

AROUND MAINE

Spring 2011



Dear Friend,

Our purpose has not changed. For sixty-five years, *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® of Maine has been sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the children of our state.

Our society has certainly changed. For example, in 1946 most children were brought up in a fairly stable home, by a Mom and Dad who were committed to each other for life. Today we are not only keeping track of how many kids grow up in broken homes, but also how many experience at least two divorces before reaching adulthood. In 1946, many of the children of our state attended a neighborhood Sunday school; sad to say, that is no longer true. Less than two out of ten are in church on any given Sunday.

The kids have changed also. They are more “worldly wise” today than they were in 1946. They are a lot more lonely and isolated. They have seen and experienced more sex and violence than anyone should see or experience in a lifetime. They have great needs, but that greatest of all needs has not changed. They need to trust our Lord Jesus as their own Savior from sin. They need to know Him, and learn to live for Him.

Our Lord Jesus has not changed: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8, NKJV). It was this unchanging One who said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14b). It was our Lord Jesus who said, “Even so it is not the will of Your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish” (Matt. 18:14).

The Word of God has not changed. His Word is still, and always will be true, “...living and powerful,” bringing eternal life, sustaining life and transforming life for all who believe.

All “Around Maine” our *CEF* family remains committed to our Lord’s Great Commission, particularly as it relates to children.

Since 1973, Melanie Mulherin has faithfully served in our state office, sharing the gospel with the children of Maine, and training others to do so. Vernelle Fast joined her in 1977. I have a picture in my mind of each of them leading hundreds of children to the Savior at the close of camp chapels.

In 1977, Jeanette Linsey and Irene Winn became the directors of our Central Maine chapter. Irene has gone home to be with the Lord; Jeanette is faithfully serving still. She has encouraged hundreds of *Good News Club*® teachers throughout Central Maine -- she is still doing the same today.

These faithful ladies have served as an example to me, and to many others who have joined our *CEF* staff all “Around Maine.”

I am so very thankful for the ministry of the Holy Spirit as He uses our staff in the lives of thousands of children, young people and adults.

All “Around Maine” young men and women have had their hearts challenged to reach children with the gospel. Some have remained in Maine and serve with us today; others have left Maine and are serving the Lord in other states and in other nations.

God continues to call. The following young people are applying to join our *CEF* staff. Jessie Lofton in eastern Maine; Kevin Lambertson and Jenny Herbert in southern Maine; Eliza Daigle at *Camp Good News*® and in our state office. All of them have grown up in our ministry since childhood. They believe that God has called them to give their lives reaching children with the Gospel.

Just a bit more concerning Jessie. She was saved as a nine-year-old girl in a *Good News Club* held in Lamoine. That was where she first heard the Gospel. Her *Good News Club* teacher led her to Christ. Her heart’s desire is to serve in that same area of our state, reaching this generation of children, who have not yet heard.

All “Around Maine” throughout this school year, children have gathered to hear the Word of God. Here’s an excerpt from a letter I received from a teacher preparing to begin a brand new *Good News Club*: “We are getting ready for club tomorrow. We have 28 kids signed up right now. I am getting last minute calls from parents just finding the permission forms. There are two older ladies that we will be taking care of the snacks. They are both believers and seem to be as excited as I am. One of them told me she has been afraid to let people know what she believes. The Lord showed me that the ministry in [this town] will not be with just the children.” Some of the children who attend this club come from a community where there is no Bible believing church.

I am thankful for dedicated staff and volunteers from all “Around Maine” who are serving in ministries just like the one mentioned above.

I thank God for the work going on here at *Camp Good News*. Our staff went the extra mile this year serving weekend after weekend, as camp filled up with children, teens and adults.

All “Around Maine” we are ministering to thousands of children, many of them unchurched. But there is so much more to accomplish. Most children still have no clear understanding of who God is or what the Bible teaches.

We are committed to reaching the children of the state. The task is daunting, but our Lord has promised us His Presence and His power. We are thankful for your part in this work.

Many of you who receive this letter pray and give. The ministry is yours also; for 65 years God has blessed us together with much fruit. All of us on staff are thankful for the privilege of representing you in the work of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*. We need your help. I hope we will always need your help. We are struggling in our general fund. That is the fund from which we pay our salaries and every day ministry expenses.

We are trusting the Lord, and sharing our need with you.

Thank you, and God bless you abundantly.

‘Til Every Child Knows,



John

Celebrating 65 years of God's Faithfulness 1946—2011

1946 Child Evangelism Fellowship of Maine was incorporated.



Working alone, using public transportation, Margaret Harmon, the first state director began the work. **Sixty-five years later** the work is still strong. The grandson of one of our original state board members, Andy Chesley, is currently our state board chairman.

1957 Edna Sawyer Welbourn became the state director. Several years had passed without a state director.

Edna joined the work at a beginning salary of \$20 with no office or equipment. Her vision was to divide the work into geographical areas and put a worker in each area. In 1960 the first worker was sent to Central Maine and then workers were sent on to Northern Maine, Western Maine, Southern Maine and finally Eastern Maine. **Currently**, there is an active committee and director in every part of the state and many office facilities.



1970 Camp Good News began! Under Edna's leadership and vision, the first week of camp was held on rented facilities in Pembroke, Maine. Thirty-five campers attended at a cost of \$21 per child. **Currently**, Camp Good News is on it's own property with a capacity of 100 campers per week and a seven-week summer.

1967 The first Christian Youth in Action[®] was conducted with **8** attending. **Currently**, we are at capacity with **119** attending this past year.

1981 June Beal's godly leadership as state director was much appreciated during the 3 1/2 years she was able to direct the work.



1986 John Romano's arrival as the next state director brought to an end an all-female staff!! Under his leadership, God has brought many men and young people to serve here. **Currently**, there are **21** full-time and part-time staff in Maine and five young people waiting to join our staff. The work has flourished under his twenty-five years of guidance and oversight of the ministry.



1991 Camp Good News found a permanent home in East Livermore because of a gracious gift from the Circle L Camp. The addition of many winterized buildings now allows for year-round ministry. In 1999 the State Office relocated there.

2011 We stand in awe of God's faithfulness but want to press on 'Til Every Child Knows.

From one worker to **21** workers; from one week with 35 campers to a permanent campground with seven weeks of camp with 700 campers; from no developed areas to a permanent work in every part of the state, from **8** CYIA'ers to **119**, we recount the wonderful works of God in expanding the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Maine. Good News Club programs, fair ministries, day camps, correspondence courses and training ministries have remained strong through the years. From generation to generation, the ministry has been passed along. Space would not allow us to mention the thousands of dedicated folks who have volunteered, prayed and given so that each ministry could be conducted, or the countless thousands of children who have found Christ throughout the years.

Let us remember the wonderful works of God!

'Til Every Child Knows



YEAR	SCHOOL CLUBS	ENROLLMENT
2001	16	378
2002	22	372
2003	23	328
2004	23	373
2005	30	616
2006	37	752
2007	45	948
2008	51	1088
2009	57	1049
2010	62	1203
2011	62	1107

“Til every child knows” has been our desire and prayer for our ministries in Maine throughout all these years and will continue to be.

We are thankful for 62 Good News Clubs in schools this season, along with 20 clubs taught in homes. Two-hundred-ninety-three attended the home clubs.

While we rejoice greatly in every child who has been able to hear God’s Word this year, we are faced with the fact that this represents **only one**

percent of Maine’s school age children!

Will you pray throughout this summer that God would enlarge our school ministry to **75 clubs?**

Kids Can Know God Conferences

“It was great and worth coming to.”
“Very useful to teachers and all Christians.”
“One of the best I have ever attended.”



Equipping and encouraging saints for the ministry was our goal for the Kids Can Know God conferences held in March. This happened in the hearts of 327 folks. It is our largest ever attendance. We’re thankful that John Hoag, Doug Twitchell, Edie Cunningham, Karen Weitzel and Doloris Reed could join us and share their expertise.



Winter!

What a wonderful winter of retreats! More children than ever before enjoyed Camp Good News this 2011 season. Sliding on Jug Hill, skating on our own ice rink, eating smores, hearing God’s Word twice a day, enjoying good food, sleeping in the log cabins and having a counselor who cares about their walk with God, all make for a great time at camp.

104 children came for the three Winter Blitz’s.
 35 teens enjoyed a great weekend together.
 144 children enjoyed the Good News Club
 Winter Snow Day

18 children came from the Root Cellar in Portland
 301 total campers



We need your help!!

Spring!

Work days are coming up in May. Raking, cleaning, and painting are all on our list. Call Barney Daigle and let him know if you can come. (897-6182)

New Staff House!

Last fall the foundation was finished. As soon as weather permits, work will begin again. Approximately \$53,000 is available to continue work. Pray for the remaining funds needed to complete a much-needed volunteer staff building. Our new laundry room is almost complete. Washers and dryers are still needed.

“I pray for you every day.”

We hear these words so often as we meet folks or visit in their homes. These words come many times from those of you who are not able to get out or volunteer as much as you would like to. Our full-time staff is very thankful for the great encouragement you are to all of us. We appreciate your prayers for our CEF ministry.



**“Every child, every nation,
every day – Together we can.”**

This will be the theme of a fantastic gathering of over one thousand of our CEF family from around the world in North Carolina from May 16-21. We are

delighted that at least thirty will be attending from Maine.

John Romano left our International Conference in 2008 with a conviction in his heart that young people should have been at the conference. He made a commitment to bring young people in 2011. We are delighted that twelve teens/college students will be joining us. Pray that God would use the conference to speak to their hearts. Pray for these young people: Aaron Hutchins, Faith Morneault, Kevin Lambertson, Danielle Beaudette, Jenny Herbert, Rebecca Sampson, Eliza Daigle, Jessie Lofton, Susanne Sherburne, Elizabeth Morneault, Jonathan Frost and Jasmine Harper.

*Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Maine
Camp Good News®
431 Campground Rd.
Livermore Falls, ME 04254*

I would like to participate in what the Lord is doing in *CEF* and at *Camp Good News* by giving toward:

CEF General Fund \$ _____
CGN General Fund \$ _____
 Where needed most \$ _____

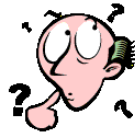
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New!

**Are you wondering about making
donations on line??**



Beginning May 1, 2011 you will be able to donate to *CEF* of Maine and /or *Camp Good News* with you credit or debit card. Also, you can make a donation electronically from your checking or savings account. This can be a one time gift or a recurring gift.

This will be available from both the *CEF* and *Camp Good News* websites. You will find a donation link on each website. To give to *CEF* you would go to the *CEF* website (www.cefofmaine.org) and to give to *Camp Good News* you would go to the camp website (www.mainecheapgoodnews.org). If neither of these options are available to you, then you may call our office (207-897-6182) to make you donation over the phone and we will key the information into the system for you. We look forward to hearing from you if you prefer giving on line.

\$\$\$ And like anything else, you are still able to send \$\$\$ your donation in the mail.