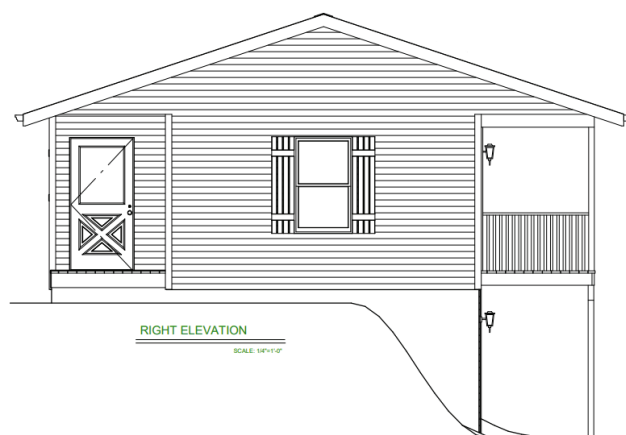
As we shared in the last issue of the *Riverside Reader*, we now have a much better, and heated, camp garage to house tools and equipment. Praise the Lord.

Soon staff and guests will literally be able to "go at once to Zarephath" when they arrive at Riverside. Plans are being finalized to rebuild this small two room family cabin that was destroyed during the storm of 2019. Thankfully we do have replacement cost insurance proceeds to get us started on the rebuild; however, we are planning

to take this "ordained" opportunity to expand the size of Zarephath. It will now include bathroom facilities and other modern amenities. These improvements will increase the overall cost beyond the available insurance proceeds, but, with the help of our partners, it can be accomplished. These improvements will allow us to continue our efforts to create a more comfortable and modern facility that meets the needs of all of our guests. Be on the lookout in the coming months for how you can help.

I pray that in a very short time Riverside's "Zarephath" will be a place much like it was in 1 Kings 17, where God reveals His power and His plan to those who obey his commands. I recently spoke with a former Riverside camper, currently living in Idaho, who shared how God used Riverside in her childhood to give her hope. With nothing else seemingly right in her life, she always looked forward to that respite from chaos, to bring calm and encouragement. Now at age sixty-eight she still remembers fondly how, in her words, "God used Riverside to save me."

May those life changing experiences continue for many years to come at Riverside as we strive to increase and improve the ministry that God has placed here. I suggest you read 1 Kings 17 and be encouraged. Who knows? Maybe in a few short months someone will hear the word of the Lord, "go to Zarephath," and experience God's provision in their life. ■



# Happy Birthday Jesus

By Mickey Kaufman

God sent His Son—Emmanuel—“God with us.” The Christmas season is a time when we particularly focus on God’s gift to us—the gift of the Savior, providing us eternal life. As part of our celebration, we also give gifts. It is an expression of our love for God and others.

- Many of you enjoy including Riverside on your gift list or in your end-of-the-year giving plan. It is a very tangible way for you to celebrate Jesus’ birth; it also reveals the true focus of your heart—on things eternal that further God’s Kingdom on earth. There are many ways that you can give to Riverside this month:
- To give by personal check, mail your check to Riverside Bible Camp, 6355 County Rd DD, Amherst, WI 54406.
- To give by credit or debit card, go to the web ([www.riversidebiblecamp.org](http://www.riversidebiblecamp.org)) and follow the instructions under “How to give.”

- If you have online banking, to give directly from your bank account to the Camp by using your bank’s bill pay program, designate Riverside Bible Camp as the recipient.
- If you have an IRA, give directly from your account by using Qualified Charitable Distribution. Call your investment company or tax adviser for details, or call Riverside directly for more information. 715-824-3198
- To donate stock, property, or other resources, call Riverside and set up a transfer of ownership.

If you have any questions, we are here to help you. Give us a call for more information.

A reminder: All gifts to Riverside receive a tax-deductible receipt for tax purposes, but the gift must be postmarked or bank-processed by midnight, December 31, 2020, to qualify for a deduction in the 2020 tax year.



*Merry Christmas  
from all the  
Riverside staff*



*Brian and Annie Hulka, Tessa Olson,  
Lucero Wonnacott, Adam and Megan,  
Darrie and Maria Nelson, Breanna  
Plank (not pictured) David and  
Mickey Kaufman, Scott Latzig.*

## Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2020–2021

	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET
General Fund Income	\$98,537	\$140,000
General Fund Expense	\$64,872	\$140,000
Current Surplus	\$33,665	

*Praising the Lord for His provision during a year of many uncertainties.*





# Need a L.I.F.T ???

## LIFT Winter Retreat 2021

- ◆ January 15th– 17th
- ◆ \$45.00 per person
- ◆ For Young Adults 18 to 28
- ◆ Check-in: 7:00pm on the 15th
- ◆ Bring bedding, clothes, toiletries, Bible, notebook, pen, and snow clothes.



6355 County Rd DD

Amherst, WI 54406

Register @

[riversidebiblecamp.org/programs](http://riversidebiblecamp.org/programs)



For Senior High students ages 14-18  
February 12-14, 2021

## Infuse

🔥 Biblical Teaching 🔥 Engaging Worship 🔥 Broomball 🔥

— Cost: \$75 —

Bring your Bible, notebook, pen, bedding, towels, toiletries, warm clothing, and snow clothes.

## Ignite

For Junior High students ages 11-13  
February 26-28, 2021

Register online at [www.riversidebiblecamp.org](http://www.riversidebiblecamp.org)

# G.R.I.T.

God's Radical Infinite Truth

- March 26-27th, 2021
- Cost: \$45
- For men 16 years and older

**RIVERSIDE**  
Bible Camp

Register online at  
[www.riversidebiblecamp.org](http://www.riversidebiblecamp.org)

Coming soon...

# MADE FOR THIS

Understanding the who, what, and why

Summer Program Theme 2021



# EVENTS

## Mark your calendars!

New Year's Eve Party.....	Cancelled for 2020
LIFT Winter Retreat.....	January 15-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Infuse.....	February 12-14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Ignite.....	February 26-28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
GRIT Men's Retreat.....	March 26-27 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
RSI Training Camp.....	April 23-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
The Heart of a Pioneer Woman.....	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
Work Day.....	May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Spring Open House and Pancake Breakfast.....	May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
VBS and Day Camp.....	June 14-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Family Fun Night.....	June 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Senior High Camp.....	June 20-26 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Adventure Camp.....	July 5-7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Junior Camp.....	July 11-16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Junior High Camp.....	July 18-23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021
Summer Family Camp.....	August 20-22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021
Harvest Family Camp.....	October 1-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021
Fellowship Supper and Celebration Service.....	October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021
Lumberjack Day.....	October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Craft Camp.....	October 15-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2021



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**riversidebiblecamp.org**  
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## Riverside Reader

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# WANTED

Over the years, many in-kind donations have been given to Riverside. These gifts are a wonderful blessing to the ministry and provide needed resources. Please check out our list of current needs, and if you can help with an item or provide funds to purchase it, let us know.

- Pool sticks
- John Deere small square baler 336, 332, 328, or 348
- 1,000-gallon LP tank
- PTO driven generator (35,000 Watt)
- Tire balancer
- Corn Hole Game
- Gas leaf blower
- New Basketballs
- Kickballs
- 2 30-lb LP tanks (for camper)