Camp Freedom Courier

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Greetings in the name of the Lord on a cloudy Fall day in Pennsylvania! We've seen some sun, and some blue skies, in the recent past, all of which makes one be glad to be alive. Mr Frost has made his arrival, and night-time temperatures have begun to drop below freezing, giving us chilly mornings, typical sweater and jacket weather. We've been having some rain, just enough for local municipalities to begin lifting their water use restrictions. Aren't you glad that God has no limit on the Living Water? Anyone who is spiritually thirsty may come and drink freely.

It's time to share recent news concerning our mini-camp, held on August 30, with morning and afternoon services, and a banquet in between. I'm sorry that I have no actual photos from the meetings; the photographer that I was going to ask wasn't able to come at the "last minute", so to speak, and I forgot to contact anyone else. At any rate, that did not hinder the spirit of the meetings. We enjoyed the musical ministry of Don and Valerie Quales, who led the congregation in singing, and who also provided the special music and offertories. Our special thanks to Bro and Sis Quales for a job well done, and we praise the Lord for the ministry in music.

Our guest speaker was Dr Timothy Cooley Sr, Academic Dean at Penn View Bible Institute. Dr Cooley made the Bible come alive as he went into depth in the messages he brought. My personal favorite was the afternoon message where hr used the Biblical account of the impending battle between King Jehoshaphat and the three foreign nations , as recorded in II Chron 20. Read the account for yourself, and notice how the Lord came to help Jehoshaphat and the children of Judah on that particular occasion. And just to think; the same God who was available to His people then is available to us now. Praise His name!

The morning service also involved a time of special prayer and anointing for any who desired a healing touch from the Lord. Prayer cloths were also made available, which could be anointed with oil, prayed over, and then sent or given to persons who could not be present physically. The numbers responding to this special occasion vary from year to year, but God has done some wonderful things over the years for those who have put their faith and trust in Him.

We are always interested in numbers, so permit me to share now along those lines. The morning attendance was 47, banquet attendance was 48, and the afternoon service 39. The amount received in the two offerings was the greatest that I have seen for the mini-camp in a long time. Most, or all, of you know that the last property owned by others on the campgrounds came up for sale this past spring. We have been

negotiating with the family representative on the price, and the Board of Directors had moved to use the mini-camp offerings toward that project. Our goal for the two services was $25,000.00. The amount received that day was $19,757.25! No, we didn't reach our goal, but that amount pushed us up the road a long ways! Since those meetings, other money came in, putting us very close to the $20,000.00 mark.

So where are we regarding actual purchase? The negotiated price is $85,000.00. We actually started raising funds a couple years ago, and with this offering, the offering received in the winter campmeeting, and some gifts from others, we had $55,130.00 on hand as of this writing. We do believe God wants us to have the property, since the camp owns all the property all the way around this one. However, our deadline for getting the rest of the money was November 01. No other money has come in, so we were obliged to tell the family representative to go ahead and place the property on the market. At this point we do intend to keep in touch with the rep, and if anything changes that picture, we will see if negotiations can be resumed. Your prayers are coveted regarding this issue.

Since the winter meetings, there has been a major change in personnel at the camp. Our resident pastor and wife, Brother Steve and Sis Sarah Miller sensed the call of God into another line of ministry, so their last Sunday as pastor was on June 29. The congregation had a farewell dinner for them after that service, and my wife and I were privileged to attend. The Miller's have moved to the state of Arizona, but plan to be back in St Petersburg for the 2026 campmeeting.

That meant that a pastoral search needed to get underway. The Lord was working on both ends of that issue, and laid the burden of being pastor on the hearts of Michael and Cynthia Musser, and their two children, Angel and Preston. The Musser's were able to move in about a month, and we installed them as the pastoral family on July 27. Again, the congregation welcomed them with another church dinner! Both Bro and Sis Musser are pitching in to fill the role of pastor, and are also lending willing hands around the camp.

You will have received two camp brochures with this newsletter. Please consider this your personal invitation to come and enjoy campmeeting with us, the Lord willing. If you cannot come, services are available on live stream through the camp's web site, www.campfreedom.org. We also covet an interest in your prayers, for that's the fuel that moves us forward. If you plan to attend, and need lodging, please contact Joanna Ritchey at 717-360-0280, by email at "joannaritchey@outlook.com", or by snail mail at 641 E Church St, Lock Haven, PA 17745. We would love to have you come and worship the Lord with us!

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