



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF READING AND BERKS COUNTY, INC.

Affiliated with CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PA, INC.

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Mr. Alan Marsdale, Interim Chairman | Mrs. Kim Tuke, Vice Chairperson | Mrs. Cindy Walters, Recorder

Mrs. Helene Hoffman, Office Coordinator | Mrs. Mary Christman, Ministry Assistant | Mrs. Sara Bowers, Administrative Assistant



Spring 2024



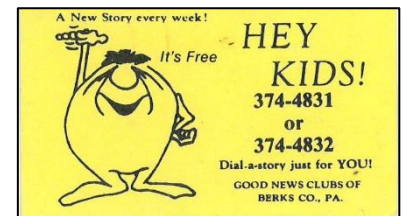
Dear Friend,



“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Harry and Lydia Hoffman (pictured left) fought the good fight and finished their course well.

On January 14, 2024, Lydia fell in her home injuring 3 ribs. Harry stuck by her side as she recovered in the hospital. However, God welcomed His faithful servant home on February 22. She served as a Good News Club teacher for 59 years, beginning in her home when her boys were small. Her last year teaching was the 2019-2020 school year. She also served on our local Committee for 33 years as well as led Craft Time at Camp for many years as well as led Craft Time at Camp for many years.

For those who knew Harry and Lydia you hardly ever saw one without the other. Our great compassionate God received them into Glory just 32 days apart. Harry served on our Committee for 61 years until his last day on March 25. He also helped his wife in Good News Club for many years after he retired as well as helped with Craft Time. Harry is also the creator of Dial-A-Story (see picture right). Their son, Mark, came across some amazing stats Harry kept from 1969-2004: 1,992,287 telephone calls received, 27,658 calls received from children either wanting to be counselled or having questions, and 11,250 decisions for Jesus! They fought the good fight for CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF READING AND BERKS COUNTY, INC., and their legacy crosses generations.



Harry had received the notice that Director Matthew Wear was leaving and moving to Lancaster County for family reasons. Here is an excerpt from his unexpected letter: *“To the men and women of CEF Berks, I want to personally thank each of you for your prayers and support over the years! What a gift it has been to proclaim the Gospel to the children of Reading and Berks County. In over four years, I have seen the faces of countless children grapple with the truths of the Gospel, whether through teaching or counseling, and it has been a glorious work in my life. However, it is now time for it to come to an end for my family and me. Therefore, I am resigning from being Director of CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF READING AND BERKS COUNTY, INC.”*

Our CEF Berks’ Committee accepted Matt’s resignation effective May 1. The 2023-2024 Good News Club season concluded on April 18. Matt, Sarah, and Ezekiel joined us at the May 4 breakfast to honor our volunteers at Rosedale Camp Grove where we asked God’s blessing on them as they began this new phase of their lives.

These events have placed our organization in a providential situation requiring us to rebuild our Committee and hire another Director. Cindy Walters has been welcomed to the Committee by the voting members. The members include Kim Tuke (Vice Chairperson), Alan Marsdale (Interim Chairman), and Helene Hoffman (Treasurer, non-voting member because she is also an employee). The search for a Director has begun, and we welcome referrals or recommendations for the position from all of you to whom this ministry is near and dear. Your Committee members welcome your questions and earnest prayers.

We know that those of you who are reading this care deeply about God's mission for us, and we anticipate that you will do all that you can to help us accomplish it. You may help through financial support, prayer support, or volunteering wherever you feel God is leading you to become involved. People's passion to reach children in Berks County with the Gospel has sustained this organization for over 70 years, and God's Word has not returned void. Your generous investments are gratefully appreciated. However, we can do more if we share our passion with people around us who can then share the blessing by joining us in one of these ways.

Nehemiah was called to rebuild Jerusalem with God's help. Please pray with us for His guidance that we may reconstruct this ministry as He would have it. As with Nehemiah, if the people who love our ministry will step up, we will successfully complete this mandate. We might envision our ministries as the gates of Jerusalem were, to be rebuilt. They are after-school Good News Clubs, Correspondence Courses, neighborhood 5-Day Clubs, and Summer Day Camp. The model of Child Evangelism Fellowship is "volunteer powered" with the training and organization directed by the staff. Nehemiah could not rebuild the gates by himself, but he directed the people concerned about protecting their children from the menacing enemy. They stepped up and accomplished it. We pray for your partnership in this service to the children for our Saviour. Thank you!

Good News Clubs

Praise Jesus we finished our 28th year of being in Elementary Schools! It was our second full year of Club since the 2018-2019 school year. We are thankful for our 28 Good News Club staff (8 new) who shared the Gospel with 273 children in our 10 Good News Clubs. Praise God for the 53 children who put their trust in Jesus! Please pray they will grow in their faith.

In addition to those 10 Good News Club, Sara Bowers also taught a monthly Bible Club for Redeemer Bible Fellowship Church at Brandywine Heights' Middle School. This Club grew from last year with 34 children enrolled from K-5th.

Please keep praying for more volunteers. Although we gained 8 new volunteers, we also lost a few. We are in need of Bible Teachers especially as well as Missionary Story Tellers, Counselors, and extra volunteers to love on the children. We provide all the material and free monthly training. Please let us know if you or someone you know would be interested.



Sara Bowers teaching the Bible Lesson at 13th and Green Elementary School in Reading, PA for her 11th year.



Allen Dawkins (new volunteer) teaching the Missionary Story at 10th and Green Elementary School in Reading, PA.

Please let us know if you:

- **are moving.**
- **would like to receive the Newsletter via email.**
- **would like to receive our bimonthly Prayer Calendar.**
- **would like to be removed from our mailing.**

You can give online or use the QR Code. Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2024. We greatly appreciate your gifts!

