

# AROUND MAINE

Winter 2013



Dear Friend,

I am thankful that our Savior does not change. Scripture is clear on that point: *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever”* (Heb. 13:8 KJV).

Change abounds in almost every aspect of our lives; it certainly does in the ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*<sup>®</sup>. The home-going service that we will be hosting for Edna Sawyer Welbourn got me thinking along these lines just a bit. Twenty-seven years ago I became the first man to serve on our full-time staff here in Maine; I was also the first married person to do so. A lot has changed over the years.

Of that original group of ladies, I was privileged to learn from and serve with, only these remain on our staff: Melanie Mulherin, Vernelle Fast, and Jeanette Linsey, and their ministries have certainly changed over the years. Vernelle continues to serve full-time in our state office. Jeanette recently resigned as our local director in Central Maine, and will serve on our state office staff; Melanie is now serving in a part-time capacity.

All Around Maine change is occurring. Donna Woerter recently joined our Southern Maine staff, after 30 years with *CEF*<sup>®</sup> in Alaska. For Donna it is somewhat of a homecoming; she grew up in Maine, and attended *Christian Youth In Action*<sup>®</sup> here in Maine. We are glad to have her back.

Ten years ago Virginia Mathieu joined our staff as a local director in Western Maine. She is now Virginia Robinson, married and thinking about her roll as a wife and homemaker. Virginia has resigned as of this May, and we are trusting our Lord for a new worker in western Maine.

Brad Walker has been on our staff for fourteen years. In February he will be approved, the Lord willing, to serve as our new director in Central Maine. Although he has served with Jeanette since he was a *CYIA*’er in high school, I am sure the work in central Maine will both prosper and change under his leadership.

We have never had an official assistant state director, although there is no doubt that Melanie and Vernelle have filled that role in my ministry for all these years. In February Alex Bourgoïn will assume that official capacity, the Lord willing, with our state board approval. Our plan is for Alex and his family to stay in Northern Maine for a couple of years and then move close to camp where we can work side by side in leading *CEF* of Maine.

Our staff has changed, and is changing. Our property has changed. Our state headquarters is no longer located at 778 Forrest Ave, in Portland, but is now here at *Camp Good News*<sup>®</sup> in Livermore Falls.

Owning our own camp and seeing those changes take place in order for camp to become a year round ministry has really been amazing. Camp continues to change; we are rejoicing and enjoying our new staff housing. How good God has been to us here on these hallowed grounds. Talk about change, we have been entrusted with a camp at Blueberry Mountain, a Neighborhood House in Belfast, and a beautiful day camp property in central Maine. God is gracious, and God is good.

Those who serve with us as prayer partners, volunteers and donors are continually changing. I wonder how many faithful supporters have gone home to be with the Lord in just these past twenty-seven years that I have been a part of this ministry. And yet God in His grace continues to raise up those who will take their place, and He has added to that number abundantly.

I believe that is because He never changes. His desire for the children of Maine is the same today as it was twenty-seven years ago, even as it was when our Lord Jesus spoke these words: *“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”* (Matt. 18:14 NKJV)

There are two things here on this earth that will last forever: The Word of God, and the souls of people. In *Child Evangelism Fellowship* our purpose is to take the Word of God to the children of this state, that their souls might be saved for all of eternity. Our people will change, our property will change, our ministries will change, but by God’s grace, and in His strength we will continue to bring the eternal Word of God to the children of Maine. Our purpose is firm: evangelize, disciple, and help establish children in local Bible believing churches. Thank you for standing with us in this vital ministry.

This has not changed, your partnership is essential to this work of reaching children. God has blessed us with faithful prayer partners, volunteers and donors, and we are thankful.

Through December we were conducting seventy-nine Good News Clubs, sixty-nine of them in public schools. In one of those clubs there is a young girl who will be too old to be a clubber next year. She does not live in a church home, but she loves the Lord, is growing in her faith, and desires to serve Him. Next year she will be a Good News Club<sup>®</sup> helper. She represents the fruit of our ministry – your fruit as you pray, give and serve.

We are moving forward and increasing our ministry. We must. Our Lord has commissioned His people to preach the Gospel to every creature. He has placed us here in Maine to serve in this part of His vineyard. Thank you for giving to the Lord through the work of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*.

‘Til Every Child Knows,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John', written in a cursive style.



Our State Office Team:  
John Romano, State Director  
Melanie Mulherin, State Ministry Coordinator  
Vernelle Fast, State Ministry Coordinator  
Donna Labbe, Secretary  
Natausha Daigle, Staff Member  
Eliza Daigle, Staff Member  
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**Celebration of Life Memorial Service**  
**•EDNA SAWYER WELBOURN•**  
**Saturday, May 4 at 3 PM**  
**Camp Good News**



As you may know, on December 23, 2012 our beloved friend, Edna Sawyer Welbourn entered into the presence of her Savior. She served the Lord with distinction as our *Child Evangelism Fellowship* of Maine State Director from 1957-1979.

Beginnings were humble, wages were low. A file box of names and addresses and office supplies in the early days of *CEF* of Maine fit under Edna's bed in her Portland apartment. An old black Chevy took her throughout Maine to meet with God's people. Godly counsel and daily prayer with a local pastor launched the ministry.

Workers surfaced in answer to prayer. A state board and state office with needed staff took shape. Then by God's grace, four self-supporting chapters were organized. *Camp Good News* was founded, *Christian Youth in Action* summer training program began, a Chapel on Wheels was purchased, *Good News Club* and *5-Day Clubs*® began everywhere.

All these years later our *CEF* Director, John Romano, echoes the passion that propelled Edna, "Until Every Child Knows."

Please come join with *CEF* staff and friends from around Maine to celebrate one life well lived for Jesus Christ.

*Light refreshments will be served after the service.*

**9th Annual Pastor's Conference**

March 7 - 8

Pastor Wayne Frasier, former pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Brunswick will be bringing Bible messages on the subject: "The Pastor and Prayer" which will be the basis of discussions together with other pastors. The food, fellowship and teaching will be rich and full.

We invite pastors to join us here at *Camp Good News*. The cost is \$40. Call 897-6182 for more information.



***KIDS CAN KNOW GOD***

**2013 Christian Education Conference**

Sponsored by *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® of Maine, Inc.

Do you teach or work with children?  
 Interested in learning a few tips for teaching?  
**Then we've got a conference for you!**

Come join us for a power-packed one day conference! This conference benefits Sunday School teachers, Children's Church Workers, Home School Teachers, and anyone ministering to children. General sessions, work shops, lunch, and a bookstore are a part of this conference. There are three locations in the month of March for you to choose from.

- March 9** -- Wayside Bible Baptist Church in Livermore
- March 16**-- First Evangelical Free Church in Westbrook
- March 23**-- Hermon Baptist Church in Hermon

***WORKSHOPS:***

*Time:*

- Teaching Children at Risk** 8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Children's Ministry - It's a two-way street** (Registration starts 8 a.m.)
- A Biblical View of a Child's Conscience & the Holy Spirit**
- Kids Can Know God in Perilous Times**
- Teaching Little Kids to Know God**
- Sharing the Gospel - A First Priority**
- How to Test Your Teaching**
- Face Painting - A Great Ministry Tool**

For more information, please call 897-6182 or visit us on our website, [www.cefofmaine.org](http://www.cefofmaine.org) to download a brochure.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TEL # \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) will be attending the conference on:  
**March 9**, Wayside Bible Baptist Church # attending \_\_\_\_  
**March 16**, First Evangelical Free Church-Westbrook # attending \_\_\_\_  
**March 23**, Hermon Baptist Church # attending \_\_\_\_  
**Hermon Only Child Care** - (Babysitting - 3 and under available) # attending \_\_\_\_  
 (Children's activities - ages 4-11) # attending \_\_\_\_

**Please enclose a Registration Fee of \$5 per person**  
 ( A Freewill offering will be taken )