



Child Evangelism Ministries

September 2020 Newsletter
Reaching boys and girls for Jesus in Elkhart
and LaGrange Counties 1949-2020.



My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1: 2-4 NKJV

A “surprise” reunion of former Summer Missionaries at Peoples Bible Church VBS in July: Back row, L to R: Micah Breneman, Sarah Zentz Lang, Baby Caleb, Linda Reiniche, Director, Madison Lehman. Front row, L to R: Hannah Scott, Patty Penner, Baby Joshua, Sadie Breneman, Hannah Bontrager, Laura Mullen. Isn't it a praise to God for believers of all ages to share the Gospel together?! Are these baby boys future summer missionaries?!

Count It All Joy!

With our summer ministry completed, our thoughts and hopes returned to our school year “mission fields” wondering if Happy Day Clubs could or would be welcomed back into our public schools. After our 19 clubs closed abruptly last March due to CO-VID 19, our leadership, Board, and 80 volunteers prayed hopefully for a possible return this school year, but that looks very unlikely for this present time. How are we to “count it all joy” when the doors of return are closed? During a recent CEM Board meeting, Pastor John Randolph shared an encouraging message from Scripture that blessed and encouraged our hearts to keep being faithful and fruitful during this “unjoyful” time! May you be encouraged to live in joy from his message!

“Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a prison, which is worse than our home-detentions today, yet he expressed “joy” in chapters 1:4, 18, 25; 2:2, 17, 18, 28; 3:1; 4:1, 4, 10. Paul talks about “the peace of God which passeth all understanding” in in 4:7. Unfortunately we beg for “the peace which we can understand”, i.e., like it used to be, before COVID-19 or whatever inconvenience. God wants to do so much more and this hour may be our “Gideon moment” when our supposed lack of resources and conveniences can showcase His power. May God grow His church and our ministry now, like never before!”

On August 27th and 28th our Lead Teachers that oversee each one of our 19 Happy Day Clubs will have met to pray and pursue how our ministry can grow with joy, like never before. Since the schools are closed we are exploring:



- Notes or letters written periodically by the club's volunteers to Happy Day Clubbers that attended our 19 clubs last year.
- Making each school where we held club a “mission field”. Our Happy Day Club teaching teams can undertake prayer coverage for the school personnel and deliver “blessings” as acts of encouragement for principals, teaching and service staffs as they teach kids during this chaotic time.
- Seeking alternative places to hold Happy Day Clubs! Our minds and hearts are buzzing with enthusiasm for what God will do as we are “reaching boys and girls for Jesus”.
- Our online presence through childevan.org will soon host Bible lessons, missionary stories and wholesome activities for kids and families—please continue to “cheer us on” as we serve our Savior!

CEM's longtime friend and supporter, Art Smith, went home to be with His Lord on August 11th. Art willingly served the Lord through CEM at every level from our Board to Advisory Board to everyday work completed with his servant heart. Repairs? Art was there. Difficult decisions? Art was there. Godly counsel? Art was there. While we miss his “working hands” and “happy” heart, we are so very blessed that he is with his Lord Jesus, knowing that he is there.

Count it all joy to serve the Lord in TOGO, West Africa

John Parsons Reporting

Things in TOGO continue to be difficult for our team and their families. The amount of COVID-19 cases continue to rise, but on a positive note, the death rate continues to remain low. Our men remain in a "holding pattern" as they wait for churches to reopen. For now, we are waiting for the Pastors to tell us when we can come and present Vacation Bible School in their churches. Nothing seems "certain" at this present time. Schools are scheduled to reopen on the 25th of October. At that time we will be in contact with the School Directors to see if and when we can begin to conduct Happy Day Clubs.

Please continue to pray for our men and their families. The struggle to find food and being able to afford it is very real. Prices have continued to climb and the exchange rate from dollars to francs is dropping significantly making the struggle even harder for our men.

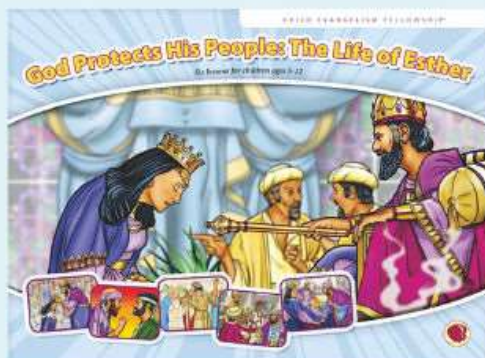
Our men and their families are safe and all are well, for that we are thankful and give God glory. Thank you for your prayers and support.



Getting the message out! Anna McCavitt, daughter of CEM Board members Matt and Gretchen McCavitt, is hoping for the soon return of Happy Day at York Elementary School! Help Anna and all children in Elkhart and LaGrange Counties and TOGO, West Africa, by praying for CEM as we seek God's creative ways to keep "reaching boys and girls for Jesus!"

As we hopefully prepare to conduct clubs during unexpected places and times rather than in the schools, we become more aware of our needy mission field--the kids we reach. This summer our hearts ached for kids who confided the bullying situations that they encounter at school, from other kids, and, sometimes, at home. One little girl tearfully confided that because her "family" has 2 moms and because she is bi-racial, she is open for bullying and rejection from classmates. Jill Leiter, HDC teacher from Pinewood HDC during 2019-2020, recently wrote: "I think more than ever there are kids getting into trouble with so much time at home—substance abuse, evil content on devices, bad relationships developing merely because of availability and loneliness."

The Gospel is needed now more than ever! Please continue to pray for our mission, places to teach, and for the children that need Jesus! God is faithful!



Our anticipated beginning teaching series is very timely for our club kids: "God Protects His People: The Life of Esther". We are teaching as the doors of opportunity open—"for such a time as this."



A timely teaching series for those children who sense fear and rejection during our uncertain times: "God's Love: Hope for the Outcast". This new series will hopefully be taught in our Happy Day Clubs!



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CEM is a non-profit ministry existing for the purpose of reaching children for Jesus. All gifts are tax deductible.