



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF READING AND BERKS COUNTY, INC.

Affiliated with CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PA, INC.
1307 Good Street, Reading, PA 19602 | 610-374-4634 | berkscounty@cefepa.net
Mrs. Sara Bowers, Director | Mr. Matthew Wear, Assistant Director
Mrs. Mary Christman, Ministry Assistant | Mrs. Helene Hoffman, Office Coordinator



Dear Friends,

*"And the things that thou hast heard of me ... commit **[pass the torch on]** thou to faithful men [and women], who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).*



Rachel Joy Scott
(1981-1999)

During Rachel Joy Scott's funeral, which was broadcasted on CNN, Pastor Bruce Porter said, "Rachel **carried a torch—a torch** of Truth, **a torch** of compassion, **a torch** of love, **a torch** of the Good News of Jesus Christ her Lord, of whom she was not ashamed—even in her hour of death. I want to lay a challenge before each and every one of you young people here today: **The torch has fallen** from Rachel's hand. Who will pick it up again?" As a response many people, those attending the funeral and those watching at home, stood up signifying they would **pick up Rachel's torch**. Nine months later, at the age of 13, Sara (Atwood) Bowers heard Rachel's testimony, put her trust in Jesus, and in doing so **picked up Rachel's fallen torch**.



This idea of **passing the torch** can be seen throughout Scripture. Moses **passed the torch** to Joshua (**Deuteronomy 31:1-8**). Jesus **passed the torch** to His disciples (**Matthew 28:19-20**). Paul passed the torch to Timothy, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me ... commit thou to faithful men [and women], who shall be able to teach others also."*



After 30 years of service, Linda Ruth (pictured left) **passed the torch** of directorship to Sara and now after 10 years of service Sara is **passing the torch** onto Matthew Wear at the close of this year. In January, Sara will transition to working one day a week as our Administrative Assistant. This will allow her to be home more with her children and enable her to **pass the Gospel torch** onto them. (Please read the enclosed letter from Sara.)



Carrying the torch of the Gospel to Berks County's children is not a small task. The Alpha Generation in which we teach are biblically ignorant not even knowing what a cross is. It is predicted that this generation will have no living relative who has been to church or know who Jesus is. However, predictions are not set in stone. They can change. Will you join us in **carrying this torch** to the Alpha Generation by praying, giving, or volunteering? One of the children we reach may be the next Rachel Joy Scott who will **pass the Gospel torch** to thousands. What an exciting thought and how exciting to be a part of something bigger than us!

Carrying the torch of the Gospel to the children,
Sara, Helene, Mary, and Matt



Ministry Finances

Your giving enables us to **pass the Gospel torch** onto the children through Clubs, Camps, VBSs, Trunk or Treats, Sunday School Classes, Chapels, and other opportunities. We are thankful for the many who have given towards the \$6 for 6 Campaign to help with our deficit!

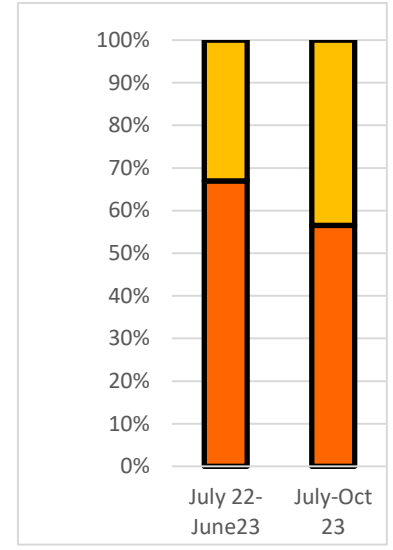
Last fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023) we met 67% of our expenses. The 33% deficit (almost \$57,000) was met via a bequest given in 2019. So far this fiscal year (July 2023-October 2023), we have met 57% of our expenses. Passing the Gospel torch costs. Will you prayerfully consider giving a year-end gift to help with this 43% deficit?

We have listed our current greatest needs on our response sheet. Please designate your gift to one of these. If the need you request has already been met, we will call you for your next preference. Please note that our General Fund aids with utilities, supplies, maintenance, and other general expenses. Also, we tithe 10% of our General Fund to our Headquarters in Harrisburg to help them with **passing the Gospel torch**. All gifts are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to CEF Berks.

IRS Tax Exemption Update
 We had been under our State Headquarters' federal tax exemption. However, there will no longer be group exemptions. Therefore, our CPA filed our paperwork mid-June. Please pray the IRS' approval letter arrives soon. Would you consider giving towards this \$1,600 need?



You can give online or use the QR Code.



Our Assistant Director

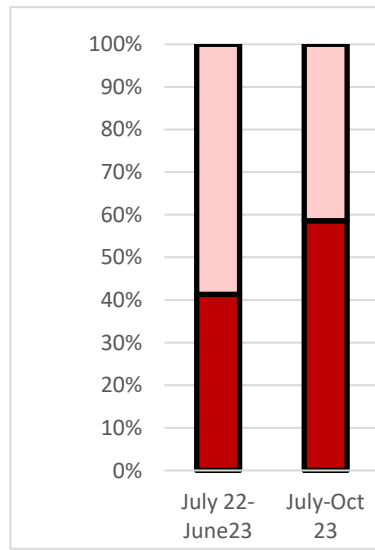


Wear Family Outing in September

Matt **picked up the Gospel torch** 8 years ago when he trusted in Christ as his Saviour. He has been **passing the Gospel torch** onto the children in Berks for 4 years as our Assistant Director. He believes that children are the world's most unreached people group. Matt loves street evangelism but says that sharing the Gospel in a Club or at a Camp with children is more profitable. He is looking forward to meeting with pastors and networking to make known the need to **pass the Gospel torch** to the children.



Ezekiel turned 1 on August 15. He loves to make noise, eating carrots and potatoes, reading books with Mommy, and having fun with Daddy.



With your help, Matt reached 41% of his support last fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023). As of the end of October, Matt is at 59% of his support. Praise God for this increase! He is thankful to those who support him and his family so he can continue doing what he loves, sharing the Gospel with children. If you have not already, will you join Matt's support team?

Please let us know if:

- you are moving.
- would like to receive the Newsletter via email.
- would like to receive our bi-monthly Prayer Calendar.
- would like to be removed from our mailings.



5-Day Clubs and Good News Mini Camp



One of our new 5-Day Club hostesses was excited because the children in her neighborhood are unchurched. She invited them to VBS and most came but there was one boy, Ashton, who did not want anything to do with God. She was thrilled that he came every day except Friday as he had another commitment! He is pictured to the right in the front row wearing a white shirt. Her son has befriended Ashton, and they continue to be a witness to him. On one of the days another boy inquired about a Bible and all the other children except our hostess' two children wanted one, even Ashton.



This sweet girl pictured to the left, Abigail, told Mr. Matt at the very end of Craft Time at a VBS that she wanted Jesus to be her Saviour. He told her he would talk to her the next day since it was pick-up time. The next day her brother bursted in and said, "Guess what? My sister asked Jesus to be her Saviour with our Mom!" Pictured to the right is Mr. Matt following up to confirm her understanding. Her smile says it all. It was a nice surprise when Sara saw Abigail, her Mom, and her brother at Bible Study Fellowship one Monday night. How encouraging to see her growing in her relationship with Christ!



Mini Camp Week 2



Mini Camp week 4: One of these girls exclaimed, "This is better than VBS!"



Playing Gospel Match at 5-Day Club



Mini Camp Week 4: Everyone ate cake for Ezekiel's birthday.



M trusted in Jesus last summer. Pray for her as she is unable to go to church.



Mini Camp Week 3: Mary taught about David Brainerd.

Campers are interviewed by a trained counselor.



Good News Clubs

We are thankful for our 3 Staff and 25 volunteers (5 new) who are passing the Gospel torch onto the children attending our 10 Good News Clubs!

Give God praise for the 257 children enrolled in Good News Club! Give God even more praise for the 16 children who picked up the Gospel torch by trusting in Jesus as their Saviour! Without volunteers we would not be able to reach as many children.

Give God praise for our volunteers who are willing to sacrifice time and energy so the children can hear the Truth! A few of our Clubs have large numbers which means next year we will need to offer 2 Clubs at those schools which means more volunteers will be needed. Will you pray with us for God to supply more committed volunteers wanting to pass on the Gospel torch?

On the first day of Club from a returning student, "I missed you!"

10th and Green



"This is the best Club ever!"

13th and Green



Sara recieved an email from a boy she had in Club ten years ago: "Just wanted to reach out to thank you for everything you did for me back when I was a rascal! You helped me develop a love for Christ."



New volunteer, Allen Dawkins, telling the Missionary Story.

Amanda Stout



"I always wanted a Bible and now my dream came true!" (Gian)

Tyson Schoener



Isaac brings his Bible every week.