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Greater Columbus Chronicle

Newsletter of the CEF of Ohio, Inc. - Greater Columbus Chapter

December 2020

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COVID-19 and the Gospel

Over the past few months, I have partnered with Faith Community Church, on the westside of Columbus, and Columbus Public Schools to help the disenfranchised children with their school work. Many of the children in central Ohio are falling behind in their education. There are many reasons, such as home life and parents' level of education, that contribute to this. The children just cannot focus with all the distractions of home life and the lack of motivation to get the work done. Faith Community opened their church to be a learning center for up to 10 elementary and 10 middle school students. I have been able to get to know the children, some of whom attended our Good News Club. Although the focus is on helping them keep up with their school work, on the last part of the day a short devotion is given.

CEF is working to find new ways to share the Gospel. One is having Good News Clubs online with Zoom internet conferencing. I am working on all the details to start one soon. It is a bit different and the technical part has to be set up before I can get this up and running.

I also stopped by the house of a little girl named Nevaeh, from my Good News Club, to give her a Bible. It was a great joy to see her smiling face and to connect with her family. She was so happy to get the Bible. We talked about how we miss Good News Club and she was excited to hear about the possibility of having an online Club.

Please continue to pray for the children since they are in great need now more than ever to hear the Gospel and know the love of Christ. Please pray for me as I try to find new ways to share the Gospel during this difficult time.

As you consider any special year-end gifts to your favorite ministries, we'd like to remind you that your gifts to the Greater Columbus Chapter help our outreach to all the children here in central Ohio. Donations are eligible for tax deduction and you will receive a donor receipt. Checks can be made out and mailed to CEF of Ohio - Greater Columbus Chapter, PO Box 1173, Columbus, OH 43216. Debit and credit card donations can be made through PayPal by visiting the link on our webpage at <https://cefcolumbus.com/donate/>. Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support of CEF!!!

Laura Gardner, Ministry Coordinator

Cutting Edge Ministry by Ray Harper, Committee Chairman

Ministering to children is cutting edge anytime and God continues to bless. Though the COVID pandemic has slowed us down this year, we are praising Him for the 138 children we were able to reach in Clubs and an additional 50 at two fairs.

There is not a price we can put on a soul or its worth. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). Luke 19:10 tells us why He came to seek and to save. I John 5:11-12 says it so very well also.

This is that time of year when people are perhaps more open to hear the Gospel ... to get the real reason for the season.

In Good News Clubs and 5-Day Clubs, children always hear that reason and many respond to it. The ratio is pretty consistent that about 10% will respond. When I hear of what a lot of churches and conferences spend per convert, it's amazing. I have heard as much as \$10,000 per person or more. We spend a small percentage of this. We also are giving Bible lessons to the children and going places where the church does not go. A lot of times it is the church kids that come to a Club and then invite their little friends to Club and to their Church. We're finding that even some of the church kids are not hearing the Gospel. We encourage this. It is a great opportunity to show the love of Christ. Pray for the children in your area to come to the love of Jesus this season. He came down that we may go up. We use the Wordless Book to share the Gospel. It tells it on terms even a child can understand. Romans 1:16. Pray that the doors will be opened in our schools once again. Blessings to you this holiday season!

MINISTRY PRESENTATION AT A LOCAL CHURCH



We were blessed to present the CEF ministry at Logos Bible Church in Pickerington on Sunday, October 25. In a 45-minute presentation, Ray Harper discussed the background of CEF, Laura Gardner detailed our ministries to children, Jim Forrest shared personal experiences, and Sandy Harper went over the CEF curriculum. We would be glad to visit your church, whether you want a 10-15 minute presentation or a full 45 minutes. We can show a short video and use PowerPoint to promote the ministry, as well as set up a table with additional information for your congregation. We would love to be able to partner with your church to present the ministry and more importantly to establish a ministry in your area to reach more children with the Gospel. For further information, please contact Ray Harper at 614-732-0448 or Laura Gardner at 614-272-8217.

LOOKING AHEAD by Ray Harper, Committee Chairman

Our hearts are burdened for boys and girls as many are living in fear during this time of COVID-19. It has brought many new challenges. We cannot meet in schools for Good News Clubs or several other get togethers. But the Lord in His sovereignty has opened new avenues of outreach. We combined efforts with the Gideons at two drive-through Kid Fests where we passed out New Testaments and shared the Wordless book with about 250 parents and children alike. We are also grateful for our creative and faithful teachers who are finding new ways of reaching children: in their churches' ministries, on Zoom with their school students, and with tutoring opportunities in small after-school groups where they are able to share the Gospel. Our teacher of 40-some years in Junction City, Jane Morgan, who has recently had heart surgery, reported that five new children have made decisions for Christ.

The book of Ruth has for me been an encouragement. Ruth's story occurred during a similar time of less national obedience, idolatry, and violence. Even in times of crisis and deep despair, there are those who follow God. We may not know the outcome of all of this, but He does. We covet your prayers and ideas to use technology in a more powerful way and any other way God directs, and that we may soon be able to reconnect in person. If you have expertise and ideas, we would love to hear from you.

Pray that we make the invisible Christ visible to everyone we meet and especially to our children this Christmas season. We so appreciate your prayers and thoughtfulness in giving. Thank You! You have made a difference! Merry Christmas and the Lord Bless each of you in the coming New Year!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

