

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

MAY 2023

"Nathanael saith unto Him, Whence knowest Thou me?

Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee,

when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." (John 1:48)

I never cease to be amused when a child looks at me in surprise, the first time I am at their Good News Club, and says, "How do you know my name?" I point to their nametag. They usually give me a sheepish grin and realize Miss Anna does not have superpower knowledge.

Nathanael expressed his surprise that Jesus knew who he was. He immediately recognized that Jesus was not merely another teacher. In John 1:49, Nathanael proclaims, "...Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel." Throughout the Gospels, we read of individuals like Zacchaeus who Jesus knew and called by name, a knowledge that surpassed human understanding.

I may not learn every child's name in one Good News Club visit or rally day; I know I am not going to remember the names of all the children I meet in a 5-Day Club or during the weeks of Camp Good News this summer. However, I am convinced that <u>Jesus already knows them by name</u>. We will meet most of these children in group settings, but <u>each one</u> is already known by our Heavenly Father and it is not His will that one of them should perish (Matthew 18:14).

Most of the above paragraphs I wrote for the May 2018 newsletter while sitting in a hotel after my mom and I had spent another long day at my dad's hospital bedside. He would have been about halfway through what would be a 23-day hospital stay following a three-part open heart surgery. I shared those thoughts through a ministry perspective, but the message was also for me at a very personal level: Through the scary up and down moments of the complications from surgery, God knew my dad by name and the names of every doctor and nurse attending him. God not only knew Seth Bradigan's name but He knew every detail and He was in control. Thank you for your prayers for my dad and our family these five years as he continues to face chronic heart issues.

I recognize many of your names from our mailing list, but I cannot put faces to the 970+ names from Central PA to New Hampshire to Ohio to Oklahoma to Alaska to Florida. I do not know each of your stories, but I wanted to revisit this precious, short story of Jesus meeting Nathanael and hope it encourages you that God knows you by name. He sees you and knows you intimately! I cannot wait to meet and learn the names of the children He will send to us this summer, and to introduce them to the Name Above All Names—Jesus Christ! Will you ask God how He would have you partner with us to reach these children, one by one, this summer?

For the Next Generation, Anna

We enjoyed a sweet time of fellowship at our end-of-year Appreciation Luncheon! We are so grateful that God provided over 50 volunteer teachers and helpers that made the 9 After School GNCs possible . . . reaching 216 children and counseling 32 clubbers for first-time professions of faith!

To God be the glory!