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EASTERN
MAINE

Summer Reflections

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path.” ~ Proverbs 3: 5-6

June and July were wonderful and full months of ministry and a testimony of the Lord’s faithfulness to CEF of Eastern Maine! Soon after our June 10th Downeast Day Camp volunteer training (shared about in our previous newsletter), the summer missionaries and I traveled up to Mapleton to help CEF’s Northern Maine chapter with their Echo Burst youth training from June 19th-21st. We had a wonderful time helping to train the teens in attendance on sharing the gospel using a fidget tool! The teens were eager to learn, and it was a joy to partner with our Northern Maine staff in equipping the next generation to spread the Good News!

Upon returning to Eastern Maine, we quickly shifted gears to our final preparations for Downeast Day Camp 2023 held from July 10th-13th! What an amazing week the Lord blessed us with! We had fifty-six children attending and three girls accepted Jesus as their Savior that week! Praising the Lord for their decisions to follow Jesus! Many other children responded to the Gospel invitation given each day with questions about what it means to believe in Jesus. Please join us in praying for these children, for the Lord to continue to work in their hearts, that the seeds that were planted will continue to grow and that they will come to place their trust fully in Him. Please pray also for those children who responded who had already placed their trust in Jesus, but desired to learn more and grow deeper in their faith. What a joy to witness the power of the Holy Spirit working in these young people’s lives! It was a joyful week, full of Bible stories, memorization of verses, songs, missionary stories, small group devotions, games, activities, team challenges, and so much more! The smiles on the children’s faces each day and the laughter that could be heard throughout the camp warmed my heart and was just a glimpse of the goodness of our Lord who enabled Downeast Day Camp to happen again this year! In addition to our CEF of Eastern Maine summer staff, we had thirty-one volunteers serving at day camp, ranging in age from young teens to older adults! We also had a crew of adults and teens who helped with set up and tear down before and after Downeast Day Camp week! The Lord provided a wonderful couple who gifted a beautiful huge tent to CEF of Eastern Maine! This tent allowed us to have our Bible times and activities in the big field shaded from the hot sun! It allowed our campers and staff to be able to focus on God’s Word in a pleasant and cooler space! In addition, our CEF of Northern Maine staff came to help for the week and God provided a kind and generous sister in Christ who opened her home to host them for the week that they served with us! What a blessing our team of volunteers were to us! God is so good to send all of them to us! In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus says to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” The Lord answered our prayers! We are so thankful for all of you who have prayed alongside us for Downeast Day Camp to be able to happen again this year! Through your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts, children were able to hear and respond to the gospel message and experience the love of Jesus through His laborers at Downeast Day Camp 2023!

The latter half of July ministry included clean up and organization of day camp space and preparing for and helping with a Vacation Bible School (VBS) training hosted by Larrabee Baptist Church in Machiasport. More will be shared about VBS in our next newsletter, so stay tuned! June and July were busy months, but oh so good to see that as we trust in Jesus, He directs our paths in the way that He wants us to go!

~ Kathrin Hastey

Downeast Day Camp - Summer Missionaries

Downeast Day Camp would not be possible without our amazing staff. Many of them drive or are driven a long ways just so they can come and help. Some of them even take vacation time so they can come serve and impact these kids. Our staff's ages have a large range, and I personally have been blessed to see our teenage help return year after year, some of them come help the year after they age out of being a camper! These teens come with the heart to befriend these kids, and it shows. The kids love playing with them, and in many cases the kids view the younger staff as heroes.

When I first started working at CEF of Eastern Maine, I thought my job primarily consisted of just teaching children about the gospel, but it has grown to so much more than I ever anticipated. To be completely honest, the thought of teaching teenagers scares me. However, God has been good and given me the words. I am helping counsel the counselors, and it is an amazing process to witness! God has used these teenagers to help these kids have an amazing time at camp and know that they are truly cared for and loved by their Creator.

~ Addie Jaffrey



During the first month of the summer, preparing for Downeast Day Camp was in full force. Even throughout all of the cleaning, organizing, shopping, advertising, and more God's provision was evident. The Lord faithfully pieced together each part of day camp so that once the week finally came, everything was in place for it to run smoothly. Even down to the day before day camp began, God provided us with needed volunteers. I realized even more this year that putting on day camp is a task much bigger than just a few CEF workers. First of all, it all happened because God made it happen, and second of all, it takes the church body of people who are willing to sacrifice their time and effort towards it. I am very thankful for all of the people who prayed, supported, and served at day camp. The Lord blessed us with a wonderful week full of fun, relationship building, growth, three sweet girls accepting Jesus as their Savior, and many seeds planted. Although the week went by quickly, each moment was so important and made an impact on the lives of the 56 children who attended camp.

~ Rachael Hasteley

Every year at Downeast Day Camp I am blown away by how God works. Whether in the kids' lives or the volunteers. My favorite part about day camp is getting to know the kids and having spiritual conversations with them. After the Bible lesson, an invitation is given for kids to respond to. One of my jobs at day camp is to counsel the children that respond to the invitation. One particular day I had a young girl come back. She asked me how she could know if God is real. I told her some things about how I knew God to be real but also explained that she needed to pray and ask God to reveal Himself to her. Before she went back to her group I prayed for her and the day continued. The next day she responded to the invitation and decided to believe in what Jesus did for her. God did an amazing thing in this little girl's heart. I am so grateful that God chooses to use me to reach the kids of Downeast Maine.

~ Hannah Maker

Downeast Day Camp - Pictures!



Looking Ahead!

With the school year fast approaching, comes the start of Good News Clubs! We are looking forward to seeing all that the Lord will do in this upcoming year through this important ministry! The Lord blessed CEF of Eastern Maine with many one-time party clubs this past school year, as well as the steady ministry of weekly clubs in several locations in Eastern Maine. We can't wait to share more about this outreach in our next newsletter! Please join us in praying for the volunteers who are leading these Good News Clubs and for the Lord to continue to open the doors to new schools for the gospel to be proclaimed all throughout Hancock and Washington Counties.



CEF of Eastern Maine Local Committee Members:

Carol Libby - Chairperson
Kathrin Hastey - Vice Chairperson
Nancy Whitney - Secretary
Laurel Bartolomeo - Treasurer
Paula Maker

Calendar reminder: CEF of Eastern Maine monthly prayer lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ellsworth. For more details and information, contact Nancy Whitney at nancyw1208@gmail.com

If you would like to support the work of CEF of Eastern Maine, please consider filling out the enclosed response card! Thank you! We could not do this work without all of you!



Contact Us!

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