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# The Mountain Edition

Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp and Retreat Center

Fall Volume

Dear Friend of Blueberry Mountain,

Hebrews 3:13 *“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”*

In Christ’s Church, there is strength in numbers. There is power in community. The encouragement of fellow believers is vital for the individual believer to persevere in his or her life. This timeless truth is more applicable today than ever before. New fears, restrictions, and temptations stand poised to overwhelm and stifle the life of a Christian equipped to serve the Lord under “normal” conditions. Yet, leaning on the Body of Christ is the best support that one can find—as this is God’s design! A pandemic certainly makes this difficult, but we can be creative in our means of helping those in the Church who need it most. Then, as we strengthen each other, we will be in a better position to help those who are vulnerable, those who don’t yet have the hope of our risen Savior.

It is the joy of this ministry to reach one of our most vulnerable populations—that is, our children! While many of the children that come to our mountain come from believing homes where they have heard the truth, there are still some that come to our camp that have not had such a privilege. Often, these children come from broken or joy-less homes, and they lack hope. Even worse, the isolation due to current events is driving many of these kids beyond the point of hopelessness to despair, addiction, and even suicide. This is a dark time for many adults, so it is no wonder that these little ones are affected so profoundly.

But there is hope! This camp—as well as other children’s camps and ministries in and around Maine—is in the position to reach kids in need. The Lord has equipped us to share the Good News with those who have not heard, and teach young believers through our volunteer pastors and staff to be little lights in the lives of their classmates and friends. We have the privilege to encourage them all, as He leads. Our volunteers—from kitchen staff, wait staff, counselors, pastors, and others—all play a important part in this endeavor. They are so appreciated!

It is a joy to see so many participate in our common cause for the evangelism of children, but unfortunately not enough have yet felt the call for this ministry. We are greatly in need of various support staff positions to be filled for our winter programs, and would be delighted to have more apply. It may be a more challenging time due to the various restrictions, but we are up to the challenge, Lord willing. We know that the Lord will supply, and we pray that His will would be done, His children would be blessed, and that He would be glorified!

Mark 10:14 *“... He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”*

Together we will **Tell It On The Mountain!**

Justin, Eliza, & Lilliana Bean

## Summer Update

Like probably many of you have experienced, this has been one of the oddest years on the mountain! COVID really threw us for a loop and we had to make some really hard decisions about our 2020 summer camping season. Even though it was hard to cancel, we also knew that we would struggle trying to pull off the new rules with a limited staff. So that left us with the question, "how do we still reach our kids without seeing them in person?" The answer? We sent out activity packs that were designed specifically for each child. Our Intern Katherine is a talented artist and she was able to design two Bible lessons with coordinating coloring pages and activities to go with them. We also posted videos with lego build challenges and nature crafts that kids could do while at home. Though it was not even close to a week of summer camp, we still prayed that they would be encouraged to know that we were thinking and praying for all of them.



We were excited to host one group from our sister camp, *Camp Good News*® during the month of July. This small group of interns was able to help us get our property in ship shape. The last 6 years have been so busy that a few things have been put on hold for a slow season...and a slow season it was! Gardening, organizing, cleaning, painting, and so much more were finally able to get done. It was a blessing to see the work done and be able to fellowship with other Christians.

## Fall Projects

With the absence of fall retreats, we have been busy organizing our outbuildings. For those of you who have been here, you know what a feat that is! 20+ years of stuff has been sitting, waiting for the day it could be installed and used. Projects were finished, donations were dropped off, and a few dump runs were made. And just in time for some friendly folks to help us put our wood up for the winter! We are so grateful for those who are willing to give up their time to make sure that we are cared for.



Renovations on the staff apartments have started and are almost complete. New insulation, sheetrock, and plenty of paint were needed in the main apartment. We have moved into that apartment and now the focus will be to finish the smaller apartment for volunteer staff this winter.



## Winter Retreats



We are excited to announce we will be having our Arctic Blast Retreats this winter! After our quiet summer, we really feel that having kids up here is worth all of the hassle that comes with the new guidelines. Here's where you come in...we need Christian volunteers to help! Counselors, cooks, dishwashers, drivers, maintenance, sanitation, and much more!

We are working on a schedule in the next few weeks after we talk with our church groups that also use our facility. We are hoping to have at least 3 if not 4 weekends this year, but that means lots of volunteers! (Send us an email if you would like to come). Keep watch on our website and facebook to see when the dates come out!

## Praise and Prayer

Join us in thanking God for what He has done and what He will continue to do.

### Camping Ministry

- Praise for all of the projects that were finished around the lodge.

- Pray for Katherine as she writes letters to the girl campers from last summer. She has already seen fruit from her first round.

- Pray for Justin as he will soon start to write all of the guys as well.

### Retreat Ministry

- We are praying for 3 or 4 Arctic Blast Retreats all together.

- Pray for qualified staff to run them. Kitchen is a hard one to fill!

- We need kids to fill all of the retreats.

- We also need prayer for safety from COVID. It will be a challenge to keep on top of the guidelines but it is possible with the help of dedicated staff.

- We pray for the churches that use our facility in the winter. They will have to follow all of the guidelines as well and this could cause some cancelations.

- We trust the Lord to supply for us as we rely primarily on the love offerings we raise from these church groups to keep us afloat the rest of the year.

### Finances

- We are asking the Lord to increase our regular monthly financial partners. Ministry could not continue without faithful donors.

- We need to add full-time staff to our team but cannot do that without much needed financial support.

### Staff

- We are in need of a couple interested in serving with us as full time staff. We are looking for people with backgrounds in cooking and maintenance.

### Another Baby!

- We rejoice as we will be having another baby in April! Pray for safety and energy to keep trucking through retreat season.

# Camp Project: Cabin Activity Crates

With the guidelines for winter camp, we are required to keep our kids in smaller “pods” while they are with us. This will take some careful scheduling and some creative games. We are asking the Lord to provide the funds to make activity crates for each “pod”. This will determine who touches what, and will eliminate the need to sanitize between every group. We would like to include different card games, board games, and drawing supplies. Do you feel led to help us? We are looking to get new items, but we are also okay with donations of well cared for items. You can fill out the donation card below or email [eliza@cefofmaine.org](mailto:eliza@cefofmaine.org) to set up a drop-off.



With money being so tight for some Maine families, we know some of our kids will not be able to come to one of our winter programs. We try to keep our prices low so as many kids as possible can come. But even without the hardships of COVID, some families would still not be able to make ends meet. Here’s where the Lord’s people come in! Would you be able to give one of these children the gift of camp this Christmas? Or even just a small gift to help someone partially? It costs \$75 to come to camp in the winter. Kids come Friday night and stay until Sunday afternoon. This \$75 helps to cover heat, electricity, and 5 wonderful meals! Would you be willing to help? Below you will find a response card that can be sent in with your donation. You can visit us online at [blueberrymountain.org](http://blueberrymountain.org) as well to donate directly using a debit or credit card.

Can’t help during this time? (We know Christmas can be so tight). We need prayer warriors for these kids just as much! Pray they come, pray they hear from the Lord, and maybe even make a decision for Him if they have never done so.



## Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Maine Blueberry Mountain Chapter

716 Phillips Road, Weld, Maine 04285

*I would like to participate in what the Lord is doing at Blueberry Mountain by:*

- Giving to the general fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Give a child the gift of camp this Christmas \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to help purchase material for the activity crates \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_