

**GOOD NEWS CLUB, INC. OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY**  
**CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP**  
 53 Blue Hill, Northumberland, PA 17857-8667  
 Affiliated with CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN PA, INC.



**where CHILDREN come FIRST everyday**

DECEMBER 2020

*"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word . . ." (Luke 1:38)*



Mary's simple words of obedience ushered in the beginning of the Christmas story as we know it. Her servant's heart submitted to the will of the Lord, outweighing her personal expectations for her future. Although we tend to jump from Mary's role in the Christmas story to Good Friday when she stood by the cross, surely she was serving behind-the-scenes throughout the years in between.

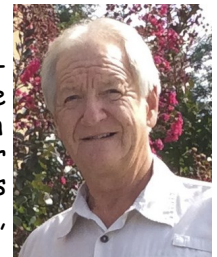
Let's look to an example even greater than Mary: Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, Who came to earth to serve (Mark 10:42-45) and carry out the will of God the Father. I could not help remembering the words Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane: **"Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done"** (Luke 22:42).

What would the results be if we followed Mary's example of a lifetime of saying "Yes, Lord!" . . . and we daily echoed Jesus' prayer, "Not my will, but Thine!"?

*"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21)*

Ernest Gessner desired to live his life in such a way that he would hear "Well done, good and faithful servant" when he entered eternity. His promotion day to heaven came unexpectedly on October 27, 2020. Ernie joyfully poured out his life in service to God through his church and church camp meeting.

Less known were the years that Ernie and his family invested into the lives of countless children as they partnered with our ministry. The Gessners would faithfully drive more than thirty minutes one-way to serve on the team with the After School/In School Good News Club at Mount Carmel Elementary; they had a special burden for the children and families in that area. When I was in high school, their team was short staffed for a few months, and my sister and I would ride with our neighbors, the Gessners, to help out.



Ernie's service was more than his presence at the weekly Tuesday GNC. He was the bus driver for the west bus route for our Good News Club Rally several years, thanks to his church offering the use of their "yellow bus" and driver. His servant's heart extended beyond the school year and Northumberland County when he was asked to drive the bus during Summer Missionary Training School for Open-Air. The first Thursday of SMTS for multiple years found Ernie behind the wheel of the yellow bus, his wife and daughter along, driving students and staff from Mountain View Bible Camp to inner city Harrisburg where they shared the Good News of Jesus using the Wordless Book.

We give thanks to the Lord for Ernie's example of faithful service to His Saviour. He often served behind the scenes, but gladly stepped up into roles that not just anyone else could fill (like driving bus). Because Ernie said, "Yes, Lord!", children were brought to the rally and missionaries were taken to proclaim the Gospel. Children's lives were changed for eternity. To God be the glory!



*Merry Christmas from our families to yours! Anna and Janet*

### *Year-End Giving*

We recognize that each financial donation is an expression of your love for the Lord and the children of Northumberland County. As a faith-based ministry, we could not be more grateful for your faithful giving this year! Please note: If you plan to give a financial gift during the Christmas season, which you want included in your 2020 receipts, your check must be dated AND post-marked by December 31. Online giving is also an option via our website. Thank you so much!



# December 2020

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*Pray, Remembering God Answers Prayer!*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>6</b> Pray that the children recall the truths they have heard this year that God loves them and Jesus is the reason for the season!</p> <p><b>7</b> "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).</p> <p><b>13</b> "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).</p> <p><b>20</b> "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder..." (Isaiah 9:6a).</p>	<p><b>7</b> "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).</p> <p><b>14</b> What is the best news of 2020? Jesus saves! Praise God for the children who trusted Him as Saviour this year.</p> <p><b>21</b> Anna anticipates being able to share in chapel this morning at Sunbury Christian Academy!</p>	<p><b>1</b> We are grateful that our committee can safely "meet" over conference call this evening. Pray as they make decisions!</p> <p><b>8</b> What has not changed in 2020? Emmanuel—God is with us. Pray we make decisions in the knowledge of that constant truth.</p> <p><b>15</b> Watch our website gncnc.org for special Christmas activities to share with the children in your home and church.</p> <p><b>22</b> "...His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6b).</p>	<p><b>2</b> "I have made a covenant with ... David My servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah" (Psalms 89:3-4).</p> <p><b>9</b> Lord willing, Anna will teach tonight and next Wednesday for a local church's Olympians elementary-age group.</p> <p><b>16</b> "But when the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Galatians 4:4). God is always on time!</p> <p><b>23</b> Praise God for the faithful service of the men and women at CEE PA State Office and on the State Board!</p>	<p><b>3</b> The Bradigans appreciate your prayers as Anna's father, Seth, is scheduled for a heart ablation today.</p> <p><b>10</b> "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14).</p> <p><b>17</b> "To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:5).</p> <p><b>24</b> "...I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10b). Praise God the Gospel is for everyone!</p>	<p><b>4</b> "...For He hath visited and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David" (Luke 1:68-29).</p> <p><b>11</b> The Gospel of Jesus Christ will remain our message as we teach in 2021, regardless of the method.</p> <p><b>18</b> Praise God for His gifts of redemption and adoption, undeserved blessings made possible because Jesus came at Christmas!</p> <p><b>25</b> "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). <b>Merry Christmas!</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> As ministry possibilities are considered for next semester, pray for faith and boldness to pursue God's will to reach the children.</p> <p><b>12</b> We are so grateful for your financial giving throughout 2020. Thank you in advance for remembering us in your year-end gifts!</p> <p><b>19</b> "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Praise God for the gift of salvation!</p> <p><b>26</b> Thank you for your kind giving of \$5,600 (22%) towards the \$25,800 Parking Lot Special Project.</p>
<p><b>31</b> We could not have reached this moment in 2020 without your faithful prayers and support! Thank you!</p>						<p>Note: Our county office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3</p>