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Servant's Heart Camp
P.O. Box 244
Ramey, PA 16671



April 2016

Helping you to get the Pulse of Servant's Heart



Several years ago, a missionary and his family were home on furlough. After following his updates and prayer letters, I was excited to hear him speak and to talk to him in person about the way God had blessed on the field. It seemed as though the prayer letters constantly told of someone getting saved, a new opportunity for ministry, or the need for a bigger church because of the increased attendance. It seemed to me that this missionary and his family skipped from one mountain top experience to the next mountain top. When he shared his heart in person, however, I soon learned that there were many significant struggles on the field. Yes, God was doing some very exciting things, but Satan was not just sitting idly by while watching the blessing of God.

I thought of this experience recently when I was sharing some of the great blessings from God. Even as I describe some of the blessings in this article, do not think that the prob-

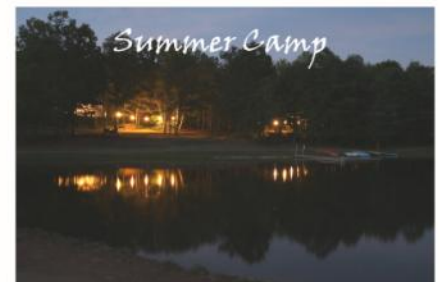
lems have all ceased at Servant's Heart. It is not always appropriate to share the challenges, but many times the blessings are profitable and encouraging. In spite of challenges, God is continuing to show Himself very strong. Near the end of December, I was becoming bogged down with two significant issues. I needed God's wisdom but the answers seemed to be illusive. One Thursday morning, my dear wife needed to make a trip to Tyrone. On the way she prayed that the Lord would send something to encourage her husband's heart. A few hours later, I stopped by the post office. I typically do not go for the mail on Thursday, but because of a trip to the hardware store I decided to spin by and get the mail. When I opened the mail there was a check that had "a cabin" written in the memo line and the amount of the check was \$22,000.00 which is the cost of the materials to build a cabin. That was a huge encouragement for my dear wife to see the Lord answer her prayer so quickly, and it was a huge encouragement for me because we desperately wanted to finish two cabins by summer camp. To God be the glory, great things He is doing!

The blessings certainly do not stop with the physical. The last weekend in January and the first weekend in February we held our two teen winter retreats. As you know, teenage boys are not given to crying. At both retreats, however, I had the opportunity to sit with young men that were visibly broken and crying about issues in their lives. It is a joy to turn to the Book that has the answers to all things that "pertain unto life and godliness. To God be the glory, great things He is doing. Just today when I opened the mail, there was a note from a previous staff member recounting the impact that serving at Servant's Heart had on her life. This staff member said "I know I would not be where I am today if it had not been for Servant's Heart." Thank you for your part in God's work here in Ramey. To God be the glory, great things He is doing!

The picture to the right shows the lake as another day of activities comes to an end. Although there are still many things that happen after dark, it is a transition from day activities to the evening preaching time and other nighttime events. Just seeing that picture almost makes my heart skip a beat as I look forward to having children, juniors, teens, and adults on the property again this summer.

Almost every year since our first year in 2002 our camper numbers have increased. In 2010 (the last year on a rented property), our camper numbers had a significant increase. In 2011 (our first year on the new property) the number of campers dropped to approximately the same as our second year of camp. Campers were simply not excited about using Porta-potties and shower tents. This past year (with flushing toilets and showers) our camper numbers finally slightly exceeded the camper numbers in 2010. Certainly camper numbers

are not the most important thing about camp, but as the Lord is providing for the camp, we want to use it to impact the most lives as possible. In 2015, our junior camps and family camps were almost filled to capacity. During our teen camps, however, we had lots of open spaces. Not only were some of the churches concerned about sending teenagers to a camp with porta-potties but many of the churches that come are bringing less campers. Unfortunately, many rock-solid churches are losing their next generation of young people. We believe taking teens to a camp that will encourage them to be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ is vitally important. If you know of churches that are not currently sending their teenagers to camp, we would love to talk to them. We realize that not every camper allows God to transform their life, but we have seen person after person yield to God and be impacted by the preaching of God's Word in the unique surroundings of camp.





In His graciousness, the Lord has provided the finances to complete the cabin shown (to the left) and one additional cabin. The funds that we have, however, only provide the materials and do

not include any labor. We need lots of manpower in order to have these two cabins finished before summer camp. In addition to the electrical, plumbing, and carpentry work needed on these two cabins, there are numerous other spring tasks such as setting up the dining, refrigerator, game, and shower tents, transforming our shed into the meeting room, finishing the sand volleyball court, and spreading mulch. If you would like to come and help, please contact us. We will provide the food and lodging. Our spring work days are scheduled for May 5 - 7. If another time is better, give us a call and we will set up a time that works for both of us.

We are eagerly anticipating our upcoming banquet at Shady Maple at 6:00 pm on April 15. All of our camp friends (18 and older) are invited to attend. We have a private room reserved where we will have a wonderful time enjoying the outstanding smorgasbord food and good fellowship. In addition, skits, special music, and small gifts will be part of the evening's events; and Dr. Alton Beal will bring a challenge from God's Word. We are eager to show you our new video and to announce some exciting new developments. In addition we will be giving some more details of the new retreats coming in 2016. There is no cost for the banquet, but you must register. You can register online @ shcm.org/banquet or you can call 814-497-4100 or 717-808-7992



Through two different God ordained situations, Servant's Heart has an address and a new phone number. First the phone: When we had originally priced installing phone lines into the camp, we were quoted a price of nearly \$15,000. Because we didn't have the money to put toward phone lines, we decided to use the local cell phone tower for all our internet and phone needs. Although we were "getting by," it was expensive; and there were lots of limitations. Some months ago we learned about a promotion that would install the telecommunications lines free of charge, if we simply committed to three years of business class service. We now have Polycom phones with many great features!!



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Address: Since moving to Ramey, the camp has had a PO box, but we did not have an address - not even a valid 911 address. Although we had tried to get an address earlier, the Ramey Boro seemed just a bit antagonistic toward us moving into the community. Praise God in the last year or two, we have seen a real warming towards us. After having a medical emergency this past summer, we started the process again. This time the Boro Council approved our request within minutes. We now have an address for the home/office (422 Servants Heart Dr.) and for the new lodge (600 Servants Heart Dr.). Since the lodge is not yet built, we will use the 422 Servants Heart Dr. address until the Lord provides for a lodge. Slowly these addresses should show in GPSs and other mapping programs. Goggle maps can already find Servants Heart Dr. For now, all the old contact information will continue to be usable.

New Camps and Retreats for 2016



Now that each cabin has hot showers and flushing toilets, we would like to use the property the Lord has given us in an even greater way. We are planning several new events for 2016. Because of the nature of these retreats, we do not plan to print brochures however the information is available on our website. Here are the new camps planned for late summer/fall:

Pastor's Retreat - This retreat is scheduled for Aug. 1 - 3 and is for pastor's and their wives. This retreat will have less preaching and less games, but it will have much more discussion, prayer, and fellowship time. We are super excited about being an encouragement to pastors and their wives as they labor in the ministry to which God has called them.

Kick Back and Relax Retreat - This retreat is for families or couples, but it will be very different from our family camps. On September 1 - 3, there will be only a few structured activities other than meals and preaching. Your family is free to hike, bike, fish, kayak, use the game tent, or simply sit by the campfire. There will be a few other activities opened at various times throughout the retreat. The cost for the retreat is only \$55.00/person and that includes a cabin for two nights, five meals and two snacks. If you are unable to come on Thursday evening, there are some options for coming later. Oh yes, there is a discount for children.

Other Camps and Retreats - We are considering several other new camps and retreats. We want each retreat to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of men, woman, teenagers, and children. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

Rental Opportunities - We are making the camp available to churches and youth groups of like precious faith. If you are interested in using the camp for a deacon's retreat, youth retreat or any other church function, please contact us.