



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

October 2024

Dear Friend,

At Child Evangelism of Eastern PA, Inc., we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that *"As for God, His way is perfect,"* even in confusing, trying circumstances like those we are currently facing in our Philadelphia County chapter (Psalm 18:30).

Creating a CEF chapter in Philadelphia County was a huge step of faith from the very beginning. The leaders who forged the way for ministry to the children of the city took astonishing steps of faith daily, and God honored them for it. Years later, we find ourselves at a pivotal point in this ministry as several serious obstacles stand in the way of sustaining our Philadelphia chapter. Yet, we know that our *"As for God, His way is perfect."*

It is with heavy hearts, that after many meetings and much time in prayer, the State Board has voted to permanently close our CEF of Philadelphia chapter. At this time, we can offer you some answers to the questions you may have, but not all, so we ask for your patience as we work out the details. In the meantime, we would like to answer some of the more basic questions here.

What will happen to the property?

Yes! There are nine Good News Clubs planned for the 2024-25 school-year. Our faithful volunteer teachers have been fully supplied with the materials and support that they need at least through the Christmas season. At the present time, our desire is to continue to supply these resources in order to help them complete the entire 2024-25 school year.

What will happen to the finances?

We thank you for those of you who have given so faithfully to Philadelphia over the years. Since the inception of this chapter, there has always been continuous financial difficulty and shortfall. Even with the staff leaving, we are left with some unpaid bills and back taxes that are in the process of being paid and completed.

What will happen to the property?

We have begun the process of speaking with realtors in the Philadelphia area about selling both of our buildings on the CEF of Philadelphia property. The money from sale of the buildings will help alleviate some of the financial shortfall mentioned above as well as fulfilling the basic ministry needs until the chapter is closed.

What will happen to the staff?

Roberta Jackson and Hannah Beatty are the only two staff members remaining in Philadelphia. Roberta is presently ministering outside of the country, filling an urgent need in one of the ministries she was previously involved with in Africa. As the only remaining staff member, a massive burden has fallen on Hannah. The State Board would never ask her to sacrifice herself or her family for this ministry, which is what it would truly take for one person to run the entire chapter. Therefore, we have asked Hannah to step back, taking a very minimal role for now, and for her and her husband to seek the Lord's direction regarding her future involvement in CEF outside of Philadelphia.

We as a State Board are heartbroken to share these announcements with you. We don't have all the details that we wish we had, and we do not have the answers as to why the Lord has allowed this to happen. What we do know is that our *"As for God, His way is perfect,"* even in this time of uncertainty.

We are seeking God's direction for how to proceed in various aspects of this process, and we covet your prayers to that end, as well as for our staff, leadership, and the city of Philadelphia during this time of great transition and need.

For the children,

Doug Williams
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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