Camp Freedom Courier

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"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!" For a fact, those words could easily be on the lips of every person who is walking with the Lord these days! Whether delivered from a life of deep sin, or kept from that kind of life by that same Grace, our hearts well up in praise to the God of our salvation for the great things He has done! Praise His name!!

It is not my intention to use this format as a preaching platform, but I was reading recently in the book of the Psalms, chapter 78, verse 41. The last part of that verse says that the Israelites "limited the Holy One of Israel". My prayer for all of God's people is that we do not limit God, but permit Him to work in and through us as He desires. As I see it, that is a sure way to victory in every circumstance!

Well, we've had the privilege to gather once again for what we call the Camp Freedom Mini-camp. That took placed on August 31, at the Clear Creek Brethren In Christ Church, just south of Everett, PA. We again want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and thanks to Pastor John Geyer and the congregation for opening their doors for the board meetings prior to the services on that Saturday, as well as supporting the mini-camp with their attendance, prayers, and finances. God bless you, Pastor John, and congregation!

You are aware that we tried a new schedule this year, by going to a morning service, noon banquet, and an afternoon service, in order that those who had a distance to travel could be on their way home earlier in the evening. Perhaps it's too early to tell, but the attendance record would indicate that the change didn't make a lot of difference. There were 39 in the morning service, 39 at the banquet, and 32 in the afternoon service. However, those of us driving a distance did get home sooner!

We were blessed to have Brother and Sister Dan Cope as the special singers and Brother Dan as the guest speaker this year. You'll recall that this couple was a great help in the campmeeting held earlier this year, as they shared in the first part of the camp until the Cassady's could come. The Cope's exhibited such a warm, gracious spirit in both settings, and it was to our benefit to have them come and share. Brother Dan led the congregational singing, they sang together, and Brother Dan played several numbers on his steel guitar, accompanied by Sr Beverly on the piano. And, Brother Dan's messages were timely, well worth hearing. Thank you, Brother and Sister Cope!

The banquet at noon was also deeply appreciated. Special thanks to Mindy Lehman and her parents, Charles and Donna Seeley, and other helpers, for doing an excellent job of providing a good meal for all those who attended. This might be a good time to let you know that attendance at the services is not required for attendance at the banquet. We know that schedules are tight these days, and sometimes one cannot attend all three parts of this special day, but do come when you can for all or just part of the day with us.

Our motive for holding the mini-camps is to give persons who have never been to the main campmeeting is St Petersburg, FL a taste of what takes place during that ten-day meeting, or to help those who can no longer travel to Florida to keep in touch. The camp was started by a group of saints from Michigan in 1953. Our forebears purchased the grounds in 1962, and Camp Freedom has made an impact on many lives for holiness over the years. We are endeavoring to see that continue for as long as the Lord permits, and in order to do that, we use the mini-camp as our major source of fundraising. This year our offering goal was $8,000.00, to be used to pay the expenses of the mini-camp, to purchase two keyboards, and to replace an upright freezer in the dining hall/kitchen. In the two offerings received that day, the total was $5,501.00. I received another check memo-ed for the occasion of $500.00, so the total is now $6001.00, and there may be more that I'm not aware of at this point. Someone might say, "Well, you haven't met your goal!" That may be true, but God knows what the camp needs, and He has been supplying that need right along. It's His camp, so it's in good hands! Amen?!!

Permit a word about the storms. There was no major damage or flooding from Hurricane Helena, that was so devastation further north. Pastor Steve Miller, who lives with his wife Sarah on the grounds, reported that some limbs came down, and some brittle shingle tabs on several roofs were blown off, but no structural damage and no flooding. As far as Hurricane Milton, there was a little more damage. Two trees blew over, the signs for the camp and for the church blew over, more limbs down, and more shingles blown off several buildings. At this point, no structural damage is apparent. Someone has asked if any monetary aid is needed, and any offering is appreciated if one cares to give. You can send your gift to the treasurer, Dan Lehman, 1420 Center Rd, Newville, PA, 17241.

We take this opportunity to invite you to Camp Freedom 2025, the Lord willing! The dates are Friday, January 24 through Sunday, February 02. Our evangelists are Walter Hedstrom and Nathan Purdy, our day speaker is Matt Ellison. Song evangelists are Don and Valerie Quales, plus representation from Hobe Sound Bible College and Penn View Bible Institute. Guest youth speaker is Harrold Taylor, children's workers are Linda and Betsy Redcay. For lodging information contact Joanna Ritchey via voice or text at 717-360-0280, by email at JoannaRitchey@outlook.com, or by snail mail at 641 E Church St, Lock Haven, PA 17745. Come and share in your spiritual journey with us!

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