

Around Maine

CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™

Dear Friends of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Maine,

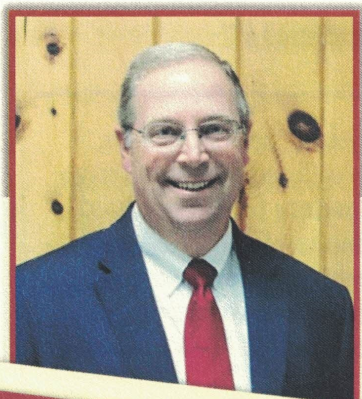
Fall has arrived whether we are ready for it or not. I have just now completed my first year as the state coordinator/director of *Child Evangelism Fellowship* of Maine. This has been a learning year for me as I get to know all the staff across the state. I have attended training classes, and am learning that I still have a lot to learn.

Our summer programs were successful all across Maine. Between our day camps, overnight camps, 5-Day Clubs, Vacation Bible schools and fair ministries, we ministered to 3,069 children. One hundred twenty children came to trust the Lord as their Savior. The Gospel was planted in the hearts of all 3,069 children, and of course many of the children already knew the Lord.

Thank you first of all for praying for *Child Evangelism Fellowship* of Maine, and the chapters that are local to you. Without the prayer support of God's people who love this ministry, all our programs would be useless if done just in the flesh. Thank you to all who give to CEF of Maine. Without the generous gifts that we receive, our ministries across the state could not sustain themselves. And last but not least thank you to all who volunteer. The CEF staff in Maine could not carry out this ministry without our volunteer workers. So again thank you for praying, giving and working.

Have you ever considered Matthew 18:10? I never really did until recently. It says "*Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.*" We should never despise children, we need to love, care and minister to them "*for such is the kingdom of God*". Children are vulnerable, innocent, and have little protection of their own in this world. But yet the Lord says "*that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father.*" An angel representing each child stands before the face of God. I wonder, when children are despised, neglected or abused, what the face of God might look like. When a child is loved, cared for and ministered to, I can see a face of approval, and even tears of joy when that child trusts Jesus as their Savior. We know Luke 15:10 says "*there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*" This is our mission here in CEF of Maine, to share the gospel with the children across our state. We are excited as Good News Clubs are restarting across the state this fall in homes, churches and schools.

Please consider giving to *Child Evangelism Fellowship* of Maine. If you cannot give, please pray. The ministry opportunities are vast and we need wisdom to be sure that we are putting our resources to their best use.



For the Children of Maine,

Michael G. Field
State Coordinator

Harvest Report

Summer 2022



684 children attended overnight camps

675 children attended Day Camps

1,710 children attended 5-Day Clubs, VBS's and fairs

Total children reached - 3,069

Total recorded decisions - 120

But statistics do not include the hours of extensive exposure to the Word of God, the opportunity to observe and learn from godly staff, the absence of media distractions, the life-long friendships made and a place for young people to grow in serving the Lord. Those are the benefits of our camping program.

School Year	Total Clubs	Clubs in schools
2019-20	66	48
2020-21	32	0
2021-22	57	7
2022-23	"Pray the Lord of the harvest"	

Pray the Lord of the Harvest

Child Evangelism Fellowship was founded in 1937 by Mr. Overholtzer, known as the **Weeping Prophet**. He wept and prayed with his Bible open to Matthew 18:14 for the salvation of children at a time when children were being ignored. **God gave him a plan:** a weekday, Bible, Christ-centered, home & neighborhood, interdenominational, pro-church, conduct forming and spirit -emphasizing class for children. This became known as a *Good News Club*.

Good News Clubs are the major ministry of *CEF* of Maine to this day. Some home/ neighborhood clubs have been replaced with school clubs but we desire growth in both places. Covid slowed down the club ministry but God is bringing it back again.

Let's follow our founders example and God's direction to us: "...*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*" (Matthew 9:37-38).



From the heart of a Good News Club teacher:

How impactful is a *Good News Club*? Children are busy with so many activities - sports, dance, music, etc. It can be overwhelming to pick a day that works for *Good News Club*. We faced this challenge this year. After 2 weeks on one day, we switched to a different day to enable more leaders to be involved. Our biggest sadness was knowing one older girl who faithfully comes already had dance class scheduled for the new day. The next week the older girl came to GNC. "We're so happy you're here! Did your dance class get canceled tonight?" we asked. "No, I quit dance. I'd rather be at *Good News Club*" was her reply. Praise God! Though many activities can fill up a calendar, God's Word and the fellowship at *Good News Club* are the best!

Camp Good News

Our summer overnight camping ministry has come to a close and we have seen God's blessing upon the ministry of *Camp Good News*. We praise God that we were able to run with normal dates throughout the summer. Sunday, the children would arrive for registration and the closing program ended on Friday night. There are so many children and teens that look forward to being at camp. Camp is a place of safety and stability for them. We have seen God work in the hearts of campers as well as our staff. It seems that many are going through life thinking that no one cares for them at all. What a privilege we have as we invest and pour out our lives into the children and families who come to camp. We have the privilege of sharing the lifesaving message of the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation with them. It is such a joy when we see someone trust in Jesus for forgiveness of sin or when someone dedicates their whole life to serve our Lord Jesus. God is still using camping ministries in such a huge way and I am thankful that *Camp Good News* is standing in the gap with and for the children who come on its grounds. God has blessed us with full time and volunteer staff.

Praising God for His faithfulness,
Roger Labbe

1 Week of *Christian Youth in Action*
Training School

82 Students attended

7 Weeks of overnight camping

571 Children Attended

44 Children made salvation decisions

10 College Bound Students



Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp

We had an amazing summer on the mountain! Adventure, games, canoe trips, archery contests, friends, yummy food, but most of all, time spent in the Word of God. Staff members for four weeks gathered to reach kids and teens from across the state with the Gospel, and we rejoice, because two children came to know Christ as Savior while here! Needed mentorship took place, staff members came alongside other volunteers, and campers made friends that will last a lifetime. We are so glad that we get to be a part of such an impactful ministry...we thank those of you who helped make it possible!

Winter Camp 2023



CAMP GOOD NEWS
Livermore Falls, ME



Winter Blitz #1 - January 13-15 (Ages 8-13)

Winter Blitz #2 - January 20-22 (Ages 8-13)

Winter Blitz #3 - January 27-29 (Ages 8-13)

Winter Blitz #4 - February 3-5 (Ages 8-13)

Teen Retreat - February 10-12 (Ages 14-17)

BLUEBERRY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CAMP

Weld, ME

Jr Arctic Blast - January 6-8 (Ages 10-13)

Teen Arctic Blast - January 13-15 (Ages 13-17)

Littles Arctic Blast - March 3-5 (Ages 7-9)



Camp Jireh



Camp Jireh Day Camp is located on 15 acres in Hermon, Maine. We had two weeks of day camp this summer with **192** campers! **17** of those campers decided to believe on Jesus and be counseled for salvation! Many great connections were built with the children and their families during the two weeks of camp. Children were able to ask tough questions about who God is, what He did for them, how they can follow God, and children were able to see from God's Word what He says about a lot of things that are happening in today's world that children are confused about. What a precious and treasured time the Lord has given us with the children at Camp Jireh!

We have heard stories after camp of the impact that was had on the hearts of children.



We have one family who contacted us after camp to say that their child is singing the camp songs over and over in their home! This is a non-Christian family, and this little boy is singing the truths of the Gospel throughout his home for the others to also hear the Gospel! What a testimony of God using a child to reach the family! Thank you for your prayers for *Camp Jireh Day Camp* and the hearts of children.

Downeast Day Camp

Three Day Camps were conducted in Ellsworth and Columbia Falls; **163** children attended; **22** children made salvation decisions "My daughter has never been to church before, will that be a problem?" Communication we received from parents prior to *Downeast Day Camp* such as this told us we were going to have children joining us who had never yet been exposed to the Bible or the person of Jesus before. Some of these children have not ever attended a church! And this had been our prayer that they would come! One of our summer missionaries, Addie, was tasked with inviting unsaved families to attend *Downeast Day Camp* and organized a blitz of promotion in the downtown area. During the camp weeks, we suddenly realized, "We have all the downtown business owner's kids!" The kids had a great time during the camp weeks in Ellsworth and Columbia Falls, creating crafts, playing sports or games, having nature time, playground time, snacks, having devotions with their teams, and competing in competitions. These are all fun, but it is the Gospel and the example of the believers who volunteer that make the most impact!

A little girl who put her faith in Christ the year prior shared, "I love camp because we talk about Jesus!" She is the only believer in her home, for now. However the Bible is read to her in her home because she loves the Lord. And one of the little ones who had never been to church before? She confidently put her faith in Christ! While walking off the tar of camp mid-week she exclaimed, "I just love church!"

Wilderness Day Camp

This summer Northern Maine once again partnered with churches across the County to host day camps in Smyrna, Presque Isle, Mars Hill, and Eagle Lake. **Four** camps were held with more than **200** children attending. Children played, built friendships, and most importantly they learned Biblical truths. Several children sought counsel regarding salvation and others expressed great interest in knowing how they could know God in a closer way. **Four** children made salvation decisions. There were also children who were dealing with hard issues in their life.

One little girl shared that she does not have a father at home because the man her mom lived with left and her real dad, whom she has never met, is in jail. During the week she heard stories of hope and heard about the love of a Father who never leaves His children. This is only one of the many difficult stories we hear during a week of camp. As staff and volunteers, we pray for these children, asking that the truths they hear about God and His gift of salvation will take root in their heart and impact their lives.

