



Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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Dear Friends,

June, 2004

Count Your Many Blessings, Name Them One By One!

I am not sure what old hymn is my favorite. There are actually so many good hymns and we don't sing them as often we used to, but there is one of them that I find myself singing the chorus to more than most and it is this one!

*Count your many blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, See what God hath done;*

What an awesome song! It is all about focus. As we make final preparations for this summer's outreach to the children we are very encouraged in all that God has done. There are new club locations in many new cities and towns. God has provided 11 Christian Youth in Action workers so far and we are waiting for the last 3 of His choosing. We are still needing more 5-Day Club locations and probably a car or two, but I was reminded of the story of King Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 20 as they faced an enemy with a vast army they were told in verse 15 that **"the battle is not yours, but God's"**. Then a little later in the chapter in verse 20 it says, **"Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld."** In verse 21 we are told that King Jehoshaphat after consulting with the people appointed men to sing praises to the Lord for His splendor and holiness. I can almost imagine an army of men singing as they headed for battle:

**Count your many blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**

I have faith that God will provide the CYIA, the needed club locations, and even the two cars. I even find myself singing **'Count your many blessings, see what God hath done'** and I look forward to sharing with you how the LORD our God provided as we headed into battle singing.

The other day we were very encouraged as we received a letter from a lady in Saskatoon. God had placed it on her heart to start a **'CEF Prayer Band'**. We all know that a band plays music and I believe that these ladies' prayers are music to God's ears as they come before Him presenting the needs of CEF in prayer. I have enclosed a portion of her letter as we received it and hope that it encourages you as it has me. I believe that as we all head out to battle for the hearts and souls of children, singing praises to our God, He will work strong on our behalf.

Dear Jerry and CEF Friends,

What a joy, and what a surprise it was to receive your latest letter yesterday morning! Joy because of what God continues to do through the work of CEF and surprise because the scripture you used at the start of your letter is the same portion that I read to a group of ladies gathered in my condo the evening before! Let me explain.

Those of us who attended the Saskatoon CEF Banquet from Circle Drive Place were challenged and inspired by the testimonies given and by your impassioned talk about your vision for the children of Saskatchewan. One of the ladies exclaimed, "Oh, I wish we could have a lawn club here at CDP." Well, we just don't have children living close enough for that, but it started me thinking about what we might be able to do instead. What if we formed a weekly prayer band to support the summer ministry in prayer?

On Tuesday, June 1, I finally found the right time to call some ladies together and we had our first meeting that evening. There were eight of us gathered and what a blessed time we had, praying for

the various needs of CEF. Mary Amalia shared about God's leading in her life in helping out with CEF this summer, and I handed out 16 specific prayer requests for various parts of the ministry.

Our plan is to meet weekly during the months of June, July, and August to pray especially for the lawn clubs program. I envision that we may keep the prayer band going through the rest of the year on a monthly basis.

We are all convinced that CEF is being greatly used of God in reaching the children and families of Saskatchewan and we are privileged to have a part in praying for this important work of God, **even when we are old and gray!**

Our current list of prayer request, in no particular order:

1. The children who were enrolled in Club DJ during the winter months.
2. The nine young people who have sent in applications to be 'Christian Youth in Action' workers with CEF this summer.
3. For God's choice for the other five young people needed to help with the lawn clubs this summer.
4. All the helpers in each city, town and village who are arranging for the lawn clubs in their area.
5. Sharon Durston continues to receive treatment every Friday morning. Praise the Lord for the opportunities God is giving to share his goodness with other people at the cancer clinic. Pray for Sharon and Jerry and their family.
6. For Mary Amalia as she helps with the CEF lawn clubs this summer.
7. CEF is planning to hold 100 more lawn clubs this summer than last summer. Pray that the Lord would direct in choosing these new sites.
8. That godly families will be willing to host a lawn club on their yard.
9. For the children who will attend a lawn club this summer. Pray that many will attend from the unchurched homes.
10. For the leaders who will train the CYIA workers during the first week in July.
11. For the Lord's protection on all the workers and organizers and that all Satan's efforts to stop and hinder this work will be thwarted.
12. That enough cars will be provided for the summer workers and that they will be remain in good running order.
13. For all the children who have accepted Christ at CEF lawn clubs in previous years that they would continue to grow in the Lord and live for Him.
14. For the families of children who have accepted Christ as Saviour while attending a lawn club or Club DJ, that many parents will realize their need for salvation.
15. That all the financial needs will be met and that more young families will start supporting the CEF work financially.
16. For the CEF office staff for health, encouragement, etc.

Many will carry this work through faithful prayers; maybe you would like to start your own prayer band in your area. Others will give to meet the financial needs and still others will open their homes to provide a place for the children to hear the gospel as many churches do likewise. Thousands of children will learn of the splendor of our God, but the battle is not ours; it is the LORD our God's! I trust we all will be singing praises to our God!

Sharon continues her herceptin treatments each week, which are over 30% complete. We have only 36 treatments left and as we look back and see how God has brought us through, we are singing as we move ahead, this little chorus, **"Count your many blessings, name them one by one; . . ."** Thanks for your continued prayers. We are very encouraged in the LORD our God!

For the sake of the children,

Jerry Durston
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