

Dear Friends at HBC,

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and financial support. It means so much to us to have ministry partners like you. We had an amazing summer even though we had lots of restrictions. We were able to do 6 weeks of overnight camp before taking a 3-week break to recover from some COVID cases; and then we finished the summer with 2 more weeks. Following camp, Lacey Ruth and I spent time with Hayley and Dustin's families in Greenville, SC and then spent a few days in TN at the Tuckaleechee Retreat Center which is also CBM's National Office. It was a refreshing and fun week away.

Our fall ministries will be a bit different. We have begun hosting guest retreat groups again but aren't sure when we will be able to do FCA clubs or after-school Bible clubs. Still, God continues to show us ways to serve Him and make Him known to those around us! After much prayer and lots of brainstorming, we are ready to try something new that we are calling GileadCLUBS. Our new program is designed to assist homeschoolers by providing enrichment classes twice a week for 10 weeks. I will be teaching penmanship, geography & mapping, and beginner ASL (American Sign Language) while others teach Bible classes, arts & crafts, creation science, photography, and "camp games"--swimming, archery, tomahawks, mini-golf, paddle boarding, etc. It seems like a small start but we have 16 precious children signed up, which means that there are 16 lives we have the opportunity to impact for the glory of God. We will be safely distancing and slipping on masks when we can't safely distance.

We are also working with local churches here in Polk City to charter a new Trail Life USA club; and our partnership with Faith Xtreme, a local ministry with outreach to at-risk children and families, continues to grow. Lacey Ruth and I will be helping with at least one weekly club, and possibly two. Through FaithXtreme, the Lord has recently connected us with a homeless teen who didn't know she was 25 weeks pregnant until we took her to a pregnancy center for an ultrasound. It's a long story, but God is teaching us new things and we are honored to be representing Him before a young woman who doesn't know Him yet.

The Lord is helping me to find my way as a widow. I haven't even said the word "widow" more than a handful of times. Today, I was surprised when it came up in my Bible reading in the Psalms and now I'm wondering how many times it is in Scripture. Anyway, I miss Bobby and the way he encouraged me to be faithful in serving the Lord, especially when doing new or hard things. I can hardly believe that it has almost been 2 years since he left earth. I'm so grateful for the Lord's care and appreciate so much that you are willing to walk with me on this journey. Thank you so much!

- Praise the Lord for Lacey Ruth's good health through the summer. Pray that we can get some much-needed dental work done soon.
- Pray for our ministry programs to be what God wants them to be. Our new GileadCLUBS
- (homeschool enrichment classes) meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning this week. We are hopeful that after-school clubs will be able to start soon too. Pray for Natalia, the pregnant teen who is now in a teen shelter program. Her heart
- is softening toward God. Pray for her salvation. Praise the Lord for a great summer – 8 weeks of camp, 389 campers and 93 decisions of faith in Jesus for salvation!!!

Feel free to contact me if you have questions. May the Lord continue to bless you as you serve Him.

Gratefully yours, Karen Williams