

Sharing the Vision

of reaching children
with the Gospel in
England, Scotland and Wales

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain - A Mission with God's vision for children



Countdown!

As I write this on October 26 there are 275 days to go! "To what?" you may ask. There are also 308 days to go! Then it's all over. Of course, I'm referring to the Olympics and Paralympics. It's a long time since the Olympics came to London and a lot has changed. The games themselves are bigger and the Paralympics are now part of this festival of sport. London has changed too and so has the influence of Christianity in our country.

Few children today have any attachment to church. No family members attend and there is no emotional link to the local church building – they've never been there and they don't know anyone who has.

So how can the Olympic Games give us an opportunity to tell this generation about the good news of Jesus? We have been thinking and praying about this for the past few years. We have had several ideas which we would like to commend to your prayers and we would encourage you to get involved too.

The first tool we developed is a kit for a one-off evangelistic Olympic themed children's club. The kit includes a specially written lesson and has ideas for a mini-Olympics and a craft. Two songs have been specially written for it. Our plan is to use this kit to hold many one-off children's events next summer. Please pray that churches would take up this opportunity to invite children to these clubs.

We also wanted to have a souvenir gift for each child to remind them of the 2012 Olympics. We have designed a sili-

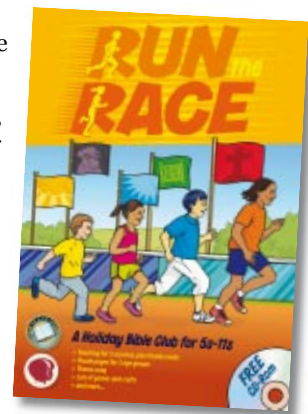
cone wristband with four rings - yellow, grey, red and white - to teach the gospel message. In the dark the wristband glows green. The wristband comes with a tract that is specially written and designed for it.

CEF and Go Teach have worked together on an Olympic themed Holiday Bible Club Pack entitled "Run the Race". The lessons take up the biblical theme of comparing the Christian life to a race:

- **Jesus, the Supreme Champion:** he finished his own special race for us, so that we can begin ours.
- **Philip and the Ethiopian:** The Bible is important for learning what Jesus has done so we can join the race.
- **Saul (Paul):** we need to start on the right track by trusting Christ alone.
- **Peter:** we can keep on track and stay in the race with God's help.
- **Stephen:** we finish the race when we go to heaven.

The pack also includes the "Run, run, run" theme song, memory verses, lots of games and craft ideas, puzzle pages and more.

These tools can help you and your church to share the gospel with children during the Olympic year. If you are interested, please contact us for more information.



Steve Ball, Local Director CEF East London

Also inside

God was so good and worked in amazing ways!

News in brief

Teacher's Corner

Meet the King!

Serbian Summer

God was so good and worked in amazing ways!

The above comment was made by a team member reporting on a 5-Day Club® held in Wapping. As we look back on the two weeks of 5-Day Clubs in East London, we can see that God did his work in amazing ways. Children and their families came to the clubs. Many of them were from non-Christian cultures and backgrounds. For many this was the first time they heard the Good News about Jesus. One family, who had come to 5-Day Club last year, returned again. Please pray for them. The three Family Fun Nights were attended by children and adults who had been reached during the week. Despite the wet weather God worked and blessed the teams as they went into parks, play areas and housing estates. It wasn't always easy; one team was confronted by a mum who walked across the park to complain about what they were doing. In this instance it was helpful that CEF had booked the park and had paid the local council to use it.



Always asking for permission to hold 5-Day Clubs in public parks has definite benefits, even though it is time consuming. Please continue to pray that the children and families who came to the various events would be able to remember what they heard and that God would work in their lives.

The team from Ireland, which came for a week to help us, was joined by a local young person. They all worked well together. On the days when the weather was very bad the team made the most of the opportunity by giving out tracts to passing adults and engaging in conversation.

Once again our thanks go to the local churches which provided meals, showers and transport for the team and who came along to the clubs. Thanks to Hainault Road Baptist, Leyton, Woodberry Down Baptist, Tottenham and Central Baptist, Walthamstow for running Family Fun Nights and organising the Youth Night. Finally, a big thank you to Central Baptist for allowing the team to stay in their church and for making them feel so welcome.

Steve Ball, Local Director CEF East London

News in brief

- Our next CEF Workers Conference is planned for 20-23 February in London with Pastor William Randall as the Bible teacher. Henry Berry, CEF Area Director for South West Europe, will also take part.
- Joan Weightman from Keswick attended the autumn Children's Ministry Leadership Course in Kilchzimmer. We pray that the Lord will guide Joan as she contemplates her future ministry.
- Judy Buis had two very worthwhile Holiday Bible Clubs in Scotland during the autumn break and is encouraged by the interest from church leaders in the work.
- Chris & Jennifer Haaijer continue to teach at training conferences in churches; the last one being in Sheffield. There seems to be a real need for this type of training in churches and the conferences are always very much appreciated.
- Since September the CEF work in London has developed into two separate areas: CEF of East London with Steve and Rachel Ball at the helm, supported by Adel Hicklin and Eun Sook Geum leading the work in Tower Hamlets and Newham. At present Eun Sook will work half time in her area, as she finishes her studies.

Quiz Time - Why bother?

“The children get too excited; I don’t like doing the quiz.”
“They always complain that it’s not fair if one team is older or bigger than the other.” These are common complaints, but there are ways to make quiz time an effective teaching time for your children.

Why is it good to have a quiz? I prefer to call it “review time” in my planning for club, as it provides me with a tool to assess in a fun way how well the truth is being understood by the children each week. If they have not grasped something important, then I can teach a little bit more through the quiz and make a note to go over a particular truth next week.

How can you make quiz time fun, productive and controlled? Here are a few ideas:

- Vary how you choose teams. Put the children into new teams each week so that you can keep the numbers even. Boys against girls works sometimes, but you could give each child a coloured sticker as they arrive, or divide down the middle of the group, or even have over 8s against under 8s. The little ones love beating the older ones!
- Watch out for good scoring ideas in the Good News Club Network pack each term and make use of them. No point re-inventing the wheel! Prepare them carefully and note which ones are most popular with your group, but don’t over use just one. (*More about scoring ideas in the next issue of Sharing the Vision.*)
- Make a point of listening carefully to the answer a child gives. It may not be the exact answer you had expected, but it may still be right and you can learn a lot by listening. Don’t just aim at getting them to say what you have written down. This is much more about finding out what they understand than getting them to repeat a correct answer.
- If crowd control is a problem then double the points for any correct answer given when the whole team is sitting down putting hands up and not shouting out.



Alleyn Wilson, Livingston

Meet the King!

“Meet the King!” is an 18 page full-colour booklet about Jesus - his birth, life, death and resurrection. It includes simple explanations of key Gospel truths and pertinent applications to the life of a child. The Lord has been using this booklet in a remarkable way.

In the last four years over 8 million copies have been printed in 27 languages. Current projects include one million booklets going to Cambodia, three million to Mexico, over one million to West Africa and there are plans to distribute it to every home in Iceland.



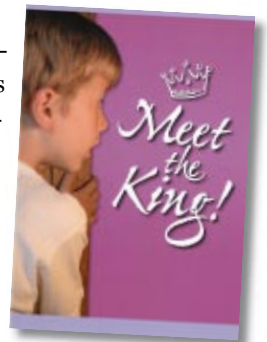
A little girl in Denmark came to know the Lord when her grandmother read her the booklet. She so loved “the King”, that on a long train journey she chatted to a fellow passenger, asking if he knew Jesus. When he said he didn’t, she asked if she could read him the booklet. He agreed and she read!

Thousands of boys and girls have

enrolled in Bible correspondence courses as a result of reading “Meet the King!” Please pray that the Lord will also use this booklet to bring many boys and girls in Britain to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

For a limited period we are offering “Meet the King!” free of charge - you only pay for the postage. If you are interested, please get in touch with our office in Glasgow, or download the order form from our website: www.cefbritain.org/meettk.htm

This is a great opportunity to introduce children in your neighbourhood to “King Jesus”, whom they need so much!



Serbian Summer

I would like to share with you an SMS message which I received recently:

“Jesus Christ very lovingly tells us: ‘Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice...’ John 16:22-23. At that moment we will understand that everything has worked for our good...Greetings from Sneza, Jasnina, Marko and the rest!”

When I read this, tears came to my eyes. This message came from young people who, because of the war in 1999, were displaced from Kosovo and live in very difficult conditions in a refugee centre in South Serbia. When my family and I moved to Nis, we shared the Good News with them. We began a club for young people, which resulted in several of them becoming Christians, who now witness for Christ. Snezana from Bujanovac, who is 20 years old, brought three of her friends to camp this year. The spark ignited and now the fire of God’s love is spreading and reaching others.

It is wonderful to count our blessings today and to look back on some of the things that stood out this summer and that make our hearts rejoice.

The first Balkan Children Ministry Leadership Course

In the gorgeous Zlatibor mountain region fourteen students received their diplomas. Five of them joined the CEF team last year and one this year, which brings our team of workers in Serbia to eleven. The entire CMLC was a huge blessing and we are all full of joy. With the increase in the number of workers comes the possibility of growth in our ministries. We invite you to pray already for the next CMLC, which we are planning for 2013/2014.



Camps this summer

Another piece of good news is that just before the start of the summer, the Lord answered our many prayers. The funds, that were needed to buy the two farmhouses which we rented for the last two years, came in. So in this third year, the camps were held in our own property. The feeling was amazing! Before and during camps, we succeeded in improving the camp facilities, with things like a shower block.

This year we held four camps. At the camps, there were 143 children and young people; our greatest joy is that 33 of them accepted Christ as their Saviour. Here are some of their testimonies:

“Camp means so much to me. In these two years, my life has changed so much. I would love to help children and young people in the future to experience what I have experienced.

Snezana from Nis, 21 years old

“As we talked about repentance Stefan answered, “Nothing is stopping me from praying now.” After the prayer he said, “I am grateful to God that He brought me to this camp because I needed you to help me understand spiritual truth which I didn’t know before.

Stefan from Bujanovac, 17 years old

“This is my first time at camp. Thank you for letting me attend camp, so I could learn how to believe in God!

Selma from Belgrade, 13 years old, from a Muslim background.

We are grateful to God for each gift we received for the camp project in Mrcajevci. Each activity which we had this year, every testimony of each child, volunteer and teacher, attests that this place is the right place at the right time from God for us. We are grateful to all who practically stand with us. Without your help we could not do this work.

Darko Adamek, National Director CEF Serbia



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