

CEF NORCAL CENTRAL COAST

Serving Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties since the 1960's

Every Child. Every Nation. Every Day.

Winter 2021

Planting Seeds for the Kingdom

What an amazing time we had on October 15th at our annual Fundraising Banquet & Ministry Update! From the delicious BBQ to the fun photo booth, it was an excellent evening to gather and hear what God is doing in and through our ministry and where He is leading us.

Keynote speaker, Tammy Beers, shared with us why the time is now to get involved in CEF's life-changing ministry.

Of course, **the highlight of the evening was hearing children from our Seaside Club sing and recite bible verses that proclaimed that God will never leave them and that He is their helper.**

Thank you to each and everyone one of you who came and contributed to our ministry through your prayers, time and funds. We could not do this ministry without you, and honestly, we don't want to do it without you!

"Because children already have a realization of their weakness, is this not the best opportunity to apply the Gospel to their hearts?"

-Matt Chandler

From The Mouth of a Little Theologian

Here's an actual question that a 7-year-old girl asked at a Good News Club recently:

"What happened to the Israelites who knew and loved God in the Old Testament? Did they get to go to heaven even though they believed in God before Jesus came?"



The children's choir and skits at our Banquet

From the Director's Desk

What was your favorite costume growing up? I remember being Punky Brewster and loving every second of it! I know that not everyone celebrates Halloween, but I want



to tell you how God recently used CEF to help redeem an otherwise dark holiday. On Sunday the 31st, three team members went to a local church and teamed up with their Trunk or Treat event. Prior to COVID, they had around 100 kids show up — this year over 250 kids and their parents came! Despite there being some very exciting games to our left and a huge bounce house to our right, **kids were drawn in by the simple question “Do you want to make a bracelet and learn about Jesus?”** Very few said no and we had so many kids come over that we actually ran out of bracelets! One highlight was a little girl dressed up as a princess, who learned that God made her and loves her. We then showed her John 1:12 to prove it. **Her face lit up and her eyes sparkled when she heard that she was a Daughter of the King; a true princess!** We are thankful to be able to bring the Hope and Truth of Jesus to our neighbors.

From the Assistant's Desk

Sharing the Gospel at the Trunk or Treat was intimidating for me, especially because I'm a newer Believer. **Beforehand, I prayed for boldness and courage and saw God answer my prayers through the interactions I had with numerous children.** One person stuck in my mind afterwards; an older woman who was standing by and listening. Her face started out quite serious but by the end of the Gospel presentation, her face was filled with joy. Praise God that His message is for all and that He uses us to share it!



Admin Assistant:
Destiny Juarez

The Battle Belongs to the Lord!

God is moving in amazing ways! Please join us in giving the Lord praise & praying for our ministry.

PRAISES:

- A team has been raised up in Watsonville and will be starting a backyard Good News Club soon!
- More churches and pastors are wanting to partner with us than ever before. This will inevitably mean new Clubs and more kids hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

REQUESTS:

- Please pray for our first ever youth retreat (CYIA) that we will be hosting in February. Pray that many youth will come and be equipped to share the Gospel with others. For more details, see the story on the back cover of this newsletter.



Kids enjoying the photo booth at the Banquet

Come See Us at Streets of Bethlehem

We are excited to team up with First Baptist Salinas at their annual Christmas outreach. If you've never been to "Streets", this is the year to come!

They have an interactive nativity scene, complete with camels and other live animals. CEF will be there, using Wordless Book bracelets to share the Gospel.

Please invite your friends, both church & unchurched, to join you in hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Streets of Bethlehem runs from December 2-5 from 6-8pm at 1130 San Vicente Drive in south Salinas.



Backyard Missionary

During Good News Clubs, we often share a Missionary Story and tell kids that they can be missionaries right where they are and that they don't have to go abroad to serve Jesus with their lives. We challenge them to bring their friends to Club and give them a bag of M&Ms when they do — we tell them that M&M stands for "Mighty Missionary"!

God puts us in our communities, families and neighborhoods as ambassadors for Him. This year, we continue to be unable to host Clubs at local schools, so we are holding them at churches and at private homes and backyards. **Is this a way that you could help us continue to reach kids with the Gospel?**

We have specific needs in the following places:

- Pacific Grove
- Santa Cruz
- Gonzales

Maybe you're the house on the street where all the elementary kids flock to after school or you have a home that is located close to a school or community center. **When you see those kids walking by, perhaps you think "I wish they knew about Jesus"**. Here's an evangelism opportunity you may have been seeking. If you are able to host, you can decide how involved you get in the Club — you're welcome to help with the snack or the songs or the teaching, or you can just sit back and enjoy the kids using your space.

Is God calling you to be a "Mighty Missionary" by opening up your home to a Good News Club team? If so, please contact Becca at 831-975-6553 or becca.lamont@cefnorcal.org. We can even throw in a bag of M&Ms for you!

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Christian Youth Retreat!

Do you know a young person (12-18 years old) who has a desire to learn more about how to share their faith? We have a great opportunity to plug them in to our first ever **Christian Youth In Action retreat on February 19-21** (President's Day weekend). They will play games, eat lots of food, meet like-minded kids from other local churches and most importantly, **learn how to share the Gospel with people in their lives.**



More details will follow soon, but for now, be sure to mark your calendars and tell the youth and young adults in your life about this great opportunity to grow closer to Jesus and become a witness for Him!

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Central Coast Board:



L-R: Hailee Kile, Andria Cutler, April Kobayashi & Kris Diaz

Central Coast Staff:



Becca Lamont & Destiny Juarez