



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

PO BOX 4375, HARRISBURG, PA 17111-0375

March 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friend,

Children in our world are hurting. Even in the United States, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, more children than ever are experiencing devastating realities such as death, hunger, neglect, and abuse. Consider these sobering facts:

- One in seven children in the United States lives in poverty
- Almost a quarter (23%) of children live in single-parent households, as compared to a 7% average in the rest of the the world
- Suicide is the third most common cause of death in children between the ages of five and fourteen, only after cancer and unintentional accidents
- Generation Z (anyone born between 1997-2012) is considered the first completely post-Christian generation, growing up with no Biblical background and very little concept of God (from *Meet Generation Z* by James Emery White, page 49)

Reading over these statistics, it is easy to say as the prophet Elijah did in his times of trouble: ***"It is enough; now, O Lord. . ." (1 Kings 19:4).*** There is an increasing awareness of the pain and despair that children have experienced in these last few years. **Today's child is growing up in the chaos of a world in which he is being taught no concept of God.** Even though the hope, security, and peace offered through a relationship with Jesus Christ is more accessible than ever, it sounds unusually foreign to a child's current reality.

Are the next generations too far gone? Are we completely without hope of reaching them? **The stories of children that have been reached this year through Child Evangelism Fellowship of Eastern PA, Inc. prove that the Holy Spirit is still working in the hearts of the next generations to bring them to Himself.**

A teacher in the ministry shares the story of a little girl who came to a CEF camp this past year. She asked to speak to the teacher after a special Gospel presentation. When they sat down together, the child related the story of how she had sinned against her parents by stealing their money for a video game, and,

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months later, her parents were still angry and had not forgiven her. She added, "We used to always pray and have pictures of Jesus in our house. But now we say swear words." This little girl thought for sure that Jesus could not forgive her for stealing the money, especially since her family did not pray anymore.

The teacher at camp was able to share with the girl about Jesus' forgiveness of all sin, even stealing and swearing. **The peace that came over this child was visible as she realized Christ's love for her and that, because of His sacrifice, she was no longer guilty.** She confessed her sin to God, prayed with the teacher for the girl's family to understand salvation, and went away from the conversation joyful and full of hope. Stories like these prove that God is still working in the hearts of children, despite the chaos of their world and their ignorance of the things of God.

We as staff, committees, volunteers, and donors at CEF of Eastern PA get to take part in seeing children come to know Jesus as their Saviour. Despite the limited circumstances of 2020-2021, 326 children professed faith in Jesus Christ. Over 10,000 children were reached with the Gospel through Bible lessons, memory verses, and the efforts of loving volunteers who took the time to listen and love them as Christ does. What a privilege to be the vessel through which the Spirit works miracles in the hearts of these children!

Ezekiel 11:19b-20 says, *"...I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: that they may walk in My statutes, and keep Mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."* God has done this right before our eyes through the local ministry of CEF of Eastern PA! Thank you for being a part of the incredible work of reaching children for Christ, discipling them as they grow in their faith, and training other believers in the same work. We could not do it without your partnership.

In Him,



Pastor Doug Williams
Executive Director

State Headquarters Staff



Hillary Barrick joined our State Headquarters staff in January as our new Office Assistant. Hillary accepted Christ at the age of three, later dedicating her life to the Lord at the age of fourteen. Her love for working with children sparked at a young age, when she "helped" her father with a Sunday School class held in the inner city. Contact Hillary at cefepahillary@gmail.com.



Lisa Doyle joined our State Headquarters staff in January as our Assistant to the Executive Director. Lisa taught at the Warrior Run Middle School's Released Time Program for two years and previously served in the office at CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, INC. as a Ministry Assistant. She has over fifteen years of experience training and equipping volunteers. Contact Lisa at cefepalisa@gmail.com.

Read more about Hillary and Lisa on our website at cefepa.net/staff.