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September 2020

Helping you to feel the Pulse of Servant's Heart

Summer Camp Update

As summer camp approached, we searched, studied, and analyzed the requirements and recommendations of the CDC, the state of Pennsylvania, and the ACA (American Camp Association) to determine if we were going to be able to have overnight camps. After we determined that we would be able to have camp, we spent considerable time and money to meet the criteria and recommendations for overnight camps. We were so thankful that we were able to have camp, as many camps in Pennsylvania and in nearby states were forced to close for the summer. Although our camper numbers were down a bit this summer, we did have camp and thankfully went the entire summer without one reported case of COVID. We were very aware that one case of COVID on the property would likely have shut us down for the summer. To God be the glory great things He is doing!

2020 Summer Staff

As camp came to a close this summer, I was reflecting on the thought that eternity will be different as a result of what God did this summer. Is that an amazing thought? All of eternity was modified because of this summer of camp. Does that sound like a good risk and a good investment!? To God be the glory, great things He is doing.

Many pages could be filled with stories about this summer, but in the interest of space we will just share a few. One girl shared at the Friday testimony time that she was so far from the Lord that she didn't want to dress like a Christian or do anything that would identify her as a Christian. She also shared the strained relationship with her parents. It was thrilling to hear her desire to get things right in her life. The following is part of a text that we received from her dad on Saturday night. "I am praising God for the work He is doing in _____ heart! She made some good decisions this week and is asking for help from her mother and I to keep them! God is so good!"

One counselor described a very good one-on-one with one of her campers, but she felt that there was something missing and perhaps the young lady had not fully shared a struggle in her life. The following evening that same young lady responded to the invitation and confessed about the way she treated her parents. She cried almost uncontrollably as she called her parents to make it right. It was such a thrill to see her have such a sensitive heart.

I was once again reminded this summer that much of the impact that is made on our campers is happening behind the scenes as staff are interacting with campers. At the end of one of our after-camp staff meetings, I showed the staff a video from about five years ago. In that video campers gave simple testimonies about what God had done in their hearts. Four of those that gave testimonies were on staff this year! If you would have asked me at the time of the video if those four would ever be on staff, I would have told you that it is highly unlikely. However, God used His working in their hearts to mold them into choice servants of God and quality workers at Servant's Heart Camp! I did not play that video to encourage my heart but as I watched that video, I was thrilled with what God is doing at Servant's Heart Camp. To God be the glory, great things He is doing!!

Another highlight was something that one Family Camp speaker said as a passing comment. As he was talking about consistent discipline and some of the struggles they had with the attitude of one of their daughters, he mentioned the "night and day" change they saw in their daughter after serving as a junior counselor at camp one year. That was supper encouraging and a challenge for this ministry to continue to mold staff as well as campers.

If you would like to read some of the testimonies from this summer's staff, I would encourage you to go to <http://shcm.org/staff-testimonies/>

This brief report does not seem adequate to describe the thrill of souls saved and lives transformed. It is only a small spattering of God's work at camp this summer.



Property Improvements



Before installing this “welcome wall” there was a steep bank to navigate to get from the parking area to the level of the coming lodge and other activities. Unless you are young and agile, it could be a challenge to climb. We have had more than one of our “Young at Heart” guests fall trying to go up or down this hill. In December of last year, I was shocked to learn that Larry Holt, a delightful young man (65) with a warm and pleasant personality and a pillar at Berean Bible Church, had left this earth and graduated to glory. I was honored when his family encouraged folks to send money to Servant’s Heart Camp in lieu of sending flowers. We decided to use that money for a new sign to add to the “welcome wall.” The sign is very attractive, and we think it adds a lovely element to the entrance of the camp and is a fitting tribute to our friend, Larry Holt.

Almost every year since we purchased this property in 2010, we seemed to have a major utility installation or cabin being constructed. In 2018, the board decided to install something fun for the kids (and adults) to enjoy – a Lakeglide across the lake. It seemed we hit challenge after challenge which delayed the construction of the tower. Finally, near the beginning of this year, the Lord started orchestrating the details to allow the construction of the tower. The PA Amusements and Rides have been here on two occasions and have given their full approval of the ride. There were three specific miracles that the Lord performed to allow the zipline to be installed. If you are between 60 and 250 lbs. why don’t you come to one of our events and enjoy a nice glide across the lake? In the future, this tower can also accommodate a climbing wall, a cargo climbing net, and a repelling wall. We are thankful for this fun addition!



Upcoming Events



The ladies retreat is scheduled for October 22 - 24 at Camp Susque in Trout Run. This retreat is a real time of refreshment and encouragement. This year, however, we will not be able to accommodate quite as many ladies as last year, so we suggest that you register early.



Each year the teen Bible quizzing is a super exciting time of good and wholesome fun with teens from many churches. We quiz one Sunday afternoon in January, February, and March and have a Saturday of quizzing in April that includes preaching, food, and games. If your church would like to participate, please contact us.



We have two teen winter retreat options for 2021. The first is January 28 – 30 and the second is February 4 – 6. These retreats are not only super fun, but they are a wonderful way for teenagers to get that mid-winter spiritual shot-in-the-arm.” The retreats are held at Camp Susque in Trout Run.