



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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Dear Friend,

This past Easter was a new experience for all of us. Our traditions, special celebrations, and the joy of celebrating with each other was taken away. Easter was celebrated in new and different ways worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused changes in all of our lives that were inconceivable just two months ago. I am reminded of someone else whose plans were broken and dreams crushed. In the Gospel of John 20:1-18, it gives us an account from Mary Magdalene's perspective as her plans were turned upside down. She went to visit the tomb of Jesus with her own plans and expectations about what she would find and do. Instead, God allowed her plan to be broken, but His plan prevailed. I am so glad Mary did not find what she was looking for that morning! She was looking for a dead body, but instead she found a risen Saviour.

Similarly, as we are living through this pandemic, most, if not all, of our plans have been broken, but God's plans are right on schedule. CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC. is not immune. Our normal summer ministry plans have been affected. For the first time in over 50 years, we will not be hosting Summer Missionary Training School. Many counties will also not be having the normal face-to-face ministry as planned this summer.



In light of that, I am excited to share with you a vision that God has given us for this unique summer of ministry. Normally we plan, train, and study very hard preparing **to tell** the children that God loves them. This coming summer our focus will be **to show** the children God loves them. Here at State Headquarters, we have been adapting and charging ahead with a new and innovative way to reach the children. Our plan for the summer is inspired by Jesus' loving interactions to help and comfort Mary at the tomb in John 20:1-18.

When she was standing outside the tomb weeping and completely broken, Jesus used three phases of interaction with her:

- First, Jesus met her where she was; broken, hopeless, and looking into an empty tomb. This summer instead of asking the children to come to us **we will meet them where there are**. Possibly broken, afraid, hungry, and staring into an empty tomb.
- Second, even when Mary was talking with Jesus she did not recognize Him; until He called her by name. This summer we are going **to call each child by their name** with a personal invitation for each one of them. This is something Dr. Mable Ruth Wray has always been passionate about, that the children be called by their names, and we want to carry this on.
- Thirdly, in John 20:17, "Jesus said to her, **Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'**" This summer our intention is **to reach the children by practically living out the Gospel** as an example for them to see the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, in our lives.

We've already started to work through these three focuses for the coming summer ministry. Our county workers have already started learning how to use Zoom to meet with the children face-to-face, even though it will not be in person. It has also been a wonderful tool to connect with each other in our statewide ministry while adhering to the government's requirements.



Another way that we are going to be showing the children the love of God is through preparing and sending out care packages this summer. The packages may contain things like food, a small gift, a tract, and a page with a link that can be scanned with a smart phone leading to an online Bible lesson. If you are interested in helping with this in some way, please get in touch with your local county



director or email Brianne or Caitlyn at the State Headquarters for more information.

There are plans in process for us to do summer ministry online this year with 5-Day Club and Day Camp formats for different weeks to still reach as many children as we can in the time we have. We are still in the early stages of planning what this will look like, but we are excited to see how God will use this opportunity during these unprecedented times. We want to tell the children the same true Gospel message that CEF of Eastern PA, Inc. has always taught in a new ministry field. You can find us on Facebook as CEF of EPA Inc. and on Instagram as CEF.EPA for updates on summer ministry as we plan for these coming months.



Would you join us in prayer these coming weeks and months as we strive to follow God's leading in this new ministry format? We also want to thank you for your dedicated care and concern for CEF of Eastern PA, Inc. and the many boys and girls in our state. Your love, provision, and prayers are the backbone of this ministry and we could not do this without your support and our Heavenly Father's hand upon this ministry. May we reach more children this summer than we possibly could have ever imaged by following God's plans and not our own.



Blessings in Him,



Pastor Doug Williams
Executive Director