



Rejoice!

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Faithful Friends of CEF,

In the book of Philippians, Paul calls the believers in Philippi to "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice." The *ESV Study Bible* says this about this verse: "The joy that Paul calls for is not a happiness that depends on circumstances, but a deep contentment that is in the Lord, based on trust in the sovereign, living God, and that therefore is available always, even in difficult times." In spite of a different and challenging year, God has given us many reasons to rejoice in Him and His work here in Orangeburg, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Calhoun Counties! We want to share them with you so that you can praise God with us for His faithfulness this year!

First, this year we **rejoice that nearly 1,000 children** heard the Gospel through CEF Good News Clubs, 5 Day Clubs, and one-time party clubs. We **rejoice that 39 of those children trusted in Jesus as their Savior!** Praise God for these children who now have a relationship with the true and living God!

Secondly, this year we are **rejoicing in new opportunities** to train children's ministry workers and reach children through virtual learning environments! This spring, we held a virtual webinar designed to equip workers to follow up with their Good News Club children and their families during the time we could not physically meet together. This summer, CYIA Training School was held virtually with instructors and students across South Carolina. This fall, we were able to virtually train volunteers to reach children through online Good News Clubs until we are able to meet in-person again.

Next, we **rejoice in the faithful service of over 150 volunteers** who served during the 2019-2020 school year, many of whom are working to begin Good News Clubs for the current school year as well. We currently have two online Good News Clubs running that serve three of our local schools, with several others scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. We also have an in-person community club scheduled to begin this week. Our summer Christian Youth in Action students have remained active this fall as well, teaching an in-person 5 Day Club in September & October, with plans to hold a Christmas party club in early December! We praise God for each volunteer who is seeking to find ways to continue reaching the children this school year!

Finally, we **rejoice in God's financial provision** for our CEF Chapter. Our needs have consistently been met this year through the faithful giving of God's people to the ministry. We are so grateful for each of our ministry partners who has enabled us to continue the work to which God has called us!

As we approach the end of 2020 and the beginning of a new year, we look forward with great anticipation for the ways that the Lord will continue to allow us to reach children in 2021! As we do so, you can be a part of taking the Gospel to the children in our ministry area through your year end gift to CEF. A gift of **\$40** would allow one child to hear a Gospel-centered Bible lesson each week in Good News Club. A gift of **\$80** would provide one year of Good News Club for two children, allowing saved children to be disciplined weekly by trained teachers who can teach them how they can grow in Christ. A gift of **\$120** would provide one year of Good News Club for three children, allowing them to come to a safe place afterschool to hear the Gospel and learn what Scripture says about the problems that they face in their daily lives. Your gift can have tremendous kingdom impact! Our goal is to raise \$6,400 toward accomplishing our mission in 2021.

Thank you in advance for your partnership that will allow boys and girls to hear of the hope found only in Christ!

Merry Christmas!

Ellen Hucks, Local Director
CEF Orangeburg/Lower Savannah District