

# News from the Northwoods

## Looking Back. . .

Our fall season came and went so quickly. Hundreds of folks came in and out of our gates, enjoying God's beautiful creation, and time spent in His Word during their stays. As I visited with people in the Trading Post, or hostessing a Ladies' Retreat, I found that many were new to Barakel. What a blessing to meet them, and hear what the Lord was doing in their lives while here. Over and over I heard the words, "This was just what I needed", or "I'll be back!". That is such an encouragement to us in the work of meeting people where they are, and helping them in their walk with the Lord.

## Looking WAY Back. . .

December 8 marks my arrival here 25 years ago! I find it incredible that I've been serving at Barakel this long. My faith was so small when I came, and I didn't expect to be here long. But God is faithful, and has provided for me through so many generous and faithful people through these years. Many give sacrificially, which just humbles me. God has taught me so much of Himself and of His Provision, which goes so much further than providing a living. He faithfully provides strength for my days, wisdom for my work, challenges by which to grow, joy in seeing Him work, and growth in my spiritual life. All I need do is take hold of those things. What a great thing! My heartfelt thanks to those of you who have prayed and provided for me for lo, these many years!

## Looking Forward. . .

Our winter season begins January 2 with preparations for our first retreat January 6-8. Eight more weekends will follow that one. Teens will be involved every weekend, sometimes using both our camps, sometimes using one, while we hold a relational retreat (Father/Son, Father/Daughter, Couples, Mother/Daughter) in the other one. I enjoy the pace of these weeks a lot. The Trading Post work is a little slower- restocking is less as most stock will be out. May even find some time for the Sign Shop! : } Please pray for us as we look to challenge these young people and families in living for Christ every day of their lives.

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(If you'd like to receive my newsletters by email, send me an email).

**Thanks be to God for  
His indescribable Gift.**

**Merry Christmas!**

