

Dear Faithful Friends of CEF,

In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul says "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." As I reflect on the joys and challenges that the last year has brought for the CEF ministry, it is such a comfort to know that though in many ways it was not a "typical" year, the Lord will still use our efforts to reach the children for His glory!

For the early part of 2021, the schools were not open to us due to COVID. Though this was difficult and posed a lot of challenges, even in this we saw God at work. We are so thankful for volunteers who were willing to think outside of the box and learn new ways of ministry! Several of our teams took on the challenge of doing virtual Good News Clubs for the first time. Others sought church and community locations where they could still reach the children in person. What a privilege to still be able to offer children a safe place to come - even if it was through a screen - where they could connect with others and learn about the hope offered through the Gospel. Our children desperately needed this hope in a time of upheaval, isolation, anxiety, and grief brought on by the COVID pandemic.

As we moved toward summer 2021, we rejoiced to see more opportunities begin opening up for inperson ministry again. This year, we made some changes to our Christian Youth in Action program and focused on training youth in local churches to do summer ministry with their local congregation, making 5 Day Club an outreach opportunity for their church! We had the opportunity to train 5 CYIA missionaries from St. George Baptist Church in Orangeburg who reached over 40 children with the Gospel in their 5 Day Club and saw 7 of those children trust in Christ as Savior!

Summer also brought us the opportunity to hold 5 Day Clubs in coordination with our partnering churches, some in new locations! New clubs were held at First Baptist Church in Olar and at the Freedom School in Orangeburg. We also returned to Bethune-Bowman Elementary School in Bowman and Camp Summers & Manget in Cameron for 5 Day Clubs!

This fall, it has been so encouraging to see opportunities open up for even more in-person ministry. Though things started slowly due to the COVID Delta variant, we are so excited that there are currently 9 Good News Clubs operating either in the schools, in community locations, or virtually. Several others are scheduled to start in January. Not all of the schools have reopened for afterschool programs, but God is making a way for us to reach the children! Most of our clubs are seeing higher than normal enrollment, and I can personally share with you what a joy it has been to see these little ones excited and ready to learn in Good News Club each week.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching a new year, but we look forward in great anticipation to how the Lord will continue to provide opportunities to share hope with the children in the coming year! As we end this year, would you consider joining us in taking the Gospel to the children through a year end gift to CEF Orangeburg/Lower Savannah District? Our goal is to raise \$8,000 to give more children the opportunity to hear the Gospel and be discipled through Good News Clubs and 5 Day Clubs in 2022. We rejoice in what God is doing. Thank you in advance for helping make this possible!

In Him,

Ellen Hucks

Ellen P Hucks

Local Director, CEF Orangeburg/Lower Savannah District