

JUNE

SUMMER GREETINGS

2024



Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" – Isaiah 6:8 NASB

Summer is here! At CEF of Connecticut and Rhode Island, that means our Good News Clubs are ending as the school year ends. It also means that summer ministry activities are ramping up!

For CEF, summer ministry starts with Christian Youth in Action, or CYIA. During CYIA, we train teens and college aged students to reach the boys and girls of our communities with the Good News of Jesus. This year, our theme verse for CYIA is Isaiah 6:8, known as the commissioning of Isaiah. These young people are answering God's call, just like Isaiah!

Whether you support us in prayer, as a volunteer, or with your finances, we thank you for being a part of the CEF family as we seek to reach children in every community of Connecticut and Rhode Island with the Good News of Jesus. We simply could not do this without you! Praise God for His work in your hearts!

In His Grace,
Alan





Christian Youth in Action is a CEF program designed to train high school and college aged students to reach the boys and girls of our communities with the Good News of Jesus. From June 21-30, CEF of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Vermont will jointly conduct this training for 23 young people at Camp Marion in Marion, MA. Many of these young people will conduct ministry throughout the summer through 5-Day Clubs and other events. We are thankful for several new volunteers and the involvement of Vermont this year! We ask for your prayers for our staff and the students as we train and disciple these young believers in Christ.



So where does all the CYIA training lead? After camp, many of these young people spend their summer teaching in Vacation Bible Schools, 5 Day clubs, and Party Clubs in their communities. If you are interested in having a club in your area, please contact me at alan@cefri.org or 860-464-4391.



Throughout the school year, we had 123 volunteers answer God's call to serve in Good News Clubs across Connecticut and Rhode Island. As a result, nearly 350 children were able to participate in these after school Bible clubs each week, hearing about Jesus's love for them. We praise God for all our volunteers and wish them a peaceful summer, and we look forward to their return as the school year resumes in the fall!

A testimony from one of our Good News Club volunteers:

I was a little apprehensive when Matthew's mother emailed me that she wanted to sign him up for Good News Club. That's because Matt had lots of behavior problems in school, and I wasn't sure that our small group of volunteers would be able to handle his behavior. But knowing that our God is all-powerful, I contacted his mom, and we worked out a plan for him to join us; his mom would be at the school in case there were any problems.

Jesus left the ninety-nine to find the one; so, Matt was going to be the special one that we would go after! I started asking everyone to pray for Matt: the club volunteers, the CEF of Connecticut Board members, Christian friends...everyone who asked how they could pray for our club. I prayed that God would intervene and transform this child's life, and that his teachers at school would see God's power at work.

As Matt began attending the club, he kept himself at a distance from the other kids. He sat in the back; he watched but didn't participate. He came in, ate his snack, and listened. But his mother said that he would teach her the whole lesson in the car on the way home! And to my surprise, we saw none of the behaviors that his schoolteachers described! His mother did not even need to be at the school after the first few weeks. Our club used "punch cards" to recognize appropriate behavior. When children were caught behaving well, they would earn a hole punch, and when all the holes were punched, the child would get a prize. Matt started earning punches and prizes quickly!

As time went on, Matt started raising his hand and answering lesson questions from his spot in the back of the room. Then he started sitting closer to the group. After a few months, he was completely participating in the activities even if he chose to sit a short distance away. After five months in Good News Club, Matt made a profession of faith and accepted Jesus as his Savior!

During our last week of club for the year, Matt assisted during the lesson about the armor of God. He proudly held the lesson flashcard with a man on it, and Velcro-ed each piece of armor on the flashcard as we read about it from Ephesians 6. He went from isolating himself in the back of the room to helping the teacher in just six months.

All the praise goes to the Lord, and thanks to the people who faithfully prayed for Matt. Not once did we ever have a behavior issue with him during Good News Club. Watching this child calmly learning about Jesus, participating in the club activities, and making a profession of faith truly shows that God is working through the Good News Clubs in our public schools!

Praise in Connecticut!

We are ending the school year with nine active Good News Clubs in Connecticut. There are five clubs in Norwich, two in Torrington, and a club each in Lebanon and North Stonington. These clubs have a total of 176 children registered, and 50 children have professed a faith in Jesus as their Savior during the school year!

A special thanks to our volunteers from Preston City Bible Church, Revelation Church in Bozrah, Harvest Baptist Church in New Hartford, North Stonington Bible Church, and Norwich Worship Center for serving on these teams!

Please pray for our efforts as we work with churches throughout the state to establish Good News Clubs in new districts so that we can reach children in every community in Connecticut!

How can you help?

- **Pray** – please pray that our ministries will reach many children in both states, and that many will believe in Christ as their Savior.
- **Volunteer** – most of CEF's ministry is done by volunteers. Do you have a heart for sharing the Gospel with children? Or would you just like to use your skills and gifts to help the ministry? Please reach out to us at alan@cefri.org or 860-464-4391.
- **Give** – Please prayerfully consider a gift to CEF of CT or RI.
 - ♦ For just \$10 a month, you can cover our costs for one child to participate in a Good News Club.
 - ♦ For \$200 per month, you can support our ongoing work starting up more Good News Clubs and training volunteers.
 - ♦ For \$400 you can provide the funds for a teen to attend CYIA® next summer in 2025.

Praise in Rhode Island!

We are ending the school year with ten active Good News Clubs in Rhode Island. These clubs reach children in ten public elementary schools in five districts in Rhode Island (Coventry, Chariho, Providence, South Kingstown, and Burrillville). We also have a middle school Bible club (a J-You Connection Club) in one of the schools in the Coventry district. These clubs have a total of 173 children registered, and 18 children have professed a faith in Jesus as their Savior during the school year!

We also continued a very special club we conduct with the Providence Campus Evangelistic Fellowship which includes kids from the Providence area as well as several children who join via Zoom from a restricted country!

A special thanks to our volunteers from Curtis Corner Baptist Church in South Kingstown, Iglesia Vida Abundante in Providence, Knotty Oak Baptist Church in Coventry, New Hope Baptist Church in Pascoag, Perryville Bible Church in South Kingstown, and Wood River Baptist Church in Richmond for serving on these teams!

Thank you for being a part of our CEF of Connecticut and Rhode Island family. May God bless you and your family as we look forward to a beautiful New England summer!

*In His Grace,
Alan Snow*

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