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September 2021

Helping you to feel the Pulse of Servant's Heart

## Summer Camp Update

Wow what an exciting summer. Many exciting stories could be told about how God worked in hearts, not only in the summer teen & junior camps, but also in the retreats since that time. Sometimes it is difficult to know which stories to tell so thought I would let some others tell you in their own words.

Just today, we received a card from a family that was at one of the retreats, and here is an excerpt from that card. We can't thank you enough for your kindness during our stay. The Creation/Science retreat was a real blessing to our family. The Lord is using camp in amazing ways. It feels like a little slice of heaven here on earth.

Just last night I received a phone call from a young married man that attended camp about 15 years ago. He described some of the issues that he was struggling with at the time and shared some verses and principles that he was given during that week of camp. He described the profound impact that the counseling session made upon him. Apparently, he still has the paper that he was given after that counseling sessions.

About one week ago, we received an email from a young man describing his time at camp this summer. To protect the identity of the young man, I have only included little segments of that email. *In reality this actually starts before the summer began, which is back at the 2020 Winter Retreat. So before I went to the winter retreat, I wasn't obeying God like I should have been, believe it or not, I was actually contemplating suicide. . . . it was as if God was calling me like He did Paul on the road to Damascus. It completely threw me off guard. . . . But of course, He had a plan, and still has a plan just like He did with Paul some 2000 years ago. He pulled me out of a dark and lonely place, . . . It's actually overwhelming thinking about it now! "My cup runneth over" like Psalms 23 says.*

Here is another note that we received from a teen camper. *God really pressed on my heart this week in more ways than one! I made things right with God both about honoring my parents and being bitter toward a friend! But last night after hearing a large number of sermons about giving God my all, I finally surrendered my whole life to the God of everything.*

Not only did the Lord work in the hearts of campers, but he also worked in the hearts of staff, including my own.

As one parent picked up his daughter after a summer of counselling, he talked about the growth in his daughter. He mentioned that the growth in his daughter was "beyond my wildest dream."

To God be the glory, great things He is doing!

Thank you for your prayer support. Zech. 4:6 tells us that it is *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*



2021 Summer Staff



## \$100,000 Matching Gift Opportunity

We kicked off the fund raising for our new lodge with the two banquets this past spring. We are humbled at the way so many people gave in a very sacrificial way. We currently have about \$250,000 to put toward the lodge. That does not include the pledges that will come in over the next six months. Although that is a small portion of what we need it has been very encouraging at the way common lay people have given to this project. Each week, we are seeing the numbers slowly climb. The last Saturday in August, we received a call that an organization would like to provide a \$100,000 matching gift. For every dollar that we can raise up to \$100,000, they will match it dollar for dollar. So, if you give \$50.00 they will match it and your total impact for the project would be \$100.00. If you give \$1,000 they would match it and the total impact of your gift would be \$2,000. Of course, even larger gifts would have even a larger impact. In a follow-up email, they asked how long we would need to raise the money. At our recent board meeting, we decided to tell them that we would like to raise the money by December 31, 2021. From September 10 through December 31 any gift that is designated toward the lodge will be doubled up to \$100,000. Please pray with us that these funds would be provided as this will be a real encouraging boost to the lodge project.



## Teen Winter Retreats

Jan. 27- 29 & Feb. 3-5

Recently, I have been impressed with the comments about the impact on lives at the winter retreats. On the reverse side of this newsletter, one testimony was given about the life changing decision the young man made at the winter retreat. Within the past few months a person told me about the change he could see in a young man in his church since the winter retreat. At summer camp, a parent told me that since the winter retreat of a year and a half ago there has been a significant change in their daughter. Although the winter retreats are way different than summer camp the philosophy is the same and many of the staff are the same. If you are not taking advantage of this spiritual shot-in-the-arm during the winter months, I would encourage you to do so. If you have any questions, please contact us.

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ladies Retreat - October 21 - 23 | Youth Rally - April 16     | Junior Camp 1 - June 27 - July 1 | Teen Camp 3 - July 18 - 23  |
| Winter Retreat - January 27 - 29 | Work Days - May 12 - 14    | Family Camp 1 - July 4 - 6       | Teen Camp 4 - July 25 - 30  |
| Winter Retreat - February 3 - 5  | Teen Camp 1 - June 13 - 18 | Family Camp 2 - July 7 - 9       | Father/Son - Aug. 18 - 20   |
| Joyful Heart Conf. - March 19    | Teen Camp 2 - June 20 - 26 | Junior Camp 2 - July 11 - 15     | Men's Retreat - Sept. 2 - 3 |