

Ministry Newsletter

for Child Evangelism Fellowship of Arkansas, Southwest Region

Winter 2023



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™

Child Evangelism
Fellowship of
Arkansas,
Southwest Region

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The purpose of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® (CEF)® is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, to disciple them in the Word of God, and to establish them in a local church for Christian growth.

The Southwest region includes Clark, Garland, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Pike, and Sevier counties.

All children's photos are used with permission.

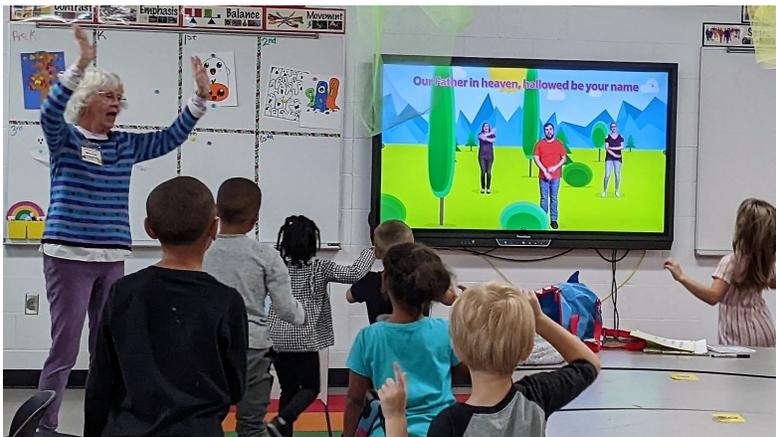
Taking the Gospel Outside the Walls of the Church

"I've been to church...once." "We don't go to church because our grandma can't take us anymore." "I wish I could go to church." So many children we talk with want to be in church learning about God, but don't have anyone to take them. They are spiritually hungry and eager to learn more about God and His Word. While in-church children's ministries are important, it's also important to find ways to reach children outside the walls of the church. Our *Good News Club*® programs are designed to do just that!

"I love *Good News Club*—as wiggly as the children are, when a question is asked several of them can answer the question. These children come from a day in school and are ready to get their wiggles out, but their minds are still engaged and willing to learn something new." - Children's Director and *Good News Club* volunteer



Good News Club is a great tool to help your church reach your community with the Gospel. Clubs run for an hour to an hour and a half, once a week, for six to twelve weeks per semester (it's up to the church). Each club includes songs, games, a memory verse, teaching about Christian growth, and a Bible lesson. The Gospel is presented clearly and at a child's level. We currently have clubs meeting at a Boys and Girls Club, a YMCA, and a public school after school care. One local church has sponsored a *Good News Club* since April 2021. In that time church members have shared Jesus with 105 different children. The majority of those children had never come to any event or outreach on the church property, but the church was able to go to them through *Good News Club*!



"I really enjoyed being a part of witnessing to these young ones. It was wonderful to see the children listen and respond so well."
- *Good News Club* volunteer

For more information about how your church can use a *Good News Club* to impact families in your community, contact Esther at cefswa@gmail.com or 712-899-9695.

Volunteer Spotlight: Gabi Wilson

Gabi is a high school student. She got started in CEF by attending *Christian Youth in Action*® Training School for teens in 2021, and since then has helped teach children in *Good News Club*, summer *5-Day Club*®, Christmas Party Club, and Gospel face painting.

Why did you get involved with CEF? *I just wanted to be able to interact with kids and teach them the Gospel so they can know the happiness I feel.*

What do you like about it? *How the kids look up to you and after the first day are excited to see you. It's impacted me to see how kids think about things—in such a creative way. It's cool to listen to them and talk with them because they really want to know about God.*

What's your favorite club element? *The Bible lesson.*

"It's important to teach kids because I want them to know more about Jesus and how to know Him deeper."



What did you like about CYIA (Christian Youth in Action)? *I really liked how they went into detail about everything. I learned that friends are important and met new friends there.*

Attention Teens and Young Adults!

Do you want to build Christian friendships, grow in leadership, and learn how to effectively share the Gospel message? *Christian Youth In Action (CYIA)* equips teens to share the Gospel and work with children. At CYIA you will learn new ministry skills, grow in confidence, and be prepared to teach a fun and evangelistic *5-Day Club*. Your team will then reach children with the Gospel through *5-Day Club* ministry. Application deadline is May 15. Contact Esther at CEF of Arkansas at cefswa@gmail.com, or 712-899-9695.

CYIA Training School June 12-17
www.cefark.com/cyia

Opportunities to Share Jesus

God has given us wonderful opportunities to share the Gospel with children throughout the year. Last summer we taught several *5-Day Clubs* (a weeklong, one and a half hour per day club), using games, Bible lessons, and other activities to teach children about Jesus. Children also love face painting, and we were able to share the Gospel while face painting with children at three different community events.



Hot Springs: Community Resource Fair



Malvern: Brickfest

On the last day of *5-Day Club*, two of the children were very sincere and persistent about needing to talk about believing on Jesus. When I counseled them individually, both said they believed that Jesus died for them but had never accepted His gift of salvation or asked him to take away their sins. They each decided to go off their own to pray. When the little boy was done he came back to me with his face lit up with joy. I asked, "What did God do for you?" He replied, "He cleaned me from my sin." Praise God for His gift of salvation!

In December we planned a "Community Christmas Party" in Malvern. The school district allowed us to distribute the party invitation to the intermediate and elementary schools, and the library let us use their teen room. The children had fun and were eager to talk and learn about Jesus coming to earth and how He paid for sins on the cross. They were excited to find out that the gift bags we gave them included a Gospel of John so they could continue to read about Jesus at home.

