

# Mountain-Valley News



CEF® office

DECEMBER 2020

## Stealing Jesus.

**H**ave you ever been told some news or information that you just could not keep to yourself? We all seem to need to pass on information to someone else - especially good news. I imagine the shepherds must have felt this urgency when they received the news from the angels that the promised Savior had been born. The people of God had been given the promise hundreds of years before. And now, these shepherds were the first, besides Mary and Joseph, to know that the Promise had come. It is no wonder that they went to see Jesus and then ran to tell the world around them the good news!

It was a dark time in history for the Jewish people when Jesus came as a baby. It appears there were only a few people who were expectantly waiting for that promise to be fulfilled. Most people had forgotten the promise or thought it was to de-

liver Israel from political bondage rather than spiritual bondage.

And now here we are again in similar dark times, waiting for a promise from God. We too are waiting for the Savior. Only this time He will not come quietly as a helpless baby. Instead, He will come in a way that every eye will see Him. He will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But how many of us are expectantly waiting? While we may never say that we do not believe the promise, we may be living as though we do not believe. If we really believe He is coming, then like the shepherds, that should be news that is too good to keep to ourselves!

A few years ago, I was teaching a club at Christmas time. The lesson was about the angels announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds. The room got quiet and I whispered that besides Mary and Joseph,

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the shepherds were the only people in the whole world who knew that the promised Savior had come. Then I asked the children what they thought the shepherds would do. A young boy raised his hand and whispered back, "They are going to steal the baby."

This Christmas let's not "steal Jesus" by holding His preciousness only for ourselves. We have twice the Good News to share- His first coming and His second. The promise of His second coming could happen at any time. There are boys and girls, and men and women, waiting to hear of it. Will you be the one to tell?

Wishing you a Good-News-filled Christmas!  
-Linda



<u>Mailbox Club Stats</u>	
October	
*Lessons graded:	32
*New students:	4
*Certificates earned for completing a series	4
*Professions of faith:	1

<u>Budget Corner</u>	
As of 10/22/20	
YTD Income	\$109,824.
YTD Expenses	\$114,389.
Difference	[-\$4,565.]
Yearly Budget \$114,313	

Good News Club® Statistics



<u>Club (Host Location)</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Professions</u>
Bethany E. C. Church, Tamaqua	16	0
Blue Mtn. Christian Retreat	11	0
Calvary E. Free Chapel, Valley View	24	0
First United Methodist Church, Pottsville	3	0
Grace E. C. Church, Schuylkill Haven	6	0
Kimmel's E. Free Church, Orwigsburg	2	0
St. John's Reformed Church, Friedensburg	2	0
St. Paul's E. C. Church, Pitman	6	0
2 Zoom clubs	9	0
10 Clubs	70	0

## *A Time of Prayer and Preparation*

On Tuesday, January 19, 2021 we will be holding Volunteer Training Class. While this class does focus on supplying our Good News Club volunteers with the materials needed to teach club, it is also open to anyone who is interested in reaching children with the Gospel. CEF of Schuylkill County has a lending library full of materials we are happy to lend.

The classes will be held at St. John's Reformed Church, 17 Chestnut Street, Friedensburg PA (the church is located just off of Route 443 behind the Friedensburg Firehouse). The two classes are the same~ Times are: 10:00 to 12 noon and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

During the class time we will not be sharing any special sessions. Instead we will be holding a time of intentional prayer for the children of Schuylkill County. Our hearts are heavy for the children. Please join us. You do not need to be a club teacher to attend. If you have a heart and a burden to pray, please join us on January 19. Let's lift up our voices on behalf of the children.

## *The Christmas Project*

This year the local committee has not designated a specific Christmas Project. As you know the "guidelines" dealing with COVID19 have complicated ministry and have increased the difficulty of reaching the children. We have just purchased Gospel videos from Voice of the Martyrs to send to the families of the children who have participated in a CEF ministry. Along with the video, we will add local CEF information, including our website, Tel-A-Story, Mailbox Club™ sign up cards, and a Gospel Tract. While we have received a sizeable donation to cover most of the cost of the videos, there is still the cost of packaging, postage and the cost of the Gospel tract. We are also looking into developing an online video series for the 12 Days of Christmas. This will give the children a short Advent lesson teaching them about the true meaning of Christmas~ Emmanuel, God With Us.

Any contribution you give in "honor of" or "in memory of" someone will go towards the General Fund helping to cover any over budget costs we are incurring. Please use the enclosed slip when mailing your contribution. Please pray for God to use the videos to awaken parents to their need of salvation.

