



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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November 2019

Dear Friend,

It's November already! That means that we have started a new ministry year. Good News Clubs, After-School Clubs, and Released-Time Classes are meeting; Teacher Training Classes are taking place; and ministry promotion is ongoing. We felt it might be helpful if you had a simple break down on the activities that have taken place over this last year at the State Headquarters. Perhaps this short summary will help to illustrate how the State Headquarters staff operates and it will give you some clear ways to pray more effectively for us.

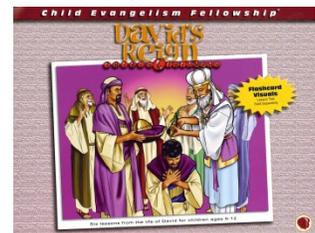
October – December 2018: Fall is the time of the ministry year when school is just starting. What happens at the State Headquarters in the fall? We begin with *Directors' Institute*. That is a week-long retreat for our staff that includes times of prayer, planning, training, and spiritual encouragement for our entire staff. This annual conference is one of two combined staff meetings that are designed, organized, and produced for the benefit of all of our county staff by the State Headquarters staff.

Teacher Training Classes begin in the fall, too. Six of the nineteen County Directors had a State Headquarters staff member conduct or help with monthly training classes for volunteer teachers this past year. Fall is also the time set aside for our annual *Committee/Staff Seminar* held at Country Cupboard in Lewisburg. The first Saturday in November is the annual “report to stake-holders” meeting, when we gather for prayer, training, and fellowship with all of the county committee members who can join us from across the state.



Another critical element of training happening at the headquarters is the orientation and professional education of our younger staff during *“In-Service Training Days.”* Monthly we schedule a day when all of our staff with less than seven years of service, come to the HQ to engage with our staff here over topics that will help them master basic missionary duties and responsibilities. This mentoring and coaching of younger staff takes place consistently, but In-Service Days give this process a formal structure.

January – March 2019: *Ministry promotion* is a year-round effort but we will highlight it here. Pulpit supply, ministry presentations to mission boards, and participation in missionary conferences have a high priority in our schedule. It is critically important to let churches and missionary agencies know what is happening in the field of child evangelism in general, as well as giving a report on how CEF of Eastern PA, Inc. is reaching children with the Gospel. While this is happening, there are still the usual ministry needs to care for: *prayer letters* and *donor thank you notes*, *Bible lesson material updates*, and development of *Teacher Training material* . . . all have an “on-going” component to them.



Early in the new year, plans are made for the *recruiting* of summer missionaries from Christian colleges and universities across the country. Recruiting trips are planned, and our ministry partners at these schools begin to share our need for missionaries with eligible candidates. The State Headquarters normally uses Christian college students for ministry placement in Philadelphia. These young people tend to be a bit older and desire to work in an inner-city, cross-cultural environment where they can reach children with the Gospel.

In January, the State Headquarters hosts the second major gathering of our staff *January Get-Together*, at Camp Hebron, in Halifax, PA, for a mid-winter conference that will inspire, encourage, and motivate our staff for the spring season of ministry. All 34 full-time and part-time staff are invited to attend. A Bible teacher brings morning and evening messages, Headquarters staff members and professionals outside of CEF bring workshops targeted to improve ministry, and significant times of prayer and fellowship are planned for these staff who are geographically separated across our state for most of the year.

April – June 2019: Spring brings a renewed sense of ministry focus for the Headquarters staff as several major ministry events are held. First, there is the professional education course that is taught annually. There are four levels of professional education in this ministry. Each spring a week-long training session, *“Keystone Course”* is sponsored, organized, and hosted by the Headquarters for the benefit of the staff. These courses focus on Bible lesson instruction, Teacher Training Class proficiency, and instruction on ministry organization and promotional topics.



Summer Missionary Training School is a huge undertaking for the State Headquarters staff. Planning, organizing, and staffing this effort to train, equip, and motivate missionary interns that will serve the Lord across the state is a major annual headquarters function. The lesson material, the missionary program, and the schooling of the missionaries is both a blessing and a challenge. The entire state-wide staff of CEF of Eastern PA, Inc., under headquarters leadership and sponsorship, comes together for the training school which is held the middle two weeks in June. This school has produced missionaries that, today, are literally stationed around the world, with ministry training received right here in Eastern PA, at Summer Missionary Training School.

July – September 2019: The bulk of our summer consists of crisscrossing the state to attend, assist, and help organize *Day Camps*, overnight *Camp Good News*, *5-Day Clubs*, and *Open-Air Witnessing* programs. Since the majority of children are out of school, summer is a prime time for ministry programs! During the summer months, the headquarters is mostly deserted . . . as the ministry needs across the state dramatically increase. You will find Headquarters staff members counseling children for salvation at Day Camp, serving as adult supervisors at the overnight camp, or helping to organize a Day Camp in a county that requests help. Last summer there were over 50 Good News Day Camps in PA! This is the time of year when ministry events reach the largest population of children.



I hope this short letter gives you a “feel” for what the State Headquarters is doing during the ministry year. We trust this will help you pray more efficiently for us as we try to meet the ministry needs in 25 counties, with 34 full and part-time employees, reaching thousands of children with the Gospel each year. This is a big job . . . made possible because you care about the eternal destiny of lost children, you pray, and you share financially. May God bless you richly as you join hands with us during this new ministry year, asking God to thrust forth laborers into the fields, *“for they are already white for harvest!”* (John 4:35).

Yours for the children,


Jeffrey Davis, PhD
Director of Development