

— CEF® of — EASTERN MAINE

On the Horizon... Summer 2024

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15

“So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:14

This past weekend we had the privilege of training 13 youth in how to share the gospel with children. The teens in attendance at the ECHO Burst! held in Machiasport learned valuable skills that will help them to serve the Lord in children’s ministries. The teens eagerly took in all the information given during each class and diligently practiced the various skills throughout the day. They learned why it is so important to evangelize children and why it was well worth devoting an entire Saturday of their time to learning how to effectively reach children in their own communities. What a blessing it was for us to work with these teens and an encouragement to see this next generation eagerly wanting to serve the Lord! We are excited to hold a second ECHO Burst! this upcoming Saturday, June 15th, in Ellsworth and cannot wait to see how the Lord uses all of these teens this summer and beyond to carry out the Great Commission of reaching the lost for Christ!

Our summer missionaries have all started in May and are doing a fantastic job teaching and mentoring teens at ECHO Burst, preparing for 3-Day Kids Club, Christian Youth In Action Ministry, and Downeast Day Camp! Our two weeks of Downeast Day Camp are quickly filling up to half capacity at the writing of this newsletter. Thank you so much for all of your prayers and financial gifts that enable the work here in Eastern Maine to be done. Please continue to pray for all the children who will be reached this summer through the ministries of CEF of Eastern Maine and for the Lord’s continued provision for all of our ministry needs. It takes many hands to do the work and we are so grateful for all of you!

-Kathrin Hastey

In March, we had our annual Easter Club Party at Mountain View Elementary School. This was a party filled with lots of energy and excitement! The children enjoyed and participated in activities such as the Easter egg hunt, song time and were so attentive to the message that it was a true pleasure to watch. With so many volunteers looking on and participating, it was a spiritually uplifting time to see the kids responding so positively to the love and kindness that was being showered upon them. There were three children who needed counseling and encouragement to continue in the faith. Please keep them in your prayers, they are in the midst of adverse conditions that even as adults we would have difficulty navigating in.

In April, we had a wonderful opportunity to minister to the kids, staff and volunteers of several clubs in Washington County during an all day rally held at Elm Street School in East Machias. It was a day filled with skits, games, food, and fun! The theme for the skits and games was “Jesus is our Super Hero” with the key verse being Philippians 4:13. The primary goal was to encourage the children to believe the promise that Jesus can transform their lives and they can be all that He wants them to be. Although there were no new conversions, there were eight children who went for counseling time and had very insightful conversations reassuring them of their faith in Christ. We are already beginning to think and plan for next year’s rally!

-Gene Philbrook



A LOOK BACK: GOOD NEWS CLUBS IN A HOME AND A SCHOOL!

Dave and I first opened our home for a Good News Club in 1993. When God first put it on my heart I had no shortage of excuses as to why I just couldn't do it. I am so glad God kept working on me.

There have been so many blessings and highs since then as we have formed lasting relationships not just with the children but with whole families. We are even at the point now where some of the children in our club are the children of some of our original kids.

But, with the times of blessings also came times of great discouragement. We have seen kids hear the gospel but turn in a completely different direction and often times we have witnessed lives and families falling apart. Sadly some have even passed away. Sometimes I would wonder "does doing this even matter? Does it even make a difference?"

I have a quote by Oswald Chambers written down that often helps me shake off this mindset: "A river touches places of which the source knows nothing." God would remind me that I didn't have to understand everything to be obedient. God was calling us to allow our home to be a "source." Simply trusting has never been easy for me and something God has had to continually work on in my life.

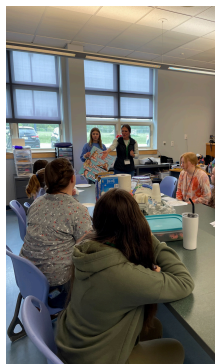
I am thankful that because God knows my heart and that I struggle with what I cannot see, He will sometimes reveal to me a place the "river" has touched. One of my favorite examples is of a mother who wouldn't leave her little boy with me but stayed at the club. I understood at first because she didn't know me - I assumed eventually she would trust me- but she continued to stay week after week. Unbeknownst to me, she was searching and wanted to know God. She had started attending a church and wanted to know how to have God in her life and Jesus in her heart.

Her words from her testimony "One day she (Lisa) prayed with her club, giving all of the kids a chance to ask for forgiveness for their sins and invite Jesus into their hearts and I prayed with them"

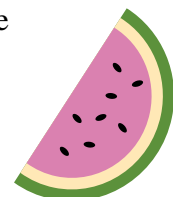
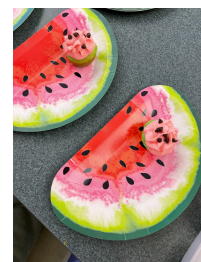
This happened about seven years ago. I am so thankful that God brought this mom, who is also now one of my great friends, into my life. She now faithfully serves with me weekly doing Good News Clubs.

I am so thankful that God has allowed me to continue doing these clubs and pray that he will continue to use me, my family and our home.

Lisa McCarthy- Columbia Falls



It was wonderful to see the way the Lord led us to Peninsula School this past spring to host our first Good New Club Party there, the Watermelon Party! We had one child attend with her grandmother who was very enthusiastic about the future of a Good News Club there. It was an incredible blessing to have had such enthusiastic helpers (including my own daughter). What a fantastic way to spend an afternoon, teaching the gospel to lost souls with those who love the Lord with all their hearts. I am prayerfully seeking the Lords will about an ongoing GNC and would appreciate your prayers on the matter. I am confident the Lord will open the right doors at His timing.



- Amanda Sprague

NOTES FROM THE SUMMER MISSIONARIES

Importance of Ministry:

Looking back on my high school years and experience, I honestly cannot fathom what my life would have looked like without being involved in ministry. I helped as a Counselor In Training at my local AWANA program as soon as I was old enough to, helped in my church's nursery program, and sang in my church's choir. However, when I was fourteen, I started attending youth trainings and camps, so many I don't recall all of them. I am very thankful for those camps and trainings because they helped me realize how I needed to claim my faith as my own. At age sixteen, I was invited to help with a Christmas Party that CEF of Eastern Maine was hosting. My job was to paint kids' faces and counsel them. Through God's grace, I was able to help a little girl know Christ as her Savior. From that moment I knew I wanted to help more children know that Jesus died for them and that if they believe in what He did, they will be saved. I attended a TCE 1 training in which I learned how to effectively share the gospel and teach children. I loved every minute of those classes and have used those skills innumerable times as I now serve as a Summer Missionary with CEF. I praise God for allowing me to be involved in so many rich programs in high school that equipped me to better serve Him now and in the future. I am very excited to see how God continues to grow me and use me this summer as I work to teach more children and teens about His love and plan for salvation.

-Addie Jaffrey

One thing God has taught me through working with CEF is how powerful the Gospel truly is. The Gospel saves people's lives. God gave us a mission as believers to share what he did with others so they can be saved. It's not anything that we have done but what God has done. The Gospel comes from God which means that we don't save someone when we share the Gospel, God does. This also takes some of the pressure off of us when we share because we don't have to have the perfect presentation of the Gospel. As long as we are trusting and depending on God when we share the Gospel then God will use that for good.

No matter if we forget a verse or how unorganized we share it, God still uses it because it is from Him and not us.

-Hannah Maker



Dear friends,

I've been so blessed with a Christian wonderful home to grow up in, but I know so many kids in our world don't get that. I chose to work with CEF this summer because I recognize that need for kids to get reached with the gospel. I want all those little kiddos to have that love of Jesus that I was able to feel as a child. I know that God will work in these kids hearts and mine too this summer!

-Rose Gurney

I am just finishing my sophomore year at Cedarville University which has been quite a busy, yet growing and enriching time. I took several extra ministry courses these past couple semesters. These have given me many opportunities to practice and learn about ministry. The Lord has used these classes to increase my desire to work in ministry and serve Him wherever He leads me. I am also thankful for the mission trip I was able to take part in over Spring break to Guatemala. My team served in a school and learned first hand about ministry through education. I am so grateful for many of you supporting this trip! Another mark of God's faithfulness this year is the job He provided me with at a small Christian preschool in Ohio. This has been a wonderful and stretching experience.

As I have grown and learned so much this school year, I am eager to come home and jump into summer ministry. There is such a great need for the gospel in our community. Despite my own shortcomings and failures, God is so faithful and gracious to give me opportunities to be used by Him. He has done so much through the ministry of CEF in Eastern Maine this year already, and He can do so much this summer through the willingness and prayers of the body of Christ.

-Rachael Hastey

Praises

- Good News Club Rally-wonderful celebration of all that the children learned this year in GNC!
- Watermelon Party Good News Club held at Peninsula School!
- ECHO Burst Youth Training June 8th in Machiasport with 13 teens in attendance
- Partnering with CEF of Northern Maine to help with ECHO Burst Youth Trainings in Northern and Eastern Maine

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the 3-Day Kids Club hosted by Eastbrook Baptist Church June 17th-19th-for children to come to know Christ
- Pray for the upcoming ECHO Burst Youth training June 15th in Ellsworth-that the teens will grow in their faith and learn skills to share the gospel with children
- Pray for Downeast Day Camp-for all the children who will come and for the Lord's provision in all of our day camp needs



DOWNEAST DAY CAMP

Downeast Day Camp 2024 is coming soon!

July 15th - 18th
July 22nd - 25th

You can register your camper online at
<https://www.cefofmaine.org/chapters/cef-of-eastern-maine/downeast-day-camp/>

If you would like to help or volunteer with day camp please contact us!

Day camp is a four day week filled with learning about the Bible, fun games and challenges, activities, and being with friends!

Use this QR code to visit our Amazon wishlist if you would like to help purchase items for day camp!



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 or donating online at <https://www.cefofmaine.org/chapters/cef-of-eastern-maine/>! Thank you! We could not do this work without all of you!



CEF of Eastern Maine Committee Members:

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

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