

June 28th, 2014



Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the migrant workers

1 Corinthians 15: 3-4

"3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scripture; 4 And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures"

Agenda

1. Aaron – Ministry
2. Open Heart Evangelical Ministry – What, Who, How, When, Where?
3. Questions and Answers
4. Prayer time
5. Build shelves

What is Open Heart Evangelical Ministries OHEM?

It is a ministry that reaches out to the migrant workers laboring in the Blueberry harvest and wreath season. It started with mostly the Hispanic community, and it has now opened doors to minister to the Haitian, Native American and Canadian First Nation communities.

How did OHEM start?

It began with an open heart followed by others. Cathy Breckinridge began visiting and preaching to these Hispanic communities more than a decade ago. Each year she was faithful to add more people to the team and invite guests to come and share the Word of God and their testimonies to the camps as a way to witness to these people. Cathy and her husband sought for support from other churches and organizations in order to meet the needs of the ministry throughout the years.

MCF involvement

Machias Christian Fellowship has participated in past outreaches. Some people have translated, distributed supplies, share testimonies and played music. This year 2014, MCF has been asked to take over the ministry and continue the work that has been planted. We are grateful for the opportunity that the Lord has given us. We pray that we are led by His spirit and with willing and open hearts; we will accomplish His will to reach souls.

Evangelizing? Scary word for some...

What it means to evangelize is to simply share the Good News! You don't have to make up words or stories. They are already written for our use. God is a planner and He knows what we need when it comes to evangelizing, His word and His spirit. Evangelizing is to simply speak the truth that you have been shown. If you have a heart and passion for doing this, The Lord can definitely use you!

What does reaching out mean or entail?

Reaching out is going to them and sharing the message that Jesus commanded His disciples and US to do! Share your testimony and what God has done for you on the cross and in this life. Telling them about the fact that Christ resurrected and proved to be the Son of God and that someday He will return and make all things new!

Migrant workers are exactly as the word describes it, travelers from place to place. Some of them come from Central and South America, some from the Native American Tribes and others from the Canadian First Nation community. In order to reach out, we have to give some of our time, effort, care and love to these "strangers".

What is the need?

They have needs, same as us, but different in some ways. We are assisting them with some physical needs, but most importantly with a spiritual need that can only be filled by God and His Son and His spirit. *"We love, because He first loved us"*. The attention and care we provide to these people should be the same that the Lord has provided for us.

Physical needs include toiletries, blankets, clothing and Christian literature. We will be giving away Bibles in their native language along with books and other pieces of literature that would address the need for Christ in their lives.

Other Organizations Involved

Some Christian organizations have gotten involved with OHEM. Among them are:

- Bible and Prayer Ministries: they set up a table every year at the Raker's Center in Columbia Falls and give out Bibles, tracts, and clothing
- Grace to Grace - Charleston, Maine. They distribute food to the needy.
- Elim Christian Fellowship - Augusta, Maine
- Down East Christian Church- Harrington, Maine

Many other churches in Washington County have offered support over the years through donations of clothing, blankets, toiletries, pots and pans, and money to purchase Bibles.

When?



Blueberry Season: mainly in August and beginning of September. Some local companies provide employment for the migrant workers. Not only are they provided with jobs but also housing, or camps in which the laborers live while harvesting. Other workers stay in local campgrounds. OHEM, often with partnering ministries, visits the camps and campgrounds several times a week to conduct gospel-preaching services, personal discipleship, and provide prayer support. There is also distribution of Bibles, tracts, blankets, clothing, toiletries, and food.



Wreath Season: workers are hired mainly in the towns of Columbia, Topsfield, and Baileyville to make Christmas wreaths. The workers arrive in early November and leave by Christmas. The employer provides the opportunity to work, plus it provides housing in dormitories and trailers. Many workers are ill equipped to handle the cold weather. OHEM intends to conduct the same activities as it does during the blueberry season.

Additional Ministry Opportunities

Bible Study Groups: The Spanish-speaking population in Downeast Maine has increased over the past ten years. Some workers who came to harvest blueberries or make wreaths have decided to make their home in Maine. They are finding jobs in forestry, farming, and fish plants. OHEM has conducted Bible Study groups, English classes, and prayer support to the Spanish-speaking residents in Downeast Maine as a way to continue discipleship and take them deeper into the Word of God.

Prison Ministry:

OHEM visits Spanish-speaking persons who have become incarcerated in the county jail in Machias. Through the provision of Bibles, Bible Studies and prayer support, it is an opportunity to bring hope and present the love of Christ to the prisoners.

Churches and Ministries associated with OHEM

- Church of the Living Stone
- Christian Temple Church
- Harrington Baptist Church
- I Care Ministries
- Faith School of Theology
- First Nations Ministries
- Grace Christian Chapel

OHEM Needs people in these areas:

1. Translators: able to speak Spanish, French, Creole or any Native Tribe language
2. Finances: 1 person that could administer the account of OHEM.
3. Administrative: Making phone calls, scheduling, ordering, etc.
4. Inventory: In charge of making sure we have enough supplies for each week.
5. Preachers and Teachers: anyone willing to share their testimony or to share from the Word.
6. Helpers: helping load and distribute supplies, and pray for and with the workers.
7. Musicians: anyone with music talent is welcome!

Communication

- MCF Website – Under Ministries
- Newsletter – to Supporters, Volunteers, MCF Family members
- Bulletin Board updates

Scheduling

Once we get permission from the Camps/Campgrounds authorizing our visit, we then proceed to call Edith Flores and Arthur Emerson. Edith works with Maine Migrant Health conducting health visits to the camps. We do not want to overlap with them. She also will let us know of any new camp/campgrounds in the area. Contact her in the middle/end of July.

Arthur Emerson is another preacher. He has weekly services at some of the camps, so contacting him before the season starts is also necessary as we don't want to overlap with him either.

