

SHARING THE VISION

OF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN



2019 **SPRING**

What Disturbs You?

There are so many valid answers to that question. In today's world, there can be multiple things disturbing us all at the same time: Brexit, the economy, difficult relationships, personal health concerns, financial insecurity, social and moral decline. This list is certainly not exhaustive! Many of us are disturbed about many things. On the other hand, could it be possible that many of us bury our heads in the sand, attempting to live a comfortable life, devoid of disturbance? Could it be that we are disturbed and bothered by things which, in the grand scheme of eternity, are not really that important at all?

Nehemiah's Example

An example of godly disturbance is Nehemiah. He was open, honest, and disturbed by something that really mattered. He was bothered by the spiritual state of Jerusalem; he was disturbed by the fact that the people were in great trouble and shame. He was concerned about God's glory being restored. He wept, he fasted, he prayed. But he didn't stop there. After pouring out his heart before God, he got up, dried his tears and got to work. He travelled back to Jerusalem and inspected the wall to see the damage for himself. He rode all around the city to see what needed done. Then he came up with a plan of action.

Nehemiah didn't keep the plan to himself. He didn't try to rebuild the city wall singlehandedly. He recruited volunteers. He shared his vision and the people caught it. "...And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for the good work" (Nehemiah 2:18, ESV). Each man worked on the portion of the wall that was outside his home. When opposition arose, they laid bricks with one hand and wielded a sword with the other. When they grew tired and weary, they asked God to

strengthen their hands for the work that was still before them. They built and they fought, but not in their own strength. They worked in the power of God who was with them every step.

God thwarted the plans of the enemies that rose up. He stopped the conspiracies that came against Nehemiah and his team of builders. God strengthened His people to build and to defend, and, after only 52 days, the wall was complete.

Nehemiah was disturbed, he prayed, he inspected, he recruited, he built, and God blessed the work of his hands.

Bringing it Home

When we take a good, hard look at society around us, we should be disturbed, but we should not despair. The sin and depravity of our culture may tempt us to hide within the four walls of our churches and homes, just waiting for Jesus to come back and make it all right again. But God placed you in your community—your culture—your generation—for such a time as this. Take your disturbance before the Lord. Weep. Fast. Pray for your country, then rise and see the task God has placed before us.

Our society won't be fixed with a wall around the city. It will be mended

by the Gospel alone, and CEF is here to help you declare and display the Gospel in your community. It's time to rise up and strengthen our hands for the good work that lies before us.

There are many opportunities for you to get involved in the work of CEF. Pray and give so the work can continue and grow. Join us in direct outreach to children in your community. Get a group together and start a Good News Club. Host an Easter Club in your home or church or community centre. CEF is here to provide you with the training and resources you need!

Nehemiah and his builders succeeded, not because of their programmes, or strength or prowess. They succeeded because God was on their side. We know that CEF can do nothing apart from the sovereign grace of God. It is not our programmes, or literature, or volunteers who guarantee success; it is the Saviour of the World who strengthens our hands. God doesn't need us to do His work, but He chooses to use us—to work in us and through us and for us. He is the One who is strong and sufficient, who works on our behalf, who provides what is needed. He is the One in whom we place our confidence and trust. He is the One who desires us to be involved in His great spiritual rebuilding work in Great Britain.

What disturbs you? The spiritual needs of children and young people? Why don't you contact us at info@cefbritain.org. We share your burden, and want to help you to declare and display the Gospel. Let us arise and build!

PHILIP ANNETT
CEF International Ministries

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

A MISSION WITH GOD'S VISION FOR CHILDREN

www.cefbritain.org

■ One day, at the 'Sing and Story Time' in Small Heath no mums and babies came. Even so I decided to stay there and wait anyway. At some point a lady who comes to the community centre there came. She recognised me from the Holiday Bible Club we'd had in the summer of 2017 at Grenfell Baptist Church. Although she had come to attend a cookery class, she decided to sit with me and chat. She recalled how she and her daughter enjoyed the day they joined and how well organised it was. She also asked me if there's any other children's activities happening there as she wants to bring her children there. It was a great encouragement to hear that from her. She's from an Asian background as are most of the people living in East Birmingham.

I hope that this year we'll find ways of creating trust in the community and reaching out with the Gospel in an effective way.

MONICA NECHITA

Birmingham

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■ "Mum, the word of God came into my heart as I heard the Bible lesson. So, I made a decision to give my body to Jesus as my Christmas gift." Joel is eleven and recently has joined in a local Good News Club from Christian background. She came to the Christmas Party Club with her mother. The CEF bible lesson was 'Two Christmas Gifts for You' written by Jane D. Smith. The Bible lesson talked about God's gift and Son's gift to us and My gift to Jesus. When Eun Sook taught what God's gift and Son's gift are, children participated in a bible lesson with excitement as if they knew all about the Christmas message. Then she explained what gift we can give him and how through Romans 12:1. The Holy Spirit touched Joel with His living and powerful word. Even she explained to her dad what it means to give our body to Jesus as our gift at home. Praise the Lord! One week later, Joel's mum shared this testimony with Eun Sook with her great joy.

EUN SOOK GEUM

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CEF in Teesside

■ One of the most encouraging happenings in ministry over 2018 was seeing a teenage girl (from a non christian family) who had made a profession of faith at camp the year before, join us this year at camp as a junior helper and seeing how the Lord has strengthened her faith and love for Him and the excitement and enthusiasm that she has in attending a local church, studying the scriptures, spending time with other believers and sharing the gospel with other young people. Praise the Lord for His wonderful grace and salvation! Please pray for continued blessing upon this girl's life and that the Lord will open the door for her to be able to share her faith with her unbelieving family.

CLAUDINE UWIZEYE

CEF Local Worker

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■ During the past year we have been so encouraged. It's been great to be invited back to churches to lead Holiday Bible Clubs with Lego. We now help run or support three toddler groups each week. In each one there is a Bible Story. The opportunity to lead a Workshop at the national Playtime Conference (Care for the Family) was really exciting. Weekly Good News Clubs continue during term time with local churches working with us to reach their local community. We are very thankful to God for each opportunity. Thank you for praying for us.

STEVE AND RACHEL BALL

North East London

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■ "If God created everything why did He create Himself an enemy?" – 9 year old girl in Bible club. I am thankful for the foundation of the work laid by the CEF workers that have been before me which allows me the opportunity to point children in schools to the answers in God's Word. The Lord has kept open the door in two local schools for Bible clubs with the possibility of a third in 2019. Each group is going through a series that takes them from Genesis to the Cross. We are ever grateful for this open door with the children to answer questions and show God's big heart for them!

HANNAH CASHMAN

Edinburgh and the Lothians

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The Right Moment

■ The school year 2017/18, I was allowed to teach our youngest son's nursery class monthly Bible stories. Unfortunately, it stopped because his teacher went on maternity leave during the summer holiday. I had offered to keep coming, but the door didn't open.

Through my ministry, I know that timing is such an important thing, that when God is in it and the timing is right, a door that is and has been closed for a long time can open easily.

One morning in the autumn, our youngest son was in tears and asked: "When are you telling stories from the Bible again at school?" I knew today is the day and I went to his new teacher and asked her. She said: "Would you

be willing to do it for the whole infant stage?" I quickly said: "Yes please."

In the end, my husband and I were allowed to tell the Christmas Story for the whole school on 17th of December. Praise God for His leading and guidance and for His great wish that all children should hear His Word.

HANNE EVANS

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What are you going to do to reach children with the Gospel this Easter?



Do you have some children in your church?

Why not run an Easter Party for them to invite their friends to. You could do a big party in church or small ones in the homes of your church children. If you use homes the parents often want to stay too. A couple of families could team up to do one party in one of their homes.

Our Easter Party Pack will provide everything you need for whichever setting you choose. There are visual aids, a booklet of ideas and a resource CD that includes visuals for songs, memory verses and games.

You can order it online from:
www.cefireland.com/shop/



Do you have anyone in the church who could maybe tell the Easter story in the local school in an assembly or to a class?

- Get in touch with the school and see if they would let you help in this way with their curriculum. They may also let you give out Easter Party invitations to the children.

If you have no children in the church,

- You could still hold an Easter Party and ask a local primary school if they will give out invitations to the children at the school.

If you don't have the people to run a party ...

- You could distribute "The Greatest Swap" leaflets in the school or from door to door. You can print small stickers with the church contact details on to go on the back of the leaflets. The leaflets are available from CEF or from The Good Book Company.





Serving a global God

“We must be global Christians with a global mission because our God is a global God.”

John R. W. Stott

We serve a global God—a God who desires and deserves the worship of every tribe, nation, and tongue. He has graciously given Child Evangelism Fellowship a global reach—active ministry in nearly every country around the globe. But the work is far from complete. Though there is ministry in most countries as we count them, there are still thousands of people groups and tribes within those countries who have yet to hear the name of Jesus—who cannot give Him the worship He alone deserves.



All around the world there are men and women, CEF national leaders, who are working day in and day out to expand the ministry of CEF, many in nations where it is dangerous to be a Christian, much less share the Gospel. They could be working anywhere else, making much more money and living a life without risk. But instead they choose to spend their lives for the cause of Christ.

Meet Francis

One of these leaders is Francis, the national director in South Sudan. Last year, South Sudan was ravaged by civil war, forcing Francis, his family, and the other CEF workers out of their homes. They are now living in refugee camps, with plastic tents as their shelter and a scarcity of food and clean water—conditions

we in the West couldn't imagine.

Francis was almost ready to give up on the ministry during this difficult time. But God gave him the grace to continue. Today, he shares the Gospel with children in the refugee camps. He holds Good News Club there and even trains other believers to join him in reaching the children for Christ, right where they are, in their most desperate situation. Tens of thousands of children in refugee camps have heard the Gospel, thanks to God's grace working in Francis's life.

Meet Zbyšek

Zbyšek is another CEF leader. He works in the Czech Republic, the most atheistic country in Europe. In 2017, Zbyšek attended a leaders' conference where the Lord gave him a burden for the areas of his country that were not yet touched by CEF ministry. One of those areas was Prague, the capital city. Even though it would be inconvenient from a human standpoint, Zbyšek chose the path of obedience. Every week, he has been taking a four-hour train ride to Prague. (Zbyšek lives in the western part of the country; Prague is in the east.) He opened a CEF office in the city, where he works and spends the night. He meets with pastors, promotes the ministry, works to recruit volunteers, and shares the Gospel with children at every opportunity. God even opened the door for him to do an Easter party club in a Prague public school, where he told the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. (An incredible event, considering 57% of people in the Czech Republic call themselves atheists!) Every

week, Zbyšek leaves his family, travels to Prague, works to get the ministry established, and returns home. He toils week after week so that every child in Prague, and in the Czech Republic, has a chance to hear the Gospel.

Meet Diane

Diane* lives and ministers in a country where it is illegal to share the Gospel. If the government found out about her ministry, she would have to flee the country. Yet every day she trusts God to give her boldness, strength, and protection as she shares the Good News with children. She flies in the face of danger, risking everything so that God's glory would be declared in her nation—so that children would have a chance to respond to the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CEF is a global ministry because of men and women like Francis, Zbyšek, and Diane who make sacrifices every day to bring the Gospel to children in their nations. And there are many more leaders just like them whose stories are yet to be told. Join us in thanking God for these leaders and praying for them. Ask God to encourage them, protect them, and strengthen them to persevere in declaring God's glory to the children among the nations.

*Name changed for security purposes.

PHILIP ANNETT
CEF International Ministries



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP*

Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™

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Website for kids: www.WonderSurf.com

Sharing the Vision is distributed by **Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain** to those who love the Lord and have a heart for the spiritual welfare of children. Please advise us of any change in address.

Gifts: If you would like to financially support the vital work and witness of CEF in evangelising children in England, Scotland and Wales, please send your gift to: CEF of Britain, PO Box 9281, POOLE, BH14 4FS.

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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

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