

[on mission]

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™



The very first Children's Ministry Leadership Course held at Kilchzimmer in 1973.

A LOOK BACK AT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The steep, curvy mountain road leading up from the small village of Langenbruck, Switzerland is etched in the memories of many who made the trip to Kilchzimmer over the years.

Countless stories of how the activities at this small centre impacted people's lives are told worldwide on a

daily basis. It is those stories we'd like to reflect on to show how God proved His faithfulness through Kilchzimmer for nearly five decades.

After World War 2, the ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® grew rapidly in Europe, from 45 full-time workers in 1964 (only 5 of whom were

from Europe) to 137 in 1971. A regional office was needed as a training, printing and administration centre for the expanding work.

After researching several possible locations, a team, led by Sam Doherty, purchased the Kilchzimmer property from the Deaconesses' Establishment,

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AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH

ACTS 1:8b

Dear Friends,

Jesus commissioned us to be His witnesses among the children in our home town, our country and to the remotest parts of the earth.

The world has changed a lot since Jesus said this. Why then is the mission of the church still the same? The simple answer is, the sinful heart and the spiritual need of children and adults have not changed! Therefore the gospel is as relevant today as ever.

[A WORD FROM GERD-WALTER BUSKIES CEF EUROPEAN DIRECTOR]

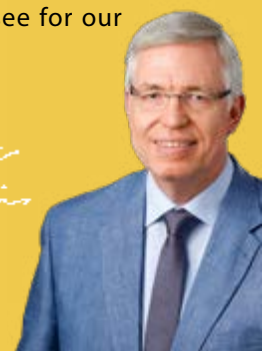
The CEF world is also changing. One of the big changes right now is the process of giving up our present European Headquarters. Actually, CEF Europe has been constantly changing since the CEF work in Europe began shortly after World War II. It was a small beginning, but the Lord blessed and the work spread into many more countries. More workers joined the mission, departments and areas were established and reorganised. This process is constantly going on to best meet the organisational needs of the time. However, one thing has not changed: CEF Europe is still **on mission** to reach the children of our big region with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is so much on our heart that we chose these words for the title of the new *Kilchzimmer Echo*. Today you read the second issue of **on mission**. Do you like it?

In this issue we look back at how God has used Kilchzimmer in the ministry of CEF Europe. In the next issue we plan to look forward and share a little bit of what we see for our future.

Yours,

Gerd-Walter Buskies



KILCHZIMMER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in 1971. After a two-year-long renovation process, the doors were opened and the facilities used—and used they were!

TRAINING BEGINS

Margaret Adamson was a student at the very first Children's Ministry Leadership Course in 1973, and shared, *"The Course, which was called 'The Institute' back then, impacted my life by giving me a confidence that I never had, to speak to children about the way of salvation."*

There were many highlights. Sundays were looked forward to immensely by all the students as we worshipped the Lord together with so many nationalities and heard great testimonies of how the Lord worked in bringing people into CEF.

David arrived unexpectedly for the graduation. We were only 6 months married when I left for Kilchzimmer so we were still in the honeymoon period! I was sharing a room with Etta Coulter who was evicted and a huge dummy placed on our bed.

During the night 9 alarm clocks went off at hourly intervals. All hidden around the room—some even under the floorboards. One of them belonged to Sam Doherty! Joe Kennedy had rigged up a different kind of alarm! We strongly suspect he was the planner behind all of this!"

George and Esther Manoukian also attended that first class. They went on to plant Good News Clubs and establish teacher training in Lebanon. Esther wrote, *"In 1975, war erupted in Lebanon. The Manoukian family—me, George, and the five children—were spared bullets, rockets, and bombs many times."* God would eventually call the Manoukians to start the ministry in Armenia—the land of their ancestors.

That first class—in English, German and French—had 46 students from 17 countries, and many served faithfully with CEF over the years, bringing the Gospel to children around the world.

In time, those who had been trained at Kilchzimmer went on to open CMLCs in their own areas, expanding the training ministry and ensuring more people are equipped to share the Gospel with children.

EQUIPPING THE WORKERS

The task of providing children and child evangelists with quality literature began at Kilchzimmer in 1973, with Dr. & Mrs. Jim Hale from Texas and Billy French from Northern Ireland forming the printing department. The CEF print shop was originally in the Hale's garage in Langenbruck. The Cospers soon joined the fledgling work along with others who helped grow the ministry.

The Lord expanded the printing ministry so much that in 1977 CEF purchased an old watch factory in the nearby village of Holderbank to be converted into the new print shop. Not having the funding outright, CEF was granted the ability to pay eight instalments, which was completed in October of 1978.

It was not only a print shop, but became a home for the Hales. Lauri Hale wrote, *"My sister and I lived in a room in the basement. My parent's bedroom was in the watch factory office on the main floor. We had to drive to Kilchzimmer to take showers. When the Swiss military came to Holderbank for their manoeuvres and training, they continued to sleep down in the basement for several years. My dad told us stories of the Swiss military men, who would have been out all night during their training, sleeping in the dark room (where he would develop the negatives and pictures to make plates, etc.). He would have to walk over and around them to do his work."*

In order to put the flashcards together, the Holderbank print shop would host "collation parties" where the books were put together by hand.

Jim Neigh, member and leader of the European Outreach team (from 1972 to 1983) shared, *"I can only say that the Lord used the ministry of Kilchzimmer in so many ways to make possible our ministry into Eastern Europe. I especially remember Jim and Barbara Hale, and Billy French, who*



1971
CEF purchases Kilchzimmer; Renovations begin

1973
First Institute held at Kilchzimmer / Print shop established in the Hale's garage in Langenbruck



1977
CEF purchases watch factory in Holderbank for the new print shop

1979
Audio-visual department is created, based in Holderbank



1980
CEF exceeds 250 full-time workers in Europe

1983
Western side of Kilchzimmer undergoes renovation

1984
The 1,000th student takes the CMLC in Europe

worked tirelessly to check translations and print the smaller format, flashcard editions of our Bible lessons which could be more easily carried around in Eastern Europe. Many were the times that Jim and Barbara travelled to Vienna from Holderbank with their VW van filled with banana boxes full of recently printed books in various languages. They helped us carry them up three flights of stairs. That literature was then carefully transported into the east by courier friends of the CEF ministry, and then distributed within each country by other believers.”

After a few years, an increasing need to create an Audio-Visual department was realised and a team was put together to create film strips, teacher training cassettes and audio stories.

When the Iron Curtain started crumbling in the late 80s and early 90s, the printing possibilities opened up in Central and Eastern Europe and the Holderbank print shop was closed in 1999. The Audio-Visual department became the Multimedia department and moved up to Kilchzimmer.

ADMINISTRATION

1 Timothy 4:6 says “If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.”

To successfully instruct and minister to the workers



in Europe, Kilchzimmer played a key role as an administrative centre. The job included encouraging, guiding, leading, support raising, bookkeeping, seeking out new workers and volunteers, preparing legal papers, filling out statistical reports, sharing the Word, strategic planning, conference planning, conducting refresher courses and much more.

All of these things, and vast amounts of prayer, led to a celebration when the work in Bosnia-Herzegovina opened up in 2015, being the final country in Europe to have ongoing, active CEF ministry.

A big change in the administration occurred in 2004 when the ministry was broken down into four areas—Eastern Europe, Central Europe, North-West Europe and South-West Europe. While oversight for the entire region was still in the hands of the Regional Director, the smaller areas allowed for better care, direction and flexibility regarding the differences and challenges in each area.

Over the years tasks, departments and workers moved from Kilchzimmer into the four areas.

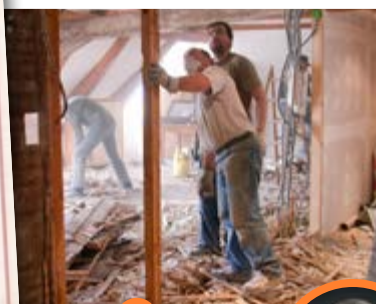
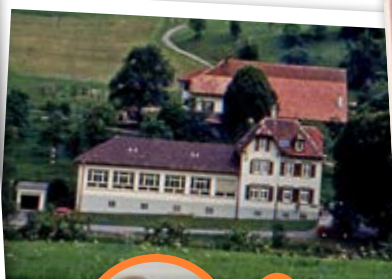
A LOOK AHEAD

That curvy mountain road from Langenbruck will soon no longer be travelled by workers, students and friends of CEF. No longer will the gasps of first time visitors at the ringing of cowbells be heard. But the mountain of ministry before us still rises.

William Carey, the great English missionary said, “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”

Child Evangelism Fellowship looks expectantly to God to do great things in Europe as we attempt great things for Him. Children still need to be reached with the Gospel. In the next edition of *ommission*, we will look ahead at how God is leading the ministry. Will you join us in our next step?

Photos from left: The first visit to Kilchzimmer ■ Sam Doherty teaches at one of the first Institutes ■ Billy French and Jim Hale ■ The Holderbank print shop ■ December 1983 edition of the Kilchzimmer newsletter ■ Renovations in 2003 ■ Children enjoying a competition during an 1. August party. **Above:** Newsletter masthead from 1978.



1993
Roy and Ruth
Harrison become
European
Directors

1999
Holderbank
print shop
closes

2002
Massive
renovation of the
kitchen, dining
area and rooms
above starts



2010
Gerd-Walter
Buskies
becomes the
European
Director

2015
CEF ministry
is established
in all the
countries in
Europe

[GIVING THANKS]

YOU ARE INVITED!

With the coming closure of Kilchzimmer, we invite you to join us in giving thanks to God for His faithfulness and blessings.

WHEN? Saturday, 22 September 2018, beginning at 14:00 (15:00 – 17:00 Thanksgiving Service)

WHERE? Kilchzimmer

WHAT? Thanksgiving Service, Looking back, Looking forward.

WHO? For all new or old friends of CEF Europe

REGISTRATION: Overnight guests please register with Felix und Diane Dürrenberger, Tel.: +41 62 387 3010, fduerrenberger@cefeurope.org.

Rooms in Kilchzimmer will be booked on a first come bases.



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Reaching children worldwide

[onmission]

onmission is distributed three times a year free-of-charge by the European Headquarters of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*®.

Please designate your gifts "European Headquarters", quoting any specific project for which you wish your gifts to be used. Your gifts may be sent to any of the addresses mentioned. Thank you!

Bank transfer information:

UBS AG, 8098 Zurich, Switzerland

Account: **CEF Europe (Kilchzimmer)** new!

IBAN: CH97 0024 5245 9257 2141 C

BIC Nr. UBSWCHZH80A

or Post Office Account: 46-4843-2

Excess funds given for projects will be applied to those still lacking, unless the donor wishes otherwise.

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Editorial/layout: Gerd-Walter Buskies, Brent Hautle, Tim & Sue Shirey.

SPAN BLESSES CHILDREN AND WORKERS



"We look forward to each Saturday as if a special holiday is coming! This is when we learn to obey the Word of God." The children are so happy when we are able to meet together. And because of SPAN, God enables us to continue in the ministry. (The Tapcov family, Republic Moldova)

SPAN or Sponsor-A-National is a CEF programme for CEF full time workers who do not yet have their full support. Over 250 CEF missionaries in Europe are supported by SPAN each month. Thank you so much for your help!

Gifts designated for SPAN can be made via your national CEF office or can be transferred directly to one of the accounts of CEF Europe.

