

On Centre



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CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Reaching children worldwide™

Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Centre Region Newsletter

Reaching the children of Centre, Clinton, and Cameron Counties!

He Lifts Us Up!

This year I have seen a heap of milestones set as I close in on my fifth year with CEF of Centre Region. God raised up our largest summer missionary team I have ever fielded – 3 senior summer missionaries, 2 support summer missionaries, and 4 volunteers. That allowed us to run two completely different teams the entire summer and facilitated running 20 5-Day Clubs. God drew out 98 children to Good News Adventure Camp and 7 children prayed to receive Christ. This year we have seen 4 new Good News Clubs start up and currently are running 11 after school Bible clubs; our largest amount since Covid.

In the past few years, it was a blessing to see 3-4 new volunteers join our Good News Club teams. But this year, we have seen 18 new volunteers answer God's calling to meet this growing number of opportunities to reach kids in our local schools. Eighteen. I have been completely floored by this response and so encouraged! God has answered prayer and faithfully kept His promise found in Matthew 9:38 to "send out laborers into his harvest".

One of those new volunteers shared with me recently as we were walking together to round up a group of children for club that God was using the ministry of CEF to reawaken in her a deeper desire to live her life in obedience to God. She saw her spiritual walk with God coming more alive as she worked with the team to share the truth of the Gospel with the children.

A prayer partner I met with recently shared a dream he had about me and our ministry. I own a little Toyota Yaris and, in his dream, he saw my tiny blue car attached with a front loader, lifting and moving cars about in a parking lot. He felt God was telling him that He was using the ministry of CEF to lift up parked and stagnant ministries of others.

After the initial chuckle of the absurd mental picture I had in my head of my little Toyota masquerading as a skid-steer, I saw the connection to the volunteer I described earlier. And as I dwelt on it further, it reminded me of other volunteers that I've

seen be lifted up and empowered in their spiritual lives by their involvement with CEF ministries. Vanessa and I have been reading through Ecclesiastes recently in our personal devotions and in chapter 4, verses 9-10 it reminds us that:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"

It is exciting to see the milestones and see the ministry grow bigger, but it is far more exciting to see the lives that are being changed - the children but also our volunteers. It is so incredibly rewarding to see both being lifted up into new and deeper relationship with our Father.

As 2023 draws to a close and we embark on a new year of ministry, please consider how God might use you to lift up a child or a volunteer through prayer and financial support of our ministry. Vanessa, Nancy, January, the entire CEF committee, and I all pray that you have an encouraging and God-filled Christmas and New Years!

-Titus



One of our new volunteers, Linda Luben, demonstrating an object lesson this past fall for children at Woodward Good News Club.

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Upcoming Events:

Teaching Children Effectively

January-February 2024

Brookside Wesleyan Church

Want to learn how to teach children the Gospel more effectively? We're excited to announce we'll be having a TCE Level 1 course offered this winter! Contact the office for more details or visit our website to sign up! Deadline to sign up is January 1st.

Centre Region Annual Banquet

March 1, 2024

Calvary Harvest Fields

Save the date for our annual banquet! We're excited to have Peter Krol, president of DiscipleMakers, speaking and sharing his heart for reaching children in our community!

CYIA 2024

Summer 2024

Centre Region

We are recruiting for our Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) team for next summer! If you are or know a teen or young adult interested in serving on mission this summer sharing the Gospel with children in our community reach out to us!

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“Near to the Lowly”—The True Meaning of Christmas

We recently discovered a Dietrich Bonhoeffer quote that beautifully summarizes the true meaning of Christmas. Hopefully the quote speaks to you as it does to us and you are also blessed by the stories that we share of God’s love and faithfulness to children in need.

“Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.

Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is In The Manger



Children at Pleasant Gap GNC celebrating with a Christmas Party

“God must hate me.” For three weeks straight at Pleasant Gap’s Good News Club the same 2nd grade boy responded to the invitation during the Bible story and would come back to share with me that same heartbreaking misunderstanding. We would review in the Bible about how God actually created us and loved us, including him. Yet he would still insist that since things were bad at home and school that God must be punishing him.

Finally that fourth week, he came back with a different look on his face. The Holy Spirit has changed his heart. I watched this little boy with a new understanding of God’s love realize that the message of forgiveness and salvation was for him. And as he prayed one of the most sincere prayers I have heard a child pray, asking Jesus to forgive him of his sins, it reminded me of my own struggle with escaping the cycle of self-condemnation and receiving the mercy of the cross. I’m rejoicing to see his faith, that child-like faith, begin in his heart and erase the lies of the world.

— Titus



Nancy and a team of volunteers lead a Christmas Party Club at the State College YMCA.

"I know that I'm a sinner. I've been acting up a lot lately since my dad has left." This is what one little girl told me at an after-school Christmas party two weeks ago. She had just heard that Christmas is the time that we celebrate Jesus coming to earth as God's promised Savior to offer us forgiveness for our sins and restore our relationship with Him. It was such a precious opportunity for me to review the gospel message with her and to hear her open her heart to God as she prayed and asked Him to forgive her of her sins and to please let her father come back home. This young girl was dealing with a load of heartache but I had the privilege of sharing with her that God is now her heavenly Father who will never leave her, no matter what.

— Vanessa

CEF of Centre Region Financial Update

2023 Giving Goal (Jan-November):	\$129,084
Giving as of 8/31:	\$142,093
	\$13,009

We have been so blessed by such generous giving in 2023! Because of donors like yourself we have already met our yearly budget goal. Praise God! As we look forward to the upcoming year, please continue to pray for God’s financial provision as we look to grow our ministry and staff.

Be a part of our team!

- Yes, I am interested in becoming a new financial partner. (Year end gifts can be either mailed in or given online through our website.)
- Yes, I would like to join/get more info on a Good News Club team.
- Yes, I will join the CEF prayer team and pray for ongoing ministry.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Mail this slip to the office or give us a call/email.)