

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

Training Equipping Supporting

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth."

2 Timothy 2v15

These three pillars lie at the heart of our ministry as Child Evangelism Fellowship. Training, equipping and supporting the local church to reach the unreached within reach. However, whilst we may be quick to apply the truth of 2 Timothy 2v15 to those who teach the Bible to adults we generally don't see the same need to train those who will teach children. "Anyone can teach children," is an attitude that often prevails in the church. We would never consider it acceptable to have our Pastors and Bible teachers go into the pulpit without proper study and theological training, yet we will often plug the gap in children's ministry with someone who has never been trained to be an effective children's worker.

Without doubt teaching today's child has greater challenges than ever before. The world view of today's child is so different to that of their parents and grand-parents and therefore different strategies must be explored. The message remains the same, but the question is how

best to communicate this? It seems to me that a number of intertwining things come together which blur the edges of how children today view their world.

We see the impact of technology every day. Smartphones and tablets are to this generation what the telephone was to a prior generation: an accepted part of life from birth. How the ability to communicate and control data is changing the child's world view is difficult to measure but we can rest assured that children expect to not only receive content but to create and manipulate it.

Furthermore the societal norms that today's generation are growing up with have so changed from that of previous generations. These changes include perceptions regarding race, gender and the family. What is considered normative for this generation would have been inconceivable just a few decades ago. It is also true for today's child that they live within a shrinking global village. Immigration patterns are vastly changed from years

gone past with immigrants hailing from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. In London alone over 300 different languages are spoken. Today it is common place for our children to be familiar with families that are blending multiple backgrounds and traditions.

How all of these trends and changes will change society remains to be seen. But one thing is for sure: this is a very different generation of children and their world view is different in profound ways. Add to this the effect of maturity level on the child's understanding and you will realise that it is a complex and challenging business to teach children and this includes teaching them the Word of God. Yet God's Word contains a message that is powerful and living with the potential to change young lives forever. It is so important that this message is communicated effectively and accurately. Perhaps you are reading this and you have the wonderful privilege of teaching children God's Word, I wonder how confident do you feel about this task? How well have you been trained to undertake this responsibility or indeed have you received any training to help you meet such a challenge? I'm quite sure that none of us want to stand before God ashamed by our failure to effectively present His Word to boys and girls.

This is where Child Evangelism Fellowship can help you and the children's ministries in your church. Within this edition of "Sharing Our Vision" you will read of a wide range of training which we as an organisation can provide. Please take time to consider how this training may help you in your situation and get in touch with us in C.E.F. of Britain.

Stephen Garret (CEF Europe)



Also inside

Are you sitting comfortably?

Where will it lead?

TCE in Middlesbrough

*Those who bring Children
to Jesus*

*Children's Ministry leader-
ship Course comes to Ireland*

Where will it lead?

I remember well when I did my first training to get myself prepared to work with children. It was March 2013 and I went in Constanta-Romania to attend the CEF training Teaching Children Effectively level 1 (TCE1). It was an intense week, but I enjoyed it as I could learn the basis of evangelizing children. I could use what I learnt there to teach the children more effectively at the Sunday School, but I could also run a Good News Club meeting in the place where I was living at that time. It even helped me to know how to share the Good News with my son.

It enabled me to have some of the “tools” and to use them to evangelize children.

While at that training the Lord spoke to me and called me to get involved in Children’s Ministry: He put a burden in my heart for the lost children and I felt His leading toward getting involved in full-time ministry and so I did after few years.

The Lord has worked his ways into it and now He has enabled me to organise and run the first TCE1 here in Birmingham. Five people signed up for it. I’m so grateful for each one of them.

I look back and I know how much importance and influence all that I learned that week back in 2013 had in my life. I really believe that the Lord may call many

more to ministry, either by volunteering or as part-time/full-time workers. If I could reach more than 70 children at the two Christmas Clubs last December, imagine how many more could be reached if people are trained and equipped to serve the Lord this way. I really believe TCE courses will benefit children in Britain and all around the world by sending more workers to the field.

My hope and prayer is that the people trained will want to serve the Lord more in Children’s Ministry and that the Lord may show them ways of reaching children in their neighbourhood by starting Good News Clubs.

Monica Nechita (CEF Birmingham)

Bookkeeper part-time work of 20 hours

We are looking for a bookkeeper with at least 12 months’ experience to join the CEF team on a six-month basis with a view towards a more permanent position. In this position you will be assisting the National Treasurer with day-to-day accounting responsibilities.

You will be responsible for managing:

- Payroll and HMRC electronic submissions.
- Accounts: to Trial Balance, payable and receivable.
- UK and International money transfers.
- Bank and Balance Sheet Reconciliations.
- Gift Aid submissions.
- Monthly reports.
- General administration tasks and meeting UK Border Agency requirements.

You will also have:

- Strong organisational and time management skills.
- Accuracy and an eye for detail.
- Sage accounts and payroll experience.

The ideal candidate will have basic administration experience. If this sounds like you, please send your c.v. to Mr Paul Doye, 22 Monkams Drive, Woodford Green, London, IG8 0LQ.



TCE1 in Middlesbrough

In Middlesbrough alone, there are about 27,000 children and young people under the age of 15. In the Teesside area, this number goes up to more than 70,000 children and young people. In contrast to these numbers, there is only 1 CEF worker in Teesside (me - Claudine). With all the best will and energy in the world, I could not reach all of these children with God’s word, and this is where I find teacher training to be of a great opportunity and benefit. I believe and trust that with teacher training, much prayer and going forth depending on the Lord, the number of unreached children in our communities who can and will be reached with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ multiplies exponentially.

In 2016, I had the opportunity to run a ‘Teaching Children Effectively’ level 1 course (TCE 1) in Middlesbrough. TCE 1 is a 30 hour

preparing, presenting and teaching God’s word at a child’s level through Bible lessons, memory verse memorisation, singing and much more...

One of the students who attended the course, had never taught a memory verse before. He is now involved in the children’s ministry in his local church and often writes to me to discuss some of the Bible passages he is given to teach. Below is a testimony from another student (Laura Crosby) who attended the TCE 1 course;

“TCE 1 is amazing, I learnt so much and I am now able to get across what



Laura (Top left hand side)

the bible passage means and how to apply that to the children’s lives. I also have the privilege of teaching kids in youth groups and in Sunday school. It’s so great to have done TCE 1 and how much confidence it has given me to stand up at the front and tell chil-

dren the wonderful news about Jesus!” (Laura Crosby)

Praise the Lord for the way He is working in and through the lives of Laura and the other TCE 1 students. Please pray with me for further open doors to run TCE 1 courses in more areas of Britain and that more children will be reached with the good news of our Lord Jesus.

Claudine Uwizeye (CEF Middlesbrough)

Are you sitting comfortably?

If you are a certain age you may remember the phrase, 'Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.' Listen with Mother was a radio programme that ran from the 1950's through to the 1980's. The audience were of course young children listening at home with mum. Today this group are often well catered for in the community – story time at the library, craft groups, singing groups, baby massage and many more. But most of these groups are costly and can be a car journey away. So what can your church do for this important group

of people? Well, many churches run Parent and Toddler groups. These are usually subsidised financially by the church and include lots of play, refreshments, craft and often singing. What about adding something to listen to? A story from The Bible.

It can be a challenge to tell a Bible story to a group of toddlers. They are full of life! But, it is a challenge worth taking on. Parents and carers can be encouraged to listen and join in. The toddlers will love a story that is told in a way that they can understand and enjoy. Young children enjoy repetition and rhythm in a story. They are curious to see who will appear from the story bag each week. They are able to join in simple actions that can bring a story to life.

If you are wondering how to get started or looking for some ideas for your Toddler Group story time then visit our blog www.let-theirlightshine.com. You'll find lots of ideas for Bible stories and related crafts

Props for telling the Lost Son Story



Knitted dolls make great Bible characters!

and a few tips about telling the story to the group. If you would like any help then you can contact me at cefofeastlondon@aol.com.

A few weeks ago a grandma who comes to our group told me. 'My son wanted to know if I'd been telling his little boy about Jesus. I said no it's not me. It must be what he hears at Toddler Group!' It's worth the effort to tell these young children the stories from the Bible. God can take these seeds that we sow and produce a harvest.

Rachel Ball CEF East London

Those who bring Children to Jesus

There are many anonymous people who did significant things in the Bible such as an Israelite slave girl in Naaman's house, who introduced Elisha to her enemy master with leprosy and a boy who offered his lunch box of five small barley bread and two small fish to Jesus Christ. As the results of those people's actions, God's mighty hands performed miracles, which blessed one individual as well as a great multitude. As a children's worker, I am very impressed with anonymous people who brought little children to Jesus to have him touch them (Mark 10:13). A commentator Matthew Henry argues that those people brought the children not for their physical needs but for spiritual blessings. Then, all children who were brought there, were welcomed and blessed by Jesus. What a beautiful scene to see Jesus, the Son of the living God take the little children in his arms and put his hands on them and bless them. The children did not come to Jesus by themselves but they were brought by the adults. There is a lesson that God uses adults to meet children. This is a way of God blessing children shown in the New Testament as well as in the Old Testament.



God called Samuel three times by name but the boy Samuel ran to Eli at the first time, the second time and the third time! As we know, it was because the boy could not understand God called him. Eventually, Eli who was even a failure as a father and a priest realized that the voice was from God and helped the boy to encounter the Lord (1Samuel 3:1-10). God uses adults to meet children even though He is very capable to bless children without

any grown-ups support. He is all-powerful! But, he chooses to use adults like you and me. This is why teacher training is so crucial in children's ministry.

I had a year Sabbatical in my home country and I was very honoured to give training for some people from another country. They want to bring children in their country to Jesus with the Gospel and Bible teaching. It is a huge challenge in their Buddhist country. In addition, there is a great risk to holding teacher training for it. Therefore, CEF Korea holds training for them in Korea. (This was our twelve week leadership training CMLC) Fifteen people came to attend the training. They know that their national children need Jesus as their Saviour. They understand God's desire, eagerness, zeal, and his love for lost children to be found. Nothing kept them from their commitment to take that training. I could see from them tiredness with that intensive course, sleepy eyes because of lots of assignments caused staying up overnight, nerves with practicals, etc. However, there was always laughter, enthusiasm, excitement, creative ideas and above all, faith and hope to see many, many more children will come to the Lord Jesus Christ through them by God's grace in their Buddhist country!

Eun Sook Geum (CEF Missionary in London)

Worship, Waiting and Work Go Together

For two months, I have been hunting for accommodation when I came back to my mission field, Britain after my Sabbatical. I wanted to resettle asap and to restart my ministry properly. There was excitement, expectation and even fun in the beginning. Time has passed. Disappointment, frustration and helplessness crept into my heart while I was praying for God's guidance. Is it possible to find a right house in my new ministry area with my resources? Moreover, I felt justified for saying 'no' when I was asked to do teacher training or to carry on

leading GNCs because all my materials are still in the storage rooms. I felt myself stuck. Then, God met me with his lesson; Worship, waiting and work go together. Jesus was unhasting and un-resting. It was a time for discipline for me. Now, God has provided the right accommodation in the Central London and I am busy with preparing for moving while doing my ministries. Thank you for your prayers.

Eun Sook Geum (Missionary in London)

Children's Ministry leadership Course comes to Ireland

A Dane, an American, a Greek, an Englishman, and 13 Irish walk into a room. Sounds like the set up for a good joke, right? Though there were many jokes and much laughter shared over the 6-week course, there was a deeper purpose to our gathering. We were a small part of the nearly 400,000 workers that were trained globally through CEF last year. There are currently 3,423 workers worldwide. CEF has a goal of reaching 100 million children per year by 2020. If you do the maths that is about 30,000 children per worker! An impossible task. However, imagine if those 3.5K workers trained just 2 workers/volunteers? And those 2 trained 2... and those 2 trained 2... the task of reaching 100 million children with the good news of Jesus slowly begins to shrink.

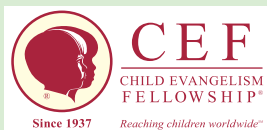
Over the years, I have experienced many trainings with CEF – toddler, Sunday school, youth work, camp ministry,



etc. What is unique about the Children's Ministry Leadership Course I attended last fall, in preparation for coming into full time ministry with CEF of Great Britain, is that it combines these into one program. For 6 weeks last fall, and another 5 weeks this coming November, we lived life together while digging into effectively reaching children for Christ. "Something for the head. Something for the hands. Something for the heart". The teaching objective for the course kept us on track so that in the midst of the craziness of bible lesson practicals, researching today's child, and many other things we

remembered why we were there. I left the course not only with a deeper knowledge of the skills required to understand and teach children about Jesus with excellence, but also a feeling of refreshment. I believe there is deep need within all believers to live in close community with each other, and the course reminded us of that. Living in community is sticky, especially when you combine several different cultures, but so rewarding to share times of fun, prayer, struggles, and victories working together as the body of Christ towards a common goal, a goal envisioned around the world – that every child will hear the Gospel!

Hannah Cashman (Missionary Candidate from USA to UK)



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"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." Matt. 18 v 14