

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Roanoke

Spring 2023 Edition

Give life and hope!

Charles Spurgeon said it this way, "Without faith we are without Christ and, consequently, without a Savior. It would be infinitely better to be without eyes, hearing, wealth, bread, garments, or a home rather than to be without the faith that brings everything the soul requires. Without faith we are spiritually naked, poor, miserable, lost condemned-and without a hope of escape."

"Without faith" is where we find children and their families today. While there are many systems and reasons for this plight, children who do not know about Jesus are without hope, and will experience the consequence of this dire predicament! Fortunately, our society provides an array of programs to feed, educate and meet the many needs children experience, but it ignores, or refuses to address the most significant need children have, which is the need for a relationship with God.

I am encouraged by the grandparents who have contacted the CEF office recently, interested in starting Good News Clubs (GNCs) in their grandchildren's schools! The Club will, of course, help their grandchildren grow in their relationship with God. It will ALSO provide an opportunity for the friends of the grandchildren to know Jesus. The Christian grandchildren can have Christian friends "at school, the park, the game", where ever they go! Peers influence children! Make it Christian influence! Starting a Good News Clubs is not only a great way to obediently serve the Lord in outreaching to others, it is an excellent opportunity for Christian children to be missionaries, influencing their peers, and culture for Jesus! GNCs provide the way for children who do not know Jesus realize that He sacrificed Himself, took the punishment their sin deserves, so they can have forgiveness and the opportunity for a relationship with Him right now, and in Heaven someday, eternally! A relationship with God is the heart's cry whether it is recognized as such or not. Join us in sharing hope, the Gospel, with those who have no access. Centuries earlier Jesus asked the most vital question,

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his own soul?"

THE VOLUNTEER'S MISSION

A THANKFUL HEART FROM LEE ALLEN, DTL

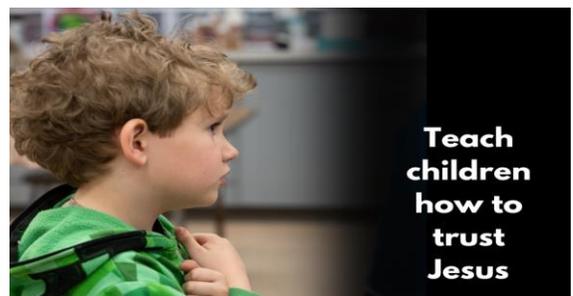
1 Corinthians 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Child Evangelism Fellowship thanks God for you, our volunteers who give of your time and energy to reach our children and lead them to Christ, our Savior. As District Team Leader of Roanoke, Virginia I have witnessed the **steadfastness** of you, our volunteers. Thanks for being faithful to minister to our children via the Good News Clubs. Thanks for offering Bible Stories, Missionary Lessons, and fun activities as you lead each week. Thanks that, even when challenges come, you are **unmovable** in your commitment to see children's lives change so that they can enter into the Kingdom of God. Please know that your work is not in vain. The Lord will bless you, our volunteer, as you continue to labor in the vineyard in order to help these "precious little ones" come to the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Thanks to each one of you! I appreciate your work! Lee Allen, DTL

A Team Leader Story from CEF Roanoke

We have a little girl who thanked us for running GNC because until GNC she had never heard about Jesus. Later this year she was on her school bus telling her friends that God created everything. A little boy said, "God is mean." She jumped right in and said, "No, he is not!" and shared the gospel with him.



Since 1937

CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Reaching children worldwide™

Auction Success! We Could Not Have Done it Without You!

Many thanks to all who donated items, baked goods, attended, bought products, and helped in any of the many other ways required to complete the auction! Special thanks to Darrell Saunders, our auctioneer, who volunteered hours over the last year to make this a success! Many, many thanks! We love you! **Wonderful contributors include:**

419 West Restaurant	Ferguson Kitchen	Home Depot 8493	McAlister's Deli	Shane Shubert
Advance Auto 13 th St	Bath & Lighting	Ikenberry Orchard	Mike & Paula Giamano	Shannon Becraft-Young L'vg
Alumni Hall VT	Hanging Rock Golf Club	Ivy Hills Golf Club	Mill Mountain Zoo	Shenandoah Baptist Church
Arvil & Bonnie Glovier	Home Depot 4609	Jaylen Richards	Montano's Int'l Gourmet	Sports Haven
Ashley Plantation	Home Depot 4624	Joe's Deli	O'Reilly Auto Parts	Sports Tavern
Becky Davis	Home Depot 4628	Julie Harman	Outdoor Power Equipment	Star City Kung Fu
Blue Hills Golf Club	Home Depot 4631	Ken's Leathercraft	Perry Distributing	Sweet Frog
Botetourt Golf Club	Home Depot 4632	Landscape Store	Pop's Ice Cream&Soda Shop	The Great 611 Steak Co.
Canale's Ham & B'bcue	Home Depot 4634	Lee Hartman & Sons	RVCS Band Boosters	Todd Hardin
Cast Plates and Pints	Home Depot 4653	Linda Cronk	Roanoke Railyard Dawgs Hockey	Tom Nestor
Cheryl Gerber	Home Depot 4654	Lisa Ratliff	Rocky Mount Tractor	Tractor Supply Vinton
Chuck E Cheese	Home Depot 4655	Lowe's Bonsack	Ron Owens	Tractor Supply Rocky Mt
Chloe Hopkins	Home Depot 4659	Luray Caverns	Salem Red Sox Baseball	Wholesale Tire, Fork Union
Darlene Long		Lydia's Italian Restaurant		Willow Creek Country Club
				Wood's Service Center

From the Pulpit, Tom Nestor, Fairmont Baptist Church

Every church has a discussion about how they can be present in their community. In a rural setting it is even more difficult to understand what the community is. Leading a Good News Club at Callaway Elementary School has provided unexpected opportunities for myself and the people of our church. Getting to know the children, parents, grandparents, teachers and the principal of the school has given us access to people that we would not have otherwise met. Establishing a reputation through the Good News Club has brought opportunities and visibility that were quite unexpected. I have had opportunity to counsel with families who were having trouble. This is because the school has come to trust myself and the people of my church because they got to know us through the Good News Club.

I received a call from the school one day saying there was a man there who had dropped off his kids and was distraught over some family matters. I was asked if I would be willing to meet with him. I said yes. He was extremely emotional and upset. Over the next several weeks I met with him. My wife and I met with him and his wife and in a short period of time we were able to work through a marriage issue that was not heading the right direction. I tried to keep in touch but did not want to be the nagging Baptist preacher so I let distance between us grow. Fast forward over a year later, that same man shows up to my house. He had gotten a job in another state and was moving in a few weeks. He wanted to thank me for helping he and his wife and said they were doing great. The family was solid and was stronger than it ever had been. I gave him a couple of leads of solid churches in the city he was moving to. I prayed with him. We said goodbye.

His family never came to my church. His kids did not come to Good News Club. But that is not why we are "in our community". The local church doesn't exist to get bigger. More kids attending Good News Club does not equal success. The opportunity to speak Bible truths into the lives of other is the call of a follower. Our relationship with the elementary school has created unexpected opportunities that reach far outside the 90 mins of our club.

Get into your community. Get into your school. Get into or start a Good News Club in the school near you.

From Our Chairman, Clark BeCraft, Join Us at the Fair!

As the school year comes to a close and Good News Clubs wrap up until the fall school season, CEF Roanoke takes this opportunity to reach out to children and their families through the Fair Ministry. After 3 years of being unable to participate we will have a booth set up at the Salem Fair in Salem, VA.

This ministry provides us with the opportunity to invite children and families attending the event into our booth to hear about God's love for us and how we can have a personal relationship with Him. This ministry has reached hundreds of children in the past so we look forward to Gospel opportunities that God places in our path during the event this summer.

The fair runs June 28th through July 9th. We are looking for individual and church group volunteers to help us greet individuals and invite them into our booth to hear the gospel presentation. Volunteer opportunities include greeters, craft helpers, activity organizers, gospel presenters, and set and take down helpers. Daytime and evening volunteer times are available.

Please join us in praying for the fair ministry for volunteers and many opportunities to present the gospel. Best wishes!