

Camp Freedom Courier

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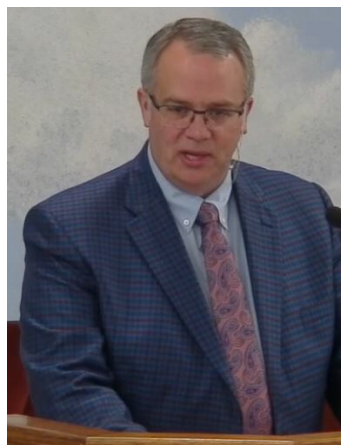
The official newsletter of Camp Freedom of St Petersburg, FL

April, 2025

The blessing and presence of the Lord preceded us as we gathered on the campgrounds for the 62nd annual camp meeting January 24 through February 02. We praise the Lord for the warm fellowship, spirit-anointed singing, and soul-searching and encouraging messages we received each service. Many of the attendees are returnees, but we also had some new faces among us, for which we are grateful. Numbers overall were a little on the low side, with an average attendance per service of 60. The total camp income was \$45,117.26, which included capital receipts of \$6,040.00. The missions offering was \$4,554.00 and went to our guest missions, Victory Acres, represented by Eric Himelick. The children also had a missions project, the purchase of a piano for All Tribes Mission for their church at Rock Springs, NM. There was a competition between the boys and girls; the boys raised \$563.27, the girls raised \$476.99, for a total of \$1,040.26. A great job, children!



One of our scheduled evangelists, Walter Hedstrom, was not able to attend, due to illness, but God laid it on our hearts to ask John Case if he could fill those spots on the program. Interestingly enough, he and his wife Betty were already thinking about coming to Florida, so that call answered prayers on both ends. God is good, is He not?! The other evangelist, Nathan Purdy, could not be with us at the beginning of camp, due to the illness and passing of one of his church members in Ireland, so his early spots were filled by Matt Ellison, our day speaker, and Harry Plank and Harrold Taylor. The Lord used each of these ministers to convey to the audiences the messages He laid on each heart.



Permit me to back up a bit and fill in some of the other workers. Don and Valerie Quales were the song evangelists this year, and they did an excellent job in the ministry of music. Their special songs, instrumentals, and the leading of the congregational singing were deeply appreciated. Hobe Sound Bible College and Penn View Bible Instituted each had a group coming to share in musical packages on the first Sunday afternoon, and on Tuesday afternoon. There was also a special session later in the week where a duet, trio, and two families shared special songs.



The children's work was directed by Linda and Betsy Redcay. Their theme was "Seeking the Lost"; they used stories and songs with the eight persons who attended. The theme for the youth was "Life's BIG Questions", and was led by Brian Miller, youth director, and Harrold Taylor, guest speaker. Activities for the youth included puzzles, scavenger hunt, crossword games, basketball, volleyball, capture the flag, shuffle board, and some late-night games.

Someone might ask, "Well, who attends Camp Freedom?" We consider the camp to be a family camp, so usually there are little people (the two youngest this year were 5), school-age, teenagers, some who have graduated, young adults, young married, middle-aged, right on up to senior citizens. One lady who attends at least some of the services, who lives in St Petersburg, has attended every camp meeting since it began in the early 1950's, and she was there again this year. People come for spiritual help and renewal, for the work of God in their lives, and some come out of curiosity. Our message is the message of the Gospel, the message of full salvation, entire sanctification, and encouragement for the person who wants to walk in the light of God's Word. This year there were people from Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Alabama, New Mexico, British Columbia, and Ireland.



We do need to alert you to the fact that our Treasurer, Dan Lehman and his wife and family have moved. His/their new address is 5311 S 800 E, Upland, IN, 46989.



The passing of time always brings changes; some of them we can readily accept, others are a bit harder. This year we honored Bro Allen Swarey for his service to the camp by serving on the Board of Directors for 22 years. Allen is a man of many talents, and has been a real blessing to the camp and its operation. This past fall, Allen chose to resign from all official positions at the camp. He was honored with a certificate of appreciation, and with a clock that was made from one of the dining room stool tops that had been discarded when the dining room was remodeled. We're happy to note that Allen has chosen to continue with his day to day activities on the grounds as a volunteer along with his wife Arla. Blessings to you, Allen, as you continue your journey with the Lord!



The next event on the Camp Freedom calendar is our annual mini-camp, to be held this year on Saturday, August 30, at the Clear Creek Brethren in Christ Church, Everett, PA. There will be a morning service at 10:30 AM, a complimentary banquet at 12:00 Noon, and an afternoon service at 1:30 PM. Our guest speaker will be Dr Timothy Cooley, Sr, and the song evangelists are Don and Valerie Quales. If you're in the area at that time, please consider this your invitation to come and share the day with us!



In His Service,
Dennis L Ritchey, Director
Camp Freedom of St Petersburg,
FL

