

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Roanoke

Fall 2023 Edition

Sharing the BEST NEWS!

Praise the LORD for providing amazing opportunities this summer for CEF to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with over 1,000 children in 5 Day Clubs and Fair Ministry! Two CYIA (Christian Youth in Action) groups held 5 Day Clubs at 2 locations: a recreation park and a neighborhood backyard. (Many thanks to Haley F. For sharing her backyard; many thanks to the Bonos, Cooks, Fredericksons, Central VA CYIA, pastors, and Ms. Davis for contributions!) Children sang and chanted songs, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back! Now that's a fact! Left sin behind. No turning back!" Boys and girls listened intently to teens who skillfully taught Bible lessons entitled, *Jesus Calms a Terrible Storm*, *Jesus Challenges a Rich Young Ruler*, *Jesus Shows Love to a Samaritan Woman*, *Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant*, *Jesus Forgives the Sin of a Paralyzed Man*. Children understood important messages that Jesus knows the sin and need of everyone, cares for us in our specific situation, and came to forgive and save us from our predicament. Jesus lets us experience a storm to show Who He Is, His indescribable power, and His Amazing Love and mercy!

Children understood the Rich Young Ruler's difficulty in laying aside his earthly possessions, preoccupations, and distractions. When Enoch, a 17-year-old teacher, summarized the story, asking, "What do you think the Rich Young Ruler decided, to lay aside his things and follow Jesus or continue his pleasurable life? What will you do? Will you trust Jesus?", a little five-year-old with blond curls and big bright eyes nodded, "Yes!" When the CYIA students were asked individually, "Why do you teach 5 Day Clubs?" the answer from each student was, "Because God commands it!" They offered secondary answers such as "it's fun!" and "you develop practical skills that you can use in all types of situations." Join these students, regardless of your age, in sharing the Best News of the Gospel with children who do not know about Jesus, who have never attended church. **Share the thrill experienced by these CYIA students of helping children and others trust Jesus for forgiveness and salvation, and have the opportunity to have a relationship with Him, now and eternally! Give of the BEST to Your Master!** Steward your health, vitality, and resource for His Honor, Glory and Praise! **Pictures include: Backyard Club, Rec Park Club, and Salvation!!**



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM LEE ALLEN, DTL

When I think of CEF, I think of **sharing** the message of God's love to children and, yes, adults as well! We have been busy **sharing** the Gospel story and the Wordless Book at the fair in July! What a privilege to **share with over 1,000 children** the amazing story of **love from our Creator**. He sent His Son that we might have eternal life if we trust in Him as Lord and Savior. The beautiful thing about our **sharing** at the fair is that there were many adults, parents, grandparents **who asked if they could hear** the story of Jesus also! We have also had the opportunity to **share** in two 5-Day Clubs this summer! A CYIA group of teens helped facilitate the clubs and sponsoring parents and grandparents **shared** their resources to make it happen!

Lastly, we have been conducting training sessions with our volunteers to **share** ways to minister to children. We thank God for our training groups and **our ever-faithful volunteers!** God is pleased by your obedience! We are encouraged with your enthusiasm and passion!

So, as we continue to **share** the love and message of Christ, please **share** with us in prayer, and support your desire for us to continue our work. We appreciate you!



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CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
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Volunteers Angie Cook and Rhonda McFalls Share “Salem Fair Booth” Experiences

What do funnel cakes, turkey legs, bull riding, and the Wordless Book bracelet have in common? The Salem Fair, of course! Each day of the fair, June 28-July 9, children were welcomed into our booth to hear the Best News Ever while making a bracelet! We discovered that **some children had never heard of Jesus and many do not attend church**. We even had one child ask, “**What’s a Bible?**” It was exciting to see parents and grandparents actively listening to the story as well!

Groups of teens would pass by the booth, giving us a great opportunity to ask if they wanted a free bracelet, allowing us to tell them the meaning of the colors, the story of salvation! They listened intently, and when asked if they wanted a tract to review what had been presented, eagerly said, “Yes!” The surprise for us was **their hunger for truth!**

When I repeatedly shared the truth of God’s love for us through the sacrifice of His precious Son, it strengthened my understanding of **how blessed I am to have received this free gift!** I was surprised by how much my love for others increased by simply sharing God’s truth with them. My spirit was lifted by being able to share this story. What I expected was rejection from those with whom we spoke. But what I found was that these people were open, even hungry, for truth.

We were blessed by the chance to share the gospel time after time with people who may never have heard what Jesus did for us! These 10 days had a significant effect on my life. Know that next year my summer will be scheduled around the Fair!



Many people think globally concerning missions, but the **Roanoke Valley is our mission field! It is our Jerusalem! Pray for those who heard the gospel to trust Jesus as their Savior!**

“...He said,... ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: **pray... that He would send forth laborers into His harvest.**”

Sharing the Good News

From the Pulpit, Bryan Ratliff, Clearbrook Baptist Church

Since the dawning of the church, the work of the gospel has been in the scope of the enemy’s opposition. **Spiritual warfare is a promise for all those who name Christ as Lord.** Ephesians 6:12 says, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” **This battle is waging over the souls of mankind, and we would do well to prepare ourselves for any attacks from the evil one when advancing the gospel to students in elementary schools.**

I was introduced to CEF in 2019 and with fervor worked to establish a Good News Club in a nearby elementary school, but our efforts were vain. In 2020, the pandemic halted our efforts. The lingering effects of the virus in 2021 stopped us again. I had just about given up on it, but with the nudging of our local coordinator, we attempted it for the 2022-23 school year. While we were still unable to use the school’s facilities, by God’s grace a club was finally established at our church! We had a community wide Easter egg hunt on our campus as a launching pad to establish a Good News Club. We had less than ten students for the club, but God often does His greatest works in smaller gatherings. **Two children trusted Jesus as Savior! Whatever opposition you are facing, don’t let it discourage you from fulfilling God’s calling of sharing the Gospel through Child Evangelism Fellowship programs!**

From Our Chairman, Clark BeCraft

Our Mission is to evangelize boys and girls with the gospel of Christ. Why? The Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:16-20. Also, the first and the second Great Commandments as stated by Jesus, recorded in Matthew 22:36-40, tell us, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind,**” and “**Love your neighbor as yourself.**” I recently listened to a sermon titled, “What is Wrong with Everybody” by John MacArthur. He was preaching from II Peter 2:5 and Ephesians 4. The sermon title was summed up with, we are all either under God’s judgement if we are ungodly or we are under God’s salvation and grace if we are righteous. This world is growing further and further away from truth and biblical principles and values. **We must reach others with the gospel! Our Salem Fair ministry and our upcoming Good News Clubs and Christmas Party Clubs are tools God has blessed us with to be able to accomplish this mission.**

This mission would not be obtainable without the financial support and prayer support of you, our supporters, and others in the community. Therefore, we are planning a dinner event for October 27, to present the ministry of CEF Roanoke, provide updates on the ministry, and raise funds to sustain the ministry. Invitations will be mailed out late August or early September. Do you have family members, friends, or co-workers that have a heart for reaching children with the gospel? There will be opportunity to invite them to join you for this event. Thank you for your support of the CEF Roanoke ministry. You are greatly valued! Coming soon: CEF Roanoke website! Stay tuned for details and the launch of this site!