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Helping you to feel the Pulse of Servant's Heart

SUMMER UPDATE

Wow, what a summer! As I sat down to write this update, I quickly realized that this brief newsletter was not going to be sufficient to share all that God

is doing at Servant's Heart Camp. Hopefully, I can give you a few of the the highlights about some of the current events.

On several occasions I referred to this year's staff as the "miracle staff." Staff training started on May 29, but even a few months before the start of staff training, we only had a skeleton staff. Even at the beginning of May, we still had several staff positions open. Through some miracles God provided an amazing staff. We did not need to lower our standards or requirements because the time was short. God in His faithfulness did His work. If I told you the stories, you would agree that God was working.

We saw God do some amazing things in the lives of campers this summer. A month or so before camp, a youth pastor contacted us about the possibility of bringing two additional campers. At that point we put them on a waiting list, and God orchestrated the details that they could come to camp. We were told that the boys were spiritually illiterate and hardly knew the difference between the Old and New Testament. On their first evening, the one brother came out and received God's simple plan of salvation. In fact, he came out almost every night to deal with an area of sin in his life. On Thursday evening he came and asked to talk to me. Because he did not know common Christian words (saved – born again), we talked for a while before I was assured that he indeed trusted Christ to save him. Before He left camp, he commented, "This has been the best week of my life!" The folks in his home church were amazed as he stood and shared what God had done in his life. Another week, I sat across from two teen boys that had tears streaming down their faces. The one was confessing sin in his life and the other was earnestly desiring a close and vibrant relationship with God. The evangelist that week did not use emotional illustrations or tear-jerking stories, but he did preach the Word. The Holy Spirit used the "foolishness of preaching" to do a mighty work in many hearts. Although I could tell many other thrilling stories, please be assured that God did a mighty work this summer for His glory.

The weather was another of the great miracles from God this summer. A few days before the second "Young at Heart" day, I noticed there was a 60% chance of rain. We have had rainy days many times this summer and it was no great surprise. Several times this summer we had seen the Lord hold off the rain until we were eating a meal in the dining tent or having a session in the chapel. As Monday approached the chance of rain increased to 90 or 100 percent depending upon what weather report you checked. On Monday morning, I checked the weather radar and saw there was a thin line of storms headed in our direction. I prayed that God would blow the clouds one direction or another so that we could have a pleasant day. I left the house with confidence that God would answer that prayer. If you have not heard about the rest of this amazing and rainy story, go to our website and read the 8/6 blog "Does God Answer Prayer."

Another excitement of the summer was an increase in campers in all of our summer camps. Our teen, junior, family, and Young at Heart camps all had an increase in attendees. We had a 70% increase over last year in the number of teen campers. The blessing of this increase is that it came in 2018. Last summer, we would not have been able to accommodate the additional campers. We were able to finish three cabins during 2017 and that gave us the ability to accommodate the extra campers this summer. To God be the Glory, great things He is doing!



2018 Summer Staff

CAMP STORE



some new food items like soft pretzels, root beer floats, popcorn, and funnel cakes with ice cream. Oh yes, the new store also has a new name. Although we called it the camp store all summer, it's new name is **The Bear Den**.

In some previous communications we mentioned that in order to accommodate the increased campers, the tables for the camp store would need to be eliminated from the shed. Several weeks before the start of staff training, Mr. Matt drew the plans and spearheaded the construction of a new camp store. In addition to providing additional space in the shed, the new store provided opportunity to sell many new items. Besides the books, devotionals, and music, the store now has sleigh bell door hangers, picture frames, illuminated canvas pictures and many other items. With the new store, we were also able to sell



We are very thankful for our outstanding staff this summer. If we have a good staff, it makes the camp director's job enjoyable. Each year as we recruit summer staff, we talk to so many quality young people that would love to serve at camp but they are unable to serve because of the college debt looming over their heads. This past year, we did a pilot Staff Scholarship Program. We asked churches or individuals to sponsor a staff member for the summer. We had staff that were sponsored at \$1,800 on up to \$3,000. The program was such a blessing that we would like to expand the program for this coming summer. Would you or your church consider sponsoring a staff member? Here are a few of the details for a staff member applying for scholarship: 1. They must have attended college the previous year. 2. They must be planning to return to college the following year. 3. The money goes directly to the staff member's college bill. 4. The staff member must apply for the scholarship and explain their financial need. If you would like more information or would like to sponsor a staff, please contact us.

STAFF SCHOLARSHIP



Each year our staff greets the campers dressed in the theme for camp that summer. Here is this summer's staff in their Royal Celebration outfits.



We have been working with David Batie at the Christian Architectural Assistance Association for the design of a lodge. After going back and forth for almost one year, we have some plans that we believe will serve the camp very well. The picture on the top is the architect's rendering of the lodge. The picture on the bottom is showing one of the many reasons why we need a lodge.

LODGE

We are very excited about this building as it will replace the dining tent, game tent, kitchen trailer, pantry, and the use of the shed as a meeting room. It will also solve many of the growing pains that we are experiencing as we are using some of these temporary facilities. As of now, we have less than 2% of the money that we need to build this lodge. We are praying that God would meet this need in His perfect timing and that He would get the glory. We truly believe that the Lord is working in the background, but at this point that working is not outwardly evident to us. Would you pray with us concerning this massive undertaking?

