

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

# IMPACT

Spring  
2018

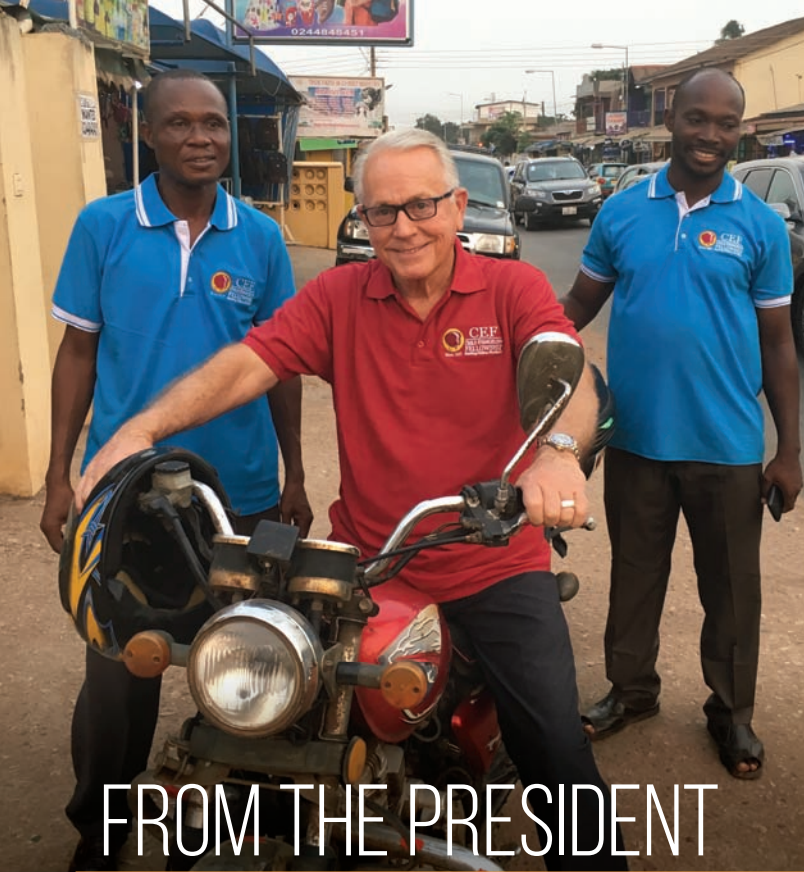
# GO!



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD  
EVERY NATION  
EVERY DAY





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Can you imagine what God could do through a group of united faithful followers who encircle the globe?

God has blessed me as president of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® to be able to meet with missionaries from all over the world. Their commitment to Jesus's Great Commission inspires me to do more. I've witnessed the Gospel shared in impoverished communities, in places remote and difficult to get to, and in areas dangerous to Christian witness. My heart has rejoiced to see hundreds of children sit under the African sun and listen intently to a Bible lesson. I marvel at how God has united a vast variety of people from around the globe to work together to carry out His mission to share the Gospel with Every Child, in Every Nation, Every Day. God provides missionaries, teachers, leaders, volunteers, supporters, and trainers, as well as people who produce and provide materials and people who pray. By working together we are able to reach even more!

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

### JESUS'S LAST COMMAND IS OUR FIRST CONCERN. HE TOLD US TO GO!

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven He commissioned His disciples to **GO!** God the Father had sent His Son on a mission to die on a cross for the salvation of the world. Now His disciples continue the mission by proclaiming this Good News. In the Great Commission Jesus clearly outlined His expectations and His assurances.

**GO** in His authority. Jesus has authority over all things in Heaven and on Earth. He will accomplish His purposes *in spite of the difficulties we face.*

**GO** and make disciples. Jesus wants us to boldly share His Gospel message. He sends us on a mission to *impact lives with the Gospel.*

**GO** to all nations. Jesus loves people of every tribe and nation. He might take us *outside of our comfort zone.*

**GO** and teach the Bible. Jesus desires disciples who will obey His commands. He wants us to walk *in obedience to God's calling.*

**GO** assured of His presence. Jesus promises His constant companionship. He encourages us to *never give up.*

Daily I am motivated by something I heard years ago: *The only thing you can take to Heaven is other souls.* That's why I am committed to the ministry of CEF®. Boys and girls face an eternity separated from God. But the Gospel can change their lives, now and forever, by the grace of God. I want to GO forward in life and impact lives with the Gospel in spite of difficulties, even if it takes me outside of my comfort zone. I want to live in obedience to God's calling and never give up. Will you GO with me?

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

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# PLEASE *Pray*

1

Boys and girls in North Korea will hear the Good News of Jesus and be able to attend *Good News Club*®.

2

The building of a training center in India will go smoothly.

3

More teens will be trained this year as summer missionaries and that many boys and girls will be reached through the *5-Day Club*® ministry.



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## O IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES

### Slowly but Surely

By Jenna Weis

Tom Smith and his team of three teachers were discouraged about their after-school club at an outreach center in an inner city neighborhood in New York City. Most of the children who attended came from dysfunctional homes and had little or no knowledge of God. One of the children suffered from attention deficit disorder; none of the children seemed interested in what the team was trying to teach. It was hard to see any progress in their lives.

**“If someone begins a new program, the devil loves to discourage early and often,”**

Tom said. “But God wouldn’t let us quit.” The team continued to meet with the children—building relationships, listening to their struggles, and helping them with their homework. They used the story of *Girl Who Sang in the Goathouse* to teach the children about God. Near the end of the story the team asked the children if they would like to believe in Jesus as their Savior. To the team’s surprise, three children responded! They were sincere about their decision and had been listening carefully to the story each week. They wanted to have Jesus as a part of their lives.

Since then, the team’s relationship with the children has deepened and so has the children’s interest in the club. At Christmas the children dressed in costumes and acted out the Christmas story as it was taught. The older children, who hadn’t shown much interest before, became excited and wanted to be involved. The team prays that one by one the children will trust Christ as Savior and grow in their faith.

Tom encourages any team that struggles to give it time, let God work, and not let the devil discourage them. Everyone in ministry has times when they feel overwhelming anxiety, when children misbehave, when there aren’t enough teachers and helpers, when there is lack of support or even opposition from a school, or when they see little or no progress. But we may not realize how closely the unsaved children are listening and thinking about the message of salvation, or how the lyrics of the songs encourage the saved children to share their faith with their friends. We may not see the results of our work and change may seem slow in coming but we can be sure that God in His perfect timing is working in the lives of the children.





### ***The Girl Who Sang in the Goathouse***

Wamdi was a young girl from Nigeria who suffered persecution because of her love for the Lord Jesus.

CEF Press® offers a variety of true missionary stories from around the world that inspire a life of faith.

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# Go Impact Lives With the Gospel

## Mormon Family Transformed by Gospel

By Beverly Wisdom, Local Director of CEF of Idaho Top Ten Counties Chapter

### The last day of *Christian Youth In*

*Action*® training dawned on a June morning with a mist evaporating off the mountains and the sun shining over the Clearwater Valley. Excitement raced through the young people as this was to be a special day. Today was the day for them to test their wings with open-air ministry.

Traveling down the mountainside, the chatter was busy as the group had become a close knit unit.

Arriving at the small town park, our partnering church had already set up a sunshade for face painting and secured a perfect area to play games and sing songs with families and children during the annual kids' fishing day. The team piled out of the vans and trucks and gathered to pray for God's direction and for the true Gospel of Jesus Christ to be heard by many.

Each *CYIA*™ trainee was assigned to a ministry group and then rotated throughout the morning. With *5-Day Club* songs playing, a parachute in action, and face painting in motion, the trainees began to share their faith with others in the community.

During this time a local Mormon family enjoyed the festivities and served in one of the other booths. Two daughters, Bethany, age 11, and Miriam, age 9, checked out the various activities and walked near the *CYIA* area. One of our young people asked if they would like to have their faces painted while hearing the Gospel. The two girls piled under the sunshade and in a very clear and concise manner, heard the true Gospel of Jesus and what it meant to be saved.

The girls excitedly returned to the booth where their mother, Amy, was working and shared with her the impression the face painters had made on them. Amy had been listening to Christian radio for a while and found she was unsettled in her spirit regarding her belief. Listening to her daughters repeat the Gospel made such an impact upon Amy that she wrestled with what she believed. Bethany also pondered; "Am I saved? Do I really know Jesus?" As they questioned where they were in their faith, they searched the Scriptures for answers and found the One true God.

Four years later, I had the opportunity to interact with



Miriam, Bethany and their mother again as they attended the training for *Good News Club* teachers. Amy shared with me how she and her family had left the Mormon Church. But God did not stop there. Amy, Miriam, and Bethany helped in the *Good News Club* and heard about *Christian Youth In Action* and the *5-Day Club* ministry. Last summer Bethany and Miriam participated in the training and became summer missionaries. Their determination to share Jesus resulted in 127 children hearing the true Gospel of Jesus in the small communities of northern Idaho. I watched Bethany concentrate on giving a clear Gospel presentation and Miriam blossom as she became animated in her teaching.

Amy became my strong right arm as she traveled with me to the 5-Day Clubs. One of her greatest fears was alleviated as she witnessed her girls engaging in ministry and forming strong bonds of friendship with the other team members. Since most of their social life had been tied to the activities of the Mormon Church, Amy worried about her children having good Christian interaction and friendships.

Bethany and Miriam currently serve as teachers in a *Good News Club* and desire to be a part of *5-Day Club* ministry again this summer. They enthusiastically encourage their friends and siblings to join the ministry of CEF and serve as summer missionaries too.









# GO OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

“They (the boys and girls) brought a smile to my face and reminded me why I was there—to share the Gospel with them.”

—Anne Kelly

In December 2016, a team from CEF of Pennsylvania spent 11 days in Kenya teaching 5-Day Clubs and vacation Bible schools. Angela Ye and Anne Kelly, who have served as *Christian Youth In Action* volunteers in Delaware County, were a part of this team. This trip was life-changing for both. Angela and Anne describe how God impacted their lives while in Kenya.

Angela writes: “I like having control. I work, work, work, and study, study, study so I can rely on myself for success instead of on others, instead of on God. With less than two days before I would fly to Kenya, I still didn’t know exactly what the team and I would be doing or what our schedule would look like. I felt terrified.” But as the trip progressed God was working in Angela. “The lessons I learned in Kenya have encouraged me to live my life differently and spend less time planning for my future and more time seeking God’s will. From the children I learned to be open and accepting, and to welcome others without fear or hesitation. I will invest in others and love them in an effort to point them toward God.”

Anne had a unique experience teaching at a *5-Day Club* which was all in Swahili. “I sat in a small, sweltering room packed with children. For a majority of the time I had no clue what they were saying, with the exception of the occasional *Naaman* coming out during the Bible lesson. I was, however, able to teach the verses in English (which the children understood). After the first day I was glad to be pushed out of my comfort zone.

“I miss being in Kenya. There is nothing I don’t miss, even the rooster that woke me up at 3:00 in the morning and crowed every eight seconds. We learned about flexibility and to step up and do what is needed. The days were long, the nights were short, but it was worth it. I definitely miss the boys and girls. They brought a smile to my face and reminded me why I was there—to share the Gospel with them.”



Left Picture: Carolyn Brown, Anne Kelly, Angela Ye, Valery Cherry, and a CYIAer from Kenya



Right Picture: Anne Kelly with 3-year-old Kenyan child



# Go In Obedience to God's Calling

Where God Leads

By Eleanor George

**M**y father was a pastor but in 1944 he became a Navy chaplain and moved our family to Grand Rapids, Michigan. When I was just six years old I was invited to a woman's house for *Good News Club*. We sang songs and learned verses. She told the Passover story and as she put pictures on the flannel board, she explained how the blood put over the door post was a picture of the cross. She applied it to my life and my need for provision from the penalty for death. When she gave the invitation, I wanted to respond, but thought I needed to ask my mother. I went home and my parents explained the way of salvation to me again. That day I received Jesus as my Savior.

A few weeks later my dad received orders to move to San Diego, California. He went ahead to prepare for us, and a short time later my mother loaded my siblings and me and all our belongings into our car and we started our journey.

While going through Colorado my mother made a wrong turn that took us up a mountain

road. The walls of the mountain seemed to get steeper and the road narrower. Finally my mother decided she needed to turn around. We were all afraid as Mom tried to turn our car around on that narrow road. Then I remembered a verse I had learned in *Good News Club*. I said, "Mom, 'What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.'" Our fear disappeared! My mother turned the car around and got us off that mountain.

Now I'm 78 years old and still feel the wonder of knowing God will take care of me. In that *Good News Club* I recognized my need to receive Jesus as my Savior and I learned verses that have stayed with me all these years. I still recall that verse—and others—when I am afraid.

Just before my 16th birthday I met Alan George and we soon began dating. Every summer he traveled to Pensacola, Florida to work with CEF as a summer missionary teaching 5-Day Clubs. We married on my 20th birthday and as soon as I graduated from nursing school, we moved to Chicago, where Alan began working with





*CEF*. Later God led us back to Pensacola, where Alan worked with *CEF* of Florida and eventually became Florida's state director. As time went on Alan served as a regional director, director of USA Ministries, vice president of Overseas Ministries and senior vice president of USA and Overseas Outreach. From 1982-1989 Alan served as president of *CEF*.

In 1989 Alan stepped down from the presidency and was succeeded by our current president, Reese Kauffman. This enabled Alan to follow God's leading to go to Africa where we served as *CEF* missionaries for six years.

Alan and I were married for 56 years when God took him Home. During that time our daughter Betsy and her husband, Tom, followed the call into ministry with *CEF* of New York City. Their son also works with *CEF* in NYC. Our daughter Rebecca is active in the *CEF* chapter in Saint Louis, Missouri. We are a family that loves the Lord, each other, and *CEF*!



children's ministries  
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# GO AND NEVER GIVE UP

*A Lifetime of Service*

By Emily McGraw



John and Lois Cook were familiar with the work of CEF when they first met in college. They had each taught CEF Bible lessons in public schools. Both felt called to be missionaries to children but were uncertain about their next steps. When they saw an advertisement for the CEF training institute in California, they sensed God's leading. But there were two problems: they were not married yet and lacked the money to do so, and they did not have a way to get to California. John and Lois trusted God to provide and He did. Someone gave John \$100 to buy wedding rings and a friend of John's asked if he would drive his new convertible to California for him.

On June 4, 1956, John graduated with his BA degree in Bible, married Lois, and began the drive to California. They were accepted as CEF missionaries to South Korea and on March 27, 1959, John, Lois, and their son Kerry boarded a freighter for the 14-day journey to Pusan, South Korea.

While in South Korea the Cooks had three more sons: Kevin, Kristy, and Kimble. Adjusting to a vastly different culture was challenging. It took years of study to learn the Korean language. They met with many difficult and trying times but kept going. Once, their son Kerry got lost but missionaries found him and brought him home. Another time while their house was

being treated for insects, their infant son Kevin accidentally ingested the poison and nearly died. With constant prayer and the careful attention of the missionary doctor, he recovered. The Cooks served 28 years in South Korea (1959-1987) sharing the Gospel with children and developing the ministry. Today, CEF of South Korea thrives and sends more missionaries abroad than any other country.

Even after retirement John and Lois still have hearts for the Korean people. They attend a Korean church near their home in South Carolina and teach children's church every week. One Sunday a 13-year-old boy came to children's church for the first time. John and Lois invited him in, and he sat in the back of the classroom as John continued with the story, *Pilgrim's Progress*. John told about Graceless, who was carrying the burden of his sin until he met Jesus, who took away his burden and changed his name to Christian. Suddenly the boy sitting in the back of the room jumped up and said, "I am that man! I have a burden of sin in my life too. I want to have Jesus as my Savior!" John talked to him and led him to Christ. That day, like Graceless in *Pilgrim's Progress*, the boy became a new creature!



### ***Koo Yohan (John Cook)***

John Cook was used by God to reach many boys and girls for Christ as he served with *Child Evangelism Fellowship* both in South Korea and the United States.

This year many children learned about John and Lois Cook during *Good News Club*.

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## ARMENIA

At the close of vacation Bible school 11-year-old Lily responded, “I heard about Jesus from my friend and in this VBS I understood that the best thing in the world is to believe in God.” Rick, who is in fourth grade, brought 11 children with him to VBS. He had accepted Jesus and wanted his friends to also hear about Him and accept Him. Children are the best evangelists among their friends. —*Vartan*

## USA

When the invitation to believe in Jesus was given at the end of a 5-Day Club lesson, two 11-year-old girls came to speak with me and immediately began crying. They explained that a close friend had committed suicide. I asked God to show me what to say. I told the girls that sin caused loss to enter the world. But God loved them so much He sent Jesus to die for them to save them from their sin.

The next day one of the girls responded to the invitation again. She told me she couldn’t stop thinking about our conversation the day before and wasn’t sure if she was saved. I explained John 3:16 once more. With tears in her eyes she put her faith in Jesus. Then she ran to another teacher and instead of tears she had a big smile as she announced that she had gotten saved from her sins!

—*Heartland Teen Missionary’s Testimony*





## BELIZE

Recently I had the privilege of sitting beside an eight-year-old boy on the bus. I was about to get out my phone when I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to share *The Wordless Book* with him. The child wonderfully believed in the Lord Jesus as Savior and now attends our church.

—Sally Sampson, national coordinator for Belize

## RUSSIA

One night during camp I entered the tent to conduct the evening devotion and asked the boys from my group if we could start with prayer. They all prayed fervently, some with tears in their eyes. The change in the boys was very clear and remarkable to me—that day they had entrusted their lives to Jesus Christ. From then on they tried to be obedient, cared for other campers, sang songs with joy, and helped in the dining room. I have clearly experienced the power of God revealed through the preaching of the Gospel. We plan to stay in touch with the children after camp through Bible correspondence courses and letters. —Vladimir



## SRI LANKA

“I was raised in a Buddhist family. We were rejected by society and no one played with me. Most of the time, I was alone. A teacher came next door who told beautiful stories with pictures, songs, and games. One day, I attended the club and felt so happy to listen to stories and sing songs with motions. I went back again and again. At Christmas they taught about the hope of three trees. In that story the hope of the three trees came true! I was so happy that one day my hope also will come true and I accepted Jesus as my Savior. Now I have friends and behave good wherever I go. Thank you, Jesus.”

—Good News Club attendee



Trained and equipped nationals are the ideal individuals to minister to children in their countries. They already speak the language, know the culture and can work where people of other nations are not welcomed.

Since 1972 the *Sponsor-A-National™* program has provided financial assistance to trained nationals who live in areas where it is difficult to raise support. Presently over 900 CEF national missionaries receive assistance through the *SPAN™* program each month. This enables them to spend more time sharing the Good News about Jesus with the children.



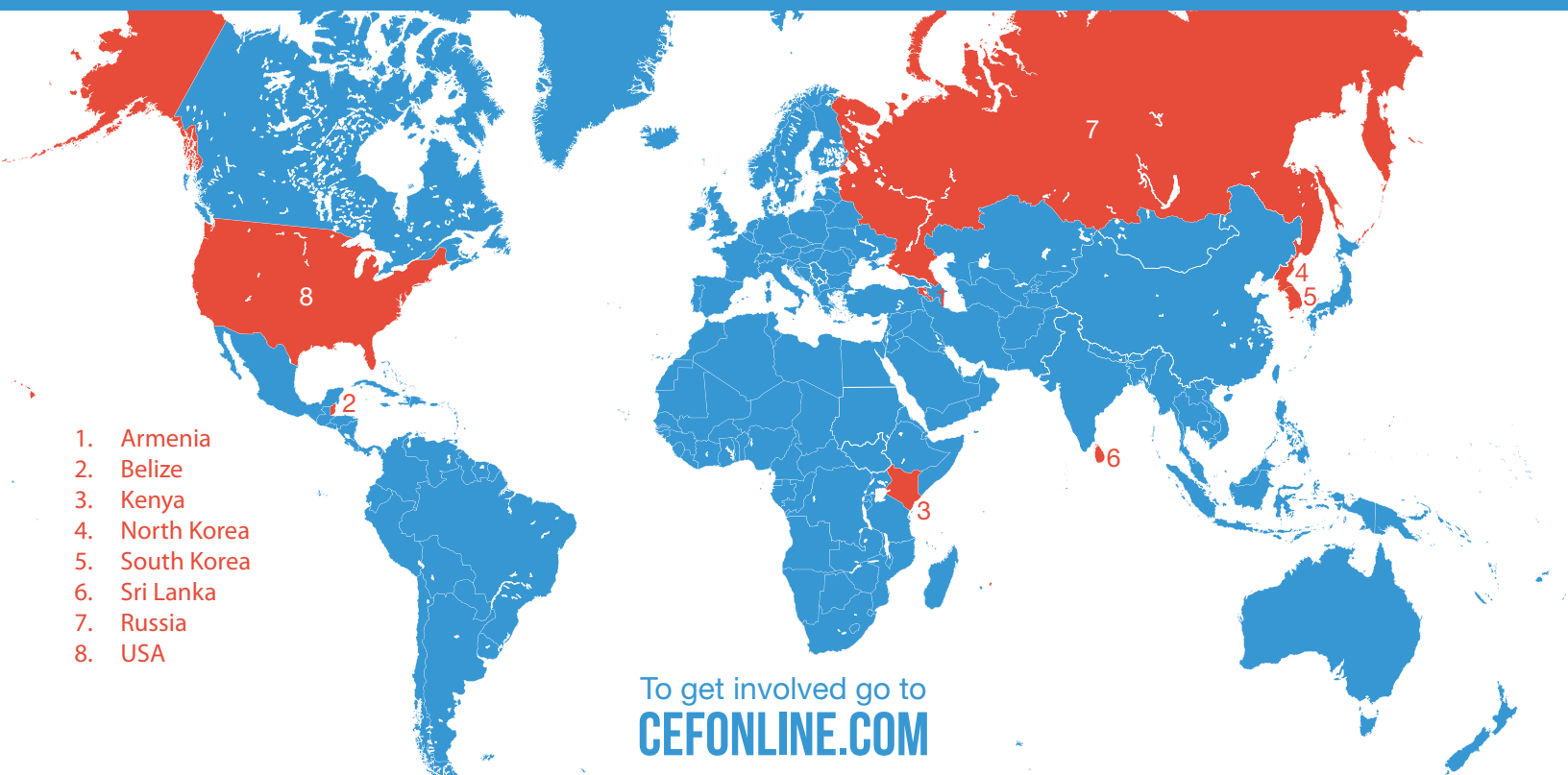
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