



From My Heart to Yours ~ Mable Ruth Wray

November 2017

Dear Friend,

It hurts! Two of the stitches broke after a recent eye surgery on my right eye. The exposed threads caused excruciating pain, not to mention that I suddenly, almost lost the sight in that eye. The doctors tell me this will heal over time, but I still face the prospect of losing the sight in one eye. At my age, losing physical eyesight is a scary prospect. But there is one thing that is even more troubling than potentially losing physical eyesight . . . that is losing sight of my spiritual passion . . .

Reaching Children for Christ.

The world is moving closer and closer to when Christ is coming again. I believe that means it is critical for you and I to keep our spiritual eyes focused on the goal of reaching boys and girls with the Gospel! This has been my life's mission, it is my passion, and as I come closer to the time when I will see my Saviour face-to-face, I believe that now is the time for a renewed commitment to seeing clearly what the Lord has called me to do. You and I cannot lose our spiritual eyesight at this historic time in our history. Let's review the facts.

Fewer children are coming to church today. While the US Census Bureau tells us that the child population in the USA is growing, churches are reporting that attendance is dropping and fewer children are attending what was once a thriving Sunday school program. Christian researchers disagree slightly on the exact numbers but it is reported that as many as 90% of children in the USA are missing out on a consistent exposure to God's Word in a church like I had as a child.



Families are troubled. Researchers are reporting that 86% of children in the United States today are coming from "blended families." Those are children who have experienced the loss of a parent or have been joined with a different family through remarriage or adoption. The idyllic picture of the American family with a mother and father in a committed relationship, providing a secure and stable home life for children is much more of a rarity today. A much greater number of children are experiencing the trauma and challenge of growing up in broken and blended homes. I can never remember **not** knowing that Jesus loves me.

Children are exposed to violence. Perhaps more than ever before, children are afraid. They are being raised in a country that is being exposed to drugs, murder, and assault as never before. There are counselors in elementary and secondary schools today confronted with issues and problems like never before as they work with even the youngest ages of troubled children. I had no TV or smart phone to keep up with modern trends, cultural changes, political correctness, and obscene language. Did you?

What is to be done? What is the answer to help children who are living in such a dark world . . . how can we give them hope for brighter days ahead? The answer is found in one place, **God's Word**. I do not have to wonder if we are working within God's will. He has stated His will clearly in **Matt. 18:14**, "*It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one child should perish.*"



But the real question is, what will each one of us do to help reach these boys and girls who need to know about God's love and His plan of salvation? This is where you and I come in.

We can keep on being **thankful** for what God is doing in the lives of young people who have served as summer missionaries. One of the summer missionaries from this past summer, Lucas Quiroz, recently wrote saying, "*I was doing my devotions and it was about being thankful to God about every ministry service you get. I just wanted to thank all of you in CEF for giving me the opportunity to use my summer to serve God in Philadelphia. I am thankful for every single minute I got to spend there to tell kids and adults about God. Thank you so much for everything.*"

We can keep on being **joyful** for the opportunity to share God's Word in After-School Good News Clubs. In October 2017, one of our county directors reported 87 children had received Jesus as their personal Saviour in the first month of the ministry year! That gives me great joy!



We can keep on **prayerfully** supporting ministry. In last week's mail I got a personal note from a long-time friend of our ministry simply to say, "I am praying for you all the time!" She mentioned five specific things that she was praying for. What an encouragement that there are so many prayer warriors speaking to God on behalf of the children, our staff, and volunteer workers.

We can keep on **giving**, like another dear friend who sent us a gift that represented all of the interest earned during the year on her retirement savings. Her sacrifice and her determination to impact the world through evangelizing children and teaching Christian children to grow means the roll book of heaven will be increased . . . plus eternal dividends will be credited to her account.

Finally, we can **keep on keeping on**, until the Lord comes again and we see Him face-to-face . . . imagine what joy it will be when that day arrives! **1 John 3:2** promises, "*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*"

That is a day when all the "hurt" and the "pain" will be gone. No more eye surgery will be needed, because we will **see** perfectly.

I want to **thank you** personally for your vital part in our ministry and for all you have contributed to ensure the future of boys and girls when they by faith may believe and receive the best gift ever given, **JESUS**.

With God's blessing and my love,

Dr. Mable Ruth Wray
State Director Emeritus

