



# Around Maine

FALL  
2024

Dear Friends,

Many of you are aware that *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® of Maine had actively been looking for a new State Director. During this time of transition, we have been thankful not only for Trent Boyd's leadership as interim director but also for the many of you who prayed for God's provision for this need. We are happy to communicate with you that God has answered those prayers and, as of September 1st, I have been appointed State Director.

With that said, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you as I begin this new role. While some of you already know me quite well, I realize that others of you only know me well enough to smile and say hi if we were to pass each other in Hannaford. Still others of you know me only as a name and what information you have gathered from others or through my wife's Facebook account. With that in mind, I thought it may be helpful for you to know some things about me, as well as to share with you why I am excited about the opportunity to serve alongside of you as we seek to reach the children of Maine with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

First, let me share with you about my family. My wife Rachel and I have been married for almost 12 years and have two boys (Cameron 8, Carson 7) and a girl (Caitlyn 3). While we live in my hometown of Farmington, we actually met in Wisconsin where we both were attending the same school. Rachel has been a great blessing in my life and we are both looking forward to this new chapter for our family.

“Part of the reason that I have accepted this position is because I view CEF® as family.”

For the past 10 years, the Lord has blessed me not only with a wonderful family but also a wonderful church family. Lighthouse Christian Church is a small congregation in Phillips where I serve as pastor and plan to continue serving in that role. The folks at our church are very supportive of me accepting this new position, which is a great encouragement to me.

Part of the reason that I have accepted this position is because I view CEF as family. My first introduction with CEF was as a camper when I was 8 years old. I loved attending camp as a camper and then as a teenage volunteer staff. For a few summers, I served as the Program Director for the teen camping program which, at that time, ran concurrently with the junior program. The Lord used those years in my life to help shape me as I interacted and worked with not only staff but, faithful volunteers as well.



I realize, of course, that *CEF* of Maine is more than *Camp Good News*. While I knew that at the time, I have gained a greater appreciation of this by serving on the Western Maine Committee for the past few years. God does indeed work where large numbers of children are gathered, but He is also at work in the hearts of the handful of children that gather for an after school *Good News Club* as well; service in both of these ministries brings Him glory.

I have often used the word excited to describe how I feel about this opportunity but to be truthful, that word only captures part of what I feel. I also feel humbled that God would grant to me the opportunity to serve in a ministry that has had such a large impact on my life. My desire, as the State Director, is to be an encouragement to you as you work to bring the gospel to the children of Maine.

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It is truly a blessing to partner with you in the Gospel. I am looking forward to reconnecting with many of you as well as getting to know the many others in the *CEF* family that I have not had the opportunity to meet. Please feel free to reach out to me with any insights or concerns that you wish to share as I learn more about how I can be of service to you.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

*Ryan*

Ryan Decker  
State Director for *CEF* of Maine



# Prayer Requests

## ► Camps

Praise for 663 campers who attended *Camp Good News*. Recorded decisions: 23 salvation, 55 assurance and 5 dedication.

CGN was blessed with 347 volunteers.

Praise for 15 College Bound students who served well and were well funded.

Praise for the generosity of God's people - over \$120,000 was given for CGN sponsorship.

Praise for 139 campers at Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp. God blessed with 65 volunteers and 8 recorded decisions.

Praise for 286 campers who attended CEF sponsored Day Camps in Eastern and Central Maine. Recorded decisions: 19 with 80+ volunteers sharing in the ministry.

Pray for preparations for the fall & winter ministries at *Camp Good News* and Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp.

## ► Fairs

Praise for many children reached at the fairs so far.

- Litchfield Fair: Sept. 6-8
- Farmington Fair: Sept 15-21
- Windsor Fair: Aug. 23 - Sept. 1

Pray for a fruitful outreach as the Gospel is presented at the remaining fair.

- Fryeburg Fair: Sept. 29 - Oct. 6

## ► Clubs

Pray for an increase in *Good News Clubs*. We had 49 clubs last year.

Pray for the start up training sessions to be well attended.

## ► CEF Staff

Praise for a State Director. Ryan Decker, chairman of the Western Maine committee, began as State Director on Sept. 1st.

Pray for local directors for Southern, Central, Western and Northern Maine.

## ► Finances

Praise for God's supply for all the summer ministries.

Praise that God will be faithful to meet our needs in the days ahead.

## Lamentation 2:19

“Arise, cry out . . . Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children.”



# Blessings of Summer



In June, 66 young people took the *Echo Youth Ministry Training* and grew in their walk with the Lord. Many used their training to serve the Lord in CEF and local church ministries. The Ministry Day conducted by the teens featured a Camp Fun Day attended by 40 children and 8 Party Clubs reaching 37 children. 4 children were counseled for salvation.

Many children were given free scholarships to attend *Camp Good News* because of the generosity of God's people. In response to the scholarship letter in May, over \$100,000 was given enabling us to not only sponsor needy children but keep the camper fee low. We were blessed with 15 college students who raised their support so they could serve all summer. Some taught classes at the *Echo Youth Ministry Training*, some helped run day camps, some counseled all summer or were involved in other phases of the summer ministry. A special thanks to those who encouraged them and made it possible for them to be well funded.

## **Camp Good News**

*Camp Good News* had the privilege of receiving 663 campers. We rejoice in the work God did in hearts. There were 23 recorded decisions for salvation, 55 for assurance and 5 for dedication. A dedicated group of 360+ volunteers joined us in sharing God's love to the campers.

## **Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp**

It was an amazing summer on the mountain! We were excited as camp started filling up, and then amazed because for the first time in 10 years, all weeks had a waiting list! We had 4 weeks of camp with 141 campers, 95 volunteer staff positions filled, and 9 decisions for Christ! Praise the Lord!

## **Central Maine**

We have had another great summer at Camp Jireh! It is a blessing to be able to use the property that God gave us for reaching children with the Gospel! We have had over 200 campers at Camp Jireh this year with fourteen campers being counseled for salvation! There was one boy that was being counseled for salvation and as he opened his eyes after praying, he had the biggest smile on his face and knew that he was now a part of God's family! It is amazing to see God work in the hearts of children!

## **Eastern Maine**

Our summer ministry continued with holding two weeks of Downeast Day Camp in July. The Lord brought 86 children to attend day camp between the two weeks, and we praise the Lord that five children responded to the gospel receiving Christ as their Savior! Although we had some staffing challenges due to illnesses, the Lord provided additional volunteers to step in and serve for both weeks. Downeast Day Camp continues to bring together children from the surrounding communities for four days of Bible camp where they are hearing the gospel every day.



## **Our Hearts are filled with Gratitude** 1946 - 2024

For 78 years God has blessed the ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship of Maine*. The Gospel has been shared with countless children. Hundreds of teens and adults have been trained to share the Gospel and effectively teach God's Word. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for you our CEF family who have labored with us. We are committed to our three fold purpose: to evangelize boys and girls; to disciple them in the Word of God and establish them in a local, Bible believing church.