



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

P.O. BOX 4375 • HARRISBURG, PA 17111-0375 • (717) 652-7542

July 2020

Dear Friend,

I am praying by God's wonderful grace that this newsletter finds you full of God's peace, remembering His *love* and *mercy*. I know by now many of you are wondering if life will ever get back to some form of "normal." Needless to say, the past few months have been trying, difficult, and draining for each and every one of us. This photo is a good representation of how many may have felt over the past three months. Yes, we are open but it sure doesn't look or feel like it. Each day we wonder; what will tomorrow bring? Will it be better or worse than yesterday? Will this ever end?



I am reminded of Jonah, a servant of God, who found himself in great distress and difficulty. At a crucial point in his life, the hope and promise of tomorrow seemed like a distant memory. He was faced with no solutions or ability to correct and fix his difficult circumstances. In his denial and rebellion, he eventually chose the perfect solution for his problems. He turned to Almighty God. Jonah 2:1-2 gives you and me a perfect example of where to turn, and To whom will we turn to when all hope is lost, *"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly. And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and He heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice."*

I am moved seeing the incredible *love* and *mercy* God showed in His response to Jonah. What a comfort to know that the Creator of the universe heard the cry of a simple servant and responded. This summer, as you find yourself in difficult circumstances, I would encourage each one of you to turn to our loving, merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Due to the pandemic, we are at a crucial moment in history as we have watched many businesses suffer, or even close. Praise the Lord, this was not the case for us here at Child Evangelism Fellowship of Eastern PA, Inc. Even as it has been necessary for us to go into 'hyper drive,' spending many long hours preparing for a different style of ministry this summer, we have clearly seen God's *love* and *mercy*. He hasn't stopped ministering to His people and neither will we. I am excited to share with you the many facets of ministry, some new, some slightly adapted, that we will be using to reach the children in Eastern Pennsylvania, and beyond, this summer.

This summer we are planning on taking the Gospel message to the children in both new and familiar ways. As we all learned how to adapt and thrive during the ongoing pandemic, we have many new opportunities to understand what Jonah learned in the belly of the great fish. We have learned that God is in control, He is using this pandemic for His glory, and He hears us when we cry out to Him and He answers. During this season of ministry within Child Evangelism of Eastern PA, Inc. one truth will be very evident... Only by God's leading and provision will we succeed this summer and beyond in reaching the children for Jesus Christ.

Our hearts broke this spring as we realized that, for the first time in over 50 years, Summer Missionary Training School would not be possible due to COVID-19 concerns. This meant that we would not be able to train Summer Missionaries to teach face-to-face 5-Day Clubs in our counties, thus impacting the way we typically reach the children for Jesus Christ. Because of this we spent much of our time during the months of March and April in prayer, asking the Lord for His direction for this summer. The Lord heard us, and He answered by leading us to develop a brand new format for sharing the Gospel - online ministry! This will by no means be a replacement of the well-known and well-loved formats of ministry we have always used, but an exciting additional way to share the *love* and *mercy* of our Lord with the children. We often came together during those months with various County Directors and staff members to create online programs that still contain many of the same elements usually seen in a 5-Day Club or Good News Camp.

As you may remember from our last newsletter, we have begun implementing a new and practical way to reach children during this time, delivering care packages to their front door. Typically, each summer the children come to us as we prepare and teach 5-Day Clubs, Good News Camps, and help churches during their VBS programs. This summer we are excited to be able to go to them, literally! We will be meeting each child at their home as they attend 5-Day Club or Day Camp online. In addition, this crucial time in history is allowing us to reach new neighborhoods in many of our counties, ones that we have never reached in the past, children who may have never had the option to attend club or camp in person. What a wonderful opportunity this will be, a different summer for sure, but only in venue, the message is not changed at all. We trust God for a great harvest as we step out in faith over these next few weeks. Below you will see some "Behind the Scenes" photos to document this new step in our ministry.



We also are excited to more easily and quickly communicate with all of you. Your partnership through prayers and support allow us to take the Gospel to so many children each year. Thank you so very much for your love, prayers, and faithful support, we know we could not do this without you. Would you like to keep up to date in real time over these next few months as all of this is happening? Our website (cefepa.net) has been rebuilt and we have begun using several social platforms, so in between our newsletters you can watch what is happening in the ministry as we update these regularly. If you would like to keep updated, please follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/cefefepa), Instagram (Instagram.com/cef.epa), and Youtube (as CEF of E PA, Inc.) and website (cefepa.net). If you would prefer to receive your newsletter instantly, instead of waiting for it to arrive via mail, please send us an email (cefepastate@gmail.com) with your name and your *mailing* address and we will shift you to our digital newsletter for the next mailing.



Want to see what these lessons will look like? Scan this with the QR app on your smartphone to view the first Bible lesson in our 5-Day Club Series.

In Him,

Pastor Doug Williams
Executive Director



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