

## **A Letter From Our Director, Sara Bowers**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Andy and I have done a lot of praying since the beginning of this year, and God has made it very clear that I am to step down as Director. I love this ministry which has made this decision difficult. God took me through a long journey to help me see that my most important mission field is at home. My heart is still for the children specifically in Berks County, but God has reminded me that my children need to come first.



**Glick's  
Greenhouse**

In the beginning of the year as I prayed, God confirmed that the ministry of CEF will always be a part of my life. That was the calling He placed on my heart while I was at Summer Missionary Training School in 2007 using **Philippians 1:6**, "*Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*" As I prayed about that verse after Chapel, I knew God wanted me to be more involved with CEF. Little did I know that would lead me to working part-time in the Philly CEF Office while finishing college and then full-time there as a Field Worker after graduation and then bringing me home to be the Director in Berks County ten years ago. God confirmed my involvement in CEF early this year by having my ministry verse (**Philippians 1:6**) show up everywhere, and I mean everywhere. The same thing happened Junior year of College as I prayed about being a missionary with CEF or being a public-school teacher.

Although God confirmed my involvement, He impressed upon my heart the need to be home with my children. My family has been great watching them while I am at the office or out teaching, but God has not called them to raise my children. That is my and Andy's responsibility, our calling. God has made that very clear to us. We are to raise our children, not extended family, which means I need to be home more.

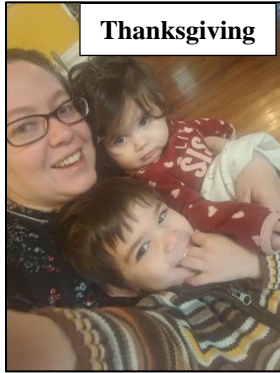
At Summer Missionary Training School this Summer during Chapel, Doug reminded us that our calling does not change and mine has not. God called me to be involved with CEF, and I will continue to be involved; however, I cannot continue in the capacity I am now as Director as I need to be home with my children. God is not changing my calling, but He has changed my assignment.



**Counseling as a  
Summer Missionary  
in Berks County  
(2005-2008)**

I have fought God hard on this since Spring. CEF is all I have ever known since 2005, and I LOVE it. Nothing gives me more joy than teaching children and training others to do the same. I talk about ministry with everyone I meet. But God has reminded me that I am no longer single. He has called me to wifehood and motherhood which must come first. I have heard of many people in ministry whose families are neglected for the sake of ministry. My most important mission field is at home which is why I must step down as Director. I will continue to teach a Good News Club and help with Teacher Training Classes and Camp. I will help Matthew anyway I can in the transition because I love this ministry.

**OVER**



**Thanksgiving**

Stepping down from full-time ministry after 14 years terrifies me since it is all I have ever known but God has given me so much peace now that I have finally surrendered to God's reassignment, motherhood. Excitement has begun to bubble up inside over the thought of pouring into my two precious children which God has entrusted to me and Andy and, Lord willing, He will add more arrows to our quiver. I am indebted to CEF who has equipped me to evangelize and disciple my own children who are a part of the Alpha Generation, the same generation as the children in our Clubs. This



**Setting off fireworks for Paul's birthday**

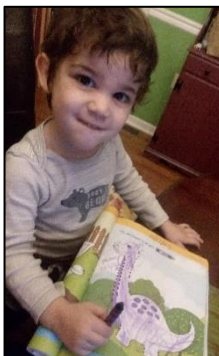
generation is in dire need of biblically strong parents laying the foundation for their children so they can stand firm in the faith when their peers are biblically ignorant.

Thank you for your faithful support of me through the years! You have been such a blessing to me, and I count it joy to minister alongside you. To those who have prayed, your prayers are more precious to me than gold. To those who have given financially, thank you for your sacrifice. I pray you will continue to support this ministry and Matthew. When I first read his application, his passion for the Gospel was evident. When I first heard him give a Devotional at our Teacher Training Class before he was hired, I was blown away with how he could already identify with our volunteers. He is a gifted preacher, a man of the Word, and the makings of a great leader. It has been a privilege teaching alongside him and watching him grow these last four years. I am excited to support him as he takes on the role of Director! I have no doubt that he is the man God put into place to be the next Director before I even knew marriage and children were in my future. What a great God we serve!

May the joy of the Lord be your strength,  
Sara (Atwood) Bowers

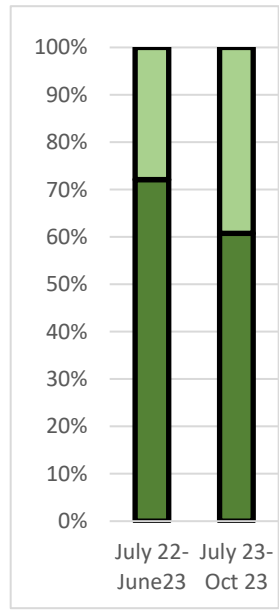


**Rachel Joy Bowers will be turning 1 on December 27. She loves anything that crinkles, our cats, anything soft and cute, food, and any toy her brother has.**



**Paul Andres Bowers turned 3 on September 19. He loves firetrucks, fireworks, watching Handyman Hal, balloons, doing school, cooking, building, and his little sister.**

**I am indebted to those who have supported me these past 14 years of full-time ministry! You are a blessing to me! With your help, I reached 72% of my support last fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023). As of the end of October, I am at 61% of my support. Will you consider giving a year-end gift to help me conclude my directorship at 100%? In the new year, since I will no longer be raising support, will you prayerfully consider supporting our next Director, Matthew Wear? Your financial gifts will enable this ministry to continue and the Alpha Generation to hear the Gospel.**



**CEF OF READING AND BERKS COUNTY, INC.**  
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