



IMPACT

Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Franklin/Fulton Counties

February 2023

God Loves Girls!

During our January Teacher Training Class, CEF missionary Diane Pomroy shared about the ministry of CEF in the Middle East region.

During one of the clubs in a Muslim country, the teacher told the children about God's love for them. One of the girls in that club seemed surprised. She asked, "Do you mean God loves girls?" She was surprised to hear that God's love is not just for boys, but also for girls. After hearing her whole life that girls were unworthy of love, what a blessing it was for this child to hear the wonderful news that God loved her. Praise God for the teacher who shared this truth and for the many children who are hearing about God's love for the first time in their lives.



**JUNE 12 -
AUGUST 4,
2023**

Plans are already underway for another exciting summer of Good News Camp. Next month, we'll have more details, but if you're interested in knowing the dates for this summer, the schedule can be found on our website: www.franklincef.com. Start planning now for the week(s) you'd like to volunteer. We are especially in need of teachers because many of the camp weeks have grown and require additional groups. Here is how you can be used at camp:

1. Teachers: Teach a Bible lesson for 25 minutes each day to a small group of children. All lessons and materials are provided. You'll enjoy getting to know the children and the fellowship you will have with other volunteers.
2. Junior Counselors: (Completed grade 8 and up) - Help a small group by leading them by example and having fun with them during an exciting day.
3. Helpers: (Completed grade 7) - Help around camp in general ways and prepare to be a junior counselor in future years.
4. Bus drivers: We are always looking for drivers to get the kids to and from camp.
5. Nurses: Be there for the children to help with cuts, scrapes, and medications. Must have LPN, RN, or EMT certification.



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The Good News Camp Leadership Strategy

Since sharing my plans of pursuing PhD work, many have been asking about my studies. Your interest and support has been a great encouragement to me. I have been using my many experiences at CEF as examples for papers and projects I am required to do. The following is a journal article I submitted that will be published soon. Although I did it for a class, I found the information very interesting and thought those of you who know and love Good News Camp would enjoy it as well. The following is a short summary of the paper. Michelle

Introduction

Although religious organizations often utilize teens as volunteers in their children's ministries, research suggests it is not the norm to begin preparing teens while they are still child participants. This approach, however, is used by Good News Camp as a successful way to train future leaders. This preparation is achieved through the process of intentionality, because of the camp ethos, and through the use of a scaffolding approach to training.

Intentionality

Good News Camp sees leadership as a process that begins from the moment a child enters camp as a camper. For some, that will be just after completing kindergarten. For others, it may be a bit later in elementary school. As campers arrive, they are greeted by teachers, junior counselors, and helpers who have, by a large majority, been campers themselves. They share their experience with the campers and encourage them to think about how they will serve one day in the future. Campers in the oldest group are told of the opportunity to return the next year as a helper and the following year as a junior counselor. Since the campers idolize the junior counselors, it is exciting for them to hear that they can be a part of that process.

Ethos

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines ethos as "the set of moral beliefs, attitudes, habits, etc., that are characteristic of a person or group." Like every other organization, religious or secular, Good News Camp has an ethos. At Good News Camp, the leadership ethos that is intentionally practiced and encouraged is one of serving others. Since the majority of our staff of teachers, junior counselors, nurses, bus drivers, and helpers are volunteers, the attitude of service is prevalent throughout camp. Service is promoted and encouraged in a way that challenges the campers to want to serve when they are able. The presence of weekly missionaries also gives everyone the opportunity to serve others through missionary projects and giving an offering.

Scaffolding

Scaffolding simply refers to building skills little by little until the ultimate level of skill is reached. Good News Camp uses this approach to prepare the future leaders. Simple things like asking the older campers to help the younger ones with crafts or give them rides on the paddleboat begins to build the skills and confidence needed to be a leader.

Conclusion

The success of Good News Camp in using teens to lead shows that the model is one that can still be used today. The important thing to grasp is that leadership will not happen automatically. It must be intentional, and both the leaders and the learners must be willing to sacrifice and be a part of the ethos and training to do what is needed.



Michelle with some of the young staff on the last day of camp 2022.
