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Helping you to feel the Pulse of Servant's Heart



I continue to be amazed at the God we serve and also the amazing details of the Christmas story. This morning as I added "Christmas Newsletter" to my "to do" list, I prayed that God would give me wisdom as I wrote something for the Christmas section. At that point I had no idea what I would write. When I turned to my computer, there was a little reminder that I typed this past summer about the significance of the sign given to the shepherds in Luke 2:12. One of our speakers this summer made a passing comment about that verse and I made a note to do some more research at a later time. I do not believe it was mere coincidence that the reminder was there today. I do believe the Lord has given me a tidbit of encouragement and excitement to share with you today from the Christmas story. We serve an amazing and

prayer-answering God!

Studying out the full implication of this verse was a bit challenging. Why was "the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" such a significant sign? Although we do not know for sure, some estimate that about 1,000 people lived in Bethlehem during that time. Let's suppose that 20 people lived in each family unit. That gives us a rough estimate of 50 households. Just as it is common today for each family to have a car, it was very normal then for each home to have animals. Did the shepherds need to go to 50 homes to see if there was a babe in a manger there? I'm not sure that would have been such a significant sign. I am certainly not a Greek scholar or an intellectual Bible theologian, but I did start studying the words in Luke 2:12. With some Greek study helps, I learned that the word "a" before manger in verses 7, 12, and 16 is a definite article. The definite article would seem to indicate that it was a specific manger or "stall" as translated in Luke 13:15. Historians and theologians tell us that these shepherds were tending the sheep that would be used as the sacrificial lambs in the temple. These lambs were given very special care when they were born. When a sheep was about to give birth to a lamb, they would take her to a special prepared manger or stall. After the lamb was born, they would swaddle (wrap clothes around the legs and body) the lamb to protect it and make sure that it was a perfect lamb to reflect the coming perfect Lamb of God. Prophetically, in Micah 5:2 we are given the place of Jesus' birth and in chapter 4, we are told about the tower (elevated stage or raised bed) of the flock. This tower of the flock was located just outside Bethlehem. Although we do not have room to expand here, it seems clear that Jesus was born at the exact location where the sacrificial lambs were born to indicate that the perfect substitute had come. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!! Hallelujah!

In our September newsletter we told you about a \$100,000 matching gift offer. I am pleased that we currently have \$87,833 of that \$100,000 goal. A very special thank you to each one that has followed God's prompting and has given to this project! We pray that between now and December 31st the remaining \$12,167 will be donated in order to receive the full \$100,000 being offered from this generous donor. Heading into 2022, we will have over \$400,000 in our lodge fund! Although that is an amazing sum for a small ministry like Servant's Heart Camp, we are still far from our goal. Continue to pray with us that the remainder of the needed money would be provided for the lodge in His perfect timing. We have added a "Lodge" tab to the top of our website that will keep you updated with the progress of the fund. Again, a sincere thank you to each one of you praying and giving to this project. To God be the glory, great things He is doing!!





In order to be a good steward of the Lord's finances and to also make available some services for the friends of the camp, Servant's Heart Camp has opened an account with Edward Jones. Three benefits of this action are:

1) Edward Jones will be the guardian of our lodge fund until we are able to start the lodge. They will not only protect our money but will also try to keep pace with the inflation rate.

2) Sometimes folks have stocks that are yielding excellent returns, but they do not need the money, nor do they want to pay the capital gains tax. A friend of the camp in this situation will now be able to easily transfer those funds to Servant's Heart Camp. At that point Edward Jones would

recommend to SHC the options for selling or holding those stocks.

3) If you are over 72 years of age and have a traditional IRA, you have certainly heard of REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMDs). Many people, however, have not heard of QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCDs). A QCD allows you to give all or part of your RMD to Servant's Heart Camp with no tax consequences for you. There are specific requirements, and we recommend that you talk to your tax advisor and IRA plan administrator before taking advantage of the QCDs for your tax planning.

If you have questions about any of these strategies, you are welcome to contact our advisor Andrew Keiser at Edward Jones, or call the camp.

For the past few years, when we have shared some projects that we would like to do around the property, many people have helped graciously and generously. As you know, our major project now is the building of our lodge, and we were not sure if we should share other projects this year. We feel, however, that we cannot let other things slide while we wait for the new lodge. We have listed four of the projects here, but you can go to our website to see more information about these projects and others.

shcm.org/2022projects



For many years various people have expressed some apprehension about going across the breast of our lake. We have considered putting in standard wooden guard rails, but there have been some major hurdles with the Dam Safety Division of the Pa Dept of Environmental Protection. Our new idea uses railroad style timbers which would be beveled together and secured along the driveway with rods through the timbers and lights in the timbers. This option would eliminate DEPs involvement, and we believe would be a significant safety improvement. We have photo-shopped some timbers into the picture. **\$7,000.00**

It is a major task to mow and trim the property each week, and the trimmers get used hard. We have some significant issues with two of our gasoline trimmers and recognize that it is time to update. We would like to purchase some DeWalt 60-volt battery operated trimmers. **\$875**



For the past ten years we have used a 2007 Polaris Ranger around the property, and it gets used very hard. We have been resisting buying a new utility vehicle because of the expense. However, in the past years we have had lots of repair costs. In fact, as of this writing, the Ranger is down again. Because a UTV has such a vital role at camp, it is time to step up about 10 years. We plan to sell the Ranger and put that money toward the newer vehicle. **\$9,500**

We would like to install a small shed beside the Lakeglide tower. **\$3,500**

The shed would have a three-fold purpose:

1. It would provide a place to neatly store the equipment needed for the Lakeglide.
2. It would provide a place for ladies to discreetly put the harness under their skirts.
3. It would be close to the playing field and provide a place to store equipment for the summer games.

