



**CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

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MISS RITA L. LOBDELL
ACTING STATE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friend,

As members of God's family, we can count our many blessings! We praise the Lord for the company of loved ones, for the daily provision of food and clothing, and even for the gift of life itself. That last one is something we do not take for granted in this ministry with the thousands of miles traveled annually for ministry functions like Teacher Training Classes, Christian Education Seminars, church visitation, Good News Clubs, camps, missions conferences, recruiting trips, and meetings with our directors and committees.

It was a recent trip to meet with a local committee and director that reinforced our gratefulness to God for the safety He provides.

While traveling back to Headquarters on a major interstate, we experienced fog and a torrential downpour in heavy traffic. Cars and trucks in front of us slowed. The car immediately in front of us pulled off the road to wait out the storm. We never got that chance.



We are thankful for God's protection!

A ten-ton truck behind our van, hauling a full load of metal, could not stop in time on the wet and slippery road. The young driver, in an effort to keep from ramming the back of our State Headquarters van, swerved to the right side of the road, into the space between the guardrail and the road. The impact of that truck on the right side of the van shook all of us. We did not see him coming, but his truck slammed into the back passenger's side of our van. In an instant, the doors were crushed from back to front, wheels bent, and two flat tires on the right side. Controlling the car was almost impossible after impact.

"But God" The Bible uses that phrase a lot. It usually refers to a difficult situation just before the Lord intervenes. That is exactly how it happened for Mable Ruth, Jeff, Wayne, and me. Somehow, the windows did not shatter, and the cab of the vehicle stayed intact. **Thankfully**, the truck was able to veer off so that contact with the back of our van did not flip us over. Surely, God gave strength to Jeff (the driver) to keep the van upright in our lane. Swerving to another lane probably would have placed us between two tractor trailers. That would have been disastrous!

We are filled with **THANKSGIVING** that we were all physically unharmed.



The hand of God kept us on the road!

Although there was no fault on our part, the 2002 van that we depended on and was the backbone of our transportation system, is gone. The insurance company declared it “totaled.”

While there was insurance coverage, it will not cover the cost of replacing the type of van needed by the ministry to fit all the various transportation needs of the State Headquarters.

Perhaps the Lord would have you, as a ministry friend, help us replace this transportation need.

We are coming upon the month of the year when we express our **THANKSGIVING** to the Lord for His watch-care of the ministry and all of our workers. This year will perhaps be a little different than previous years as this most recent incident reminds us that God never sleeps, He never looks the other way. He not only knows the number of hairs on our heads, but He is also well aware of our every need.

At this special time of the year, we want to take this opportunity to **thank you** because you pray for us and have expressed a desire to know what is happening to us and this ministry. I am confident that you are concerned, as we are, for the souls of little ones who need to know of the saving sacrifice of Christ. It is important to us that you know that all of the State Headquarters staff are **thankful** for all you do to support this ministry. We believe that God’s ministry, done God’s way, will never lack . . . and you are part of the team that makes this vital ministry a reality across our state and around the world.

As ministry becomes more demanding, and we face increasing hurdles to reaching children with the Gospel, your participation through prayer and giving becomes ever more important. The Bible reminds us of our joint duty in **Romans 10:14**, “**How, then, shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?**” You have an important part in all of our outreach with God’s Word to the children who need to hear and believe!

The van accident heightened our awareness that God is not finished with any of us just yet. There is much more ministry to be done. **Thank you** for standing with us and working along side of us to ensure that each child has the opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel. For this, we all give **THANKSGIVING** to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Because of His grace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rita L. Lobdell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss Rita L. Lobdell
Acting State Director