

SHARING THE VISION

OF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

2020 **SPRING**

Preparing for take off

Driving through the beautiful hills of eastern Scotland, it's hard not to think of this land's rich evangelical history. From John Knox to Mary Slessor, Scotland has been the birthplace of some of the world's greatest revivals and missions movements. When I (Hannah) spent my first months there in 2018, I stood amazed as time and again individuals told even of the works of God in more recent history in the Isle of Lewis Revival. Scotland has appropriately been penned "The Land of Many Revivals".

We see this same hunger for the Lord still today. When the Lord first led me to the UK in 2016, the first place I landed was Scotland. At that point, I was unsure where I would eventually settle and never truly considered Scotland as an option. But the Lord had other plans and continued to place it on my heart, eventually moving me back there in 2018. The autumn of 2018 to summer 2019 really became a year of planting the vision in my own heart. I knew this was where the Lord had called but was again unsure where to begin. Throughout the year, the Lord patiently guided me as I led two school clubs and partnered with local churches for different one-off events. When Simon and I knew the Lord was leading us to marriage, we recognised that it would most likely mean a time

away from Scotland. Yet, we knew also that the Lord would lead us back...

My (Simon) first connection with Scotland began when I was saved there at a camp in Gartmore at the age of 11. I was born and raised in Northern Ireland. Although my family name has a rich Scottish heritage I never truly considered moving away from home. In January 2015 I was introduced to my first CEF training through a Teaching Children Effectively (TCE) course. This gave me a great vision for how CEF cover the big picture of children's and youth ministry. I had known for some time now that God was calling me into ministry but was unsure in what capacity, as I felt unequipped for service. The following year the opportunity came to take the first half of CEF's Children's Ministry Leadership Course (CMLC) in Northern Ireland. I jumped at the opportunity! It was there that I met Hannah, and where the Lord challenged me specifically on the need for men in ministry, especially in children's ministry.

Through my many church connections our friendship began with me giving Hannah contacts for ministry in Scotland when she first was considering it

for missions in 2017. Each of these contacts developed into greater opportunities to reach children and we are still in connection with them today. As our relationship developed, I saw the great need to cultivate ministry in Scotland. I felt the Lord was opening a door for me with the passion He has given me, not only for children's ministry but for equipping and encouraging local churches and believers to reach their local children. The Lord used the words of Nehemiah to confirm in my own heart the way ahead. "Let us rise up and build". So they strengthened their hands for the good work". (2, v.18c)

In many ways the timing of the future is still unknown. We are grateful for this year of transition in our first year of marriage. We are grateful for this year away in Northern Ireland preparing and training for full time ministry. In spite of the unknowns and details still to fall in place, we know the Lord is faithful. He will faithfully guide us and other workers in Scotland as we seek

to reach children for Christ. Although it is very easy to look to the future and have expectations of what we want to see done, ultimately, we have both been challenged in this last season to rest our plans at His feet and to pray. Pray for the children in Scotland. Pray for the believers in Scotland. Pray for His timing, His place, and His leading as we look to the year ahead.

SIMON AND HANNAH SNODGRASS



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

A MISSION WITH GOD'S VISION FOR CHILDREN

www.cefbritain.org

Now is the time for us

Many years ago, we were asked to lead the children's Bible Club at our church and it was there we met Judy Buis, a CEF missionary from the USA, when she came to speak about her work. It was very evident that she had a strong emphasis on the importance of sound doctrine, and especially in the times that we live in.

Judy visited our Bible club a few times and she encouraged us to take the 3 month CMLC course in Switzerland. We were keen and our church were supportive also, but it was not an easy plan to put in motion. Our boys were aged 11, 13, and 15 at the time and would have to miss some school and take their school work to Switzerland. John would have to take 3 months unpaid leave from his work – we still had a mortgage, professional fees for John's work and regular bills to pay for our house while we were away and we would have to raise the funds for the training. Our church willingly supported us by paying the fees. We managed to raise the rest mostly by generous gifts. We arrived in Kilchzimmer in Summer of 2013 and settled into the intensive course. The first thing of note that we learned, was the difference between telling children a Bible story and teaching a Bible lesson, identifying central truths and getting creative, thorough memory verse teaching and teaching doctrines to children. The teachers were inspiring.

Jennifer Haaijer's ability to be both profound and simple became the benchmark for the Bible lesson. Margaret Adamson's experience was evident in her ability to be very easy going and pleasant while being incredibly engaging and thorough. Gerd Walter Buskies demonstrated teaching doctrines to children and yet again it was amazing to see how you can be both profound and simple when teaching children. There are many more memorable aspects, the victorious life, time management and so much more that equipped us. We were full of enthusiasm for the ministry by the time we finished the course but again it was not easy to just walk into a ministry. We were under financial strain at the time and we could not take that with us into ministry and raise

enough support to pay our mortgage and support our 3 boys. We continued to teach our GNC for a few years but plans to become CEF workers went on the back burner until recently.

We discussed Martha becoming a CEF worker on her own seeing as it seemed impossible for both of us, and started to push the doors prayerfully. Our church was supportive and Martha applied to become a part-time CEF worker with John helping out as a volunteer. We both went to the CEF workers conference in Northampton in November and had a great time of fellowship with the other workers. After this, John decided to commit himself officially to CEF work, one day a week. So it wasn't a jump of

faith – but small tentative prayerful steps of faith because we wanted to be sure that God was opening the doors and going before us. We are excited about being involved in the wonderful ministry of bringing God's word to children. Currently we are part of a church in the Govanhill area of Glasgow. This is a very multi-cultural area with many Roma children and South Asian families. It is a deprived area of Glasgow with a lot of problems and our church seeks to be a light in the darkness. We plan to start a GNC in our church.

Please pray with us as we take these steps of faith into ministry – that we will raise funds, that children will come to the GNC and be saved. CEF was once much larger in Scotland than it is now and we hope that it will grow – and that through the ministry of CEF the Word of God will be brought to children throughout Scotland.

JOHN & MARTHA MEAGHER
Glasgow

We are excited about being involved in the wonderful ministry of bring God's word to children.



Club and training news

■ A Junior Youth Challenge has started for former Good News Club children as a follow-up. Seven teenagers gather to study the Word of God and enjoy Christian fellowship every Wednesday. It is encouraging to see them growing spiritually little by little. We pray for them to grow to be like Jesus, to live a victorious life by faith in this sinful world and to witness Jesus in their daily lives. Six teachers from six different churches are taking the Teaching Children Effectively level 1 course in New Malden for twelve weeks. Most of them are quite new to CEF and have been very excited at learning how to share the message of Salvation with children and how to teach the Bible Lesson. We pray that God will give them the vision and burden of reaching the lost children and they will bring them to Jesus through teaching the Word of God.

EUN SOOK GEUM
South West London



A New Trainee in Wales

■ My happy place is children's ministry. I currently lead two children's groups at my home chapel, as well as help out with a children's group and a youth group in two other churches. My love for working with young people began when I was blessed to be asked to help out at the Evangelical Movement of Wales Summer Conference in Aberystwyth. This was a great opportunity to encourage young people on their faith journey. However, having had no formal training, I prayed for a course which would meet my needs and make me a more effective outreach worker. Meeting Hanne Evans was the answer to my prayer! I came across an article written by former CEF worker Hanne in the Evangelical Times about her Lego Building and Bible Zone Events. I thought this was a great way of engaging children. We met up when I helped out at one of her events and asked her to



come down to west Wales to hold an event at our local village hall. As we talked about Hanne's work, she encouraged me to apply for the training course, being full of praise for its sound Biblical teaching. After researching the course and praying about it, I spoke to my pastor and church friends who were unanimously supportive. Having been accepted on the course I am excited to see what God has in store for me and thank Him for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

MEGAN STONE

Toddler Group Conference

■ October 12 saw us making our way round the North Circular to the Rhythms of Grace Toddler Group Conference. This is just one of the opportunities that our blog let their light shine.com has opened up to us. Rhythms of Grace attracts toddler group leaders from across London from a variety of church denominations. There were various workshops during the day as well as altogether sessions. Rachel led two identical workshops before and after lunch that focused on crafts connected to Bible Stories. The workshops were practical with opportunities to ask questions and look at lots of examples. It was great to be there and be able to meet with toddler group leaders.

STEVE AND RACHEL BALL

North East London

I know who holds the future

Living in Scotland was never part of my plan. I was going to finish my schooling, go to university, and become a primary school teacher somewhere in suburban America. Maybe, if God was so inclined, I would teach somewhere like Africa or Asia. But Scotland? It had never crossed my mind.



Working full-time with Child Evangelism Fellowship was never part of my plan either. Though I had volunteered with CEF in the United States from the age of 15, it was just going to be something I did in the summers as a teenager. Even when I began an internship at the International Headquarters when I was 18, I thought it would be a one-year gig. But oh, how I was wrong!

Today, I sit in my flat in a small town between Edinburgh and Glasgow, a full-time missionary with Child Evangelism Fellowship, ever-so-thankful that God works out His plans in spite of my own. Though I never imagined myself in this place, I know—not only intellectually, but experientially—that God’s ways are infinitely higher than mine.

While I had a dream of teaching a classroom of children their ABCs and how to add two plus two, God gave me the privilege of teaching classrooms of children about their Creator who loves them and wants them to know Him. Just this last summer, I was part of a group who went into two primary schools

in Livingston, Scotland, to share the Gospel. God opened the door for us to be in every single classroom, sharing the Good News of Jesus with over 600 children in one week. One little girl came up to me and said, “Thank you for coming! I’ve never heard that God made me...” Other children sat with looks of awe on their faces as they touched a Bible for the first time. “These are really God’s words?” they asked.

The door is open for us, yet again, to go into these primary schools this summer. He’s also given us the

a time for children to come and hear a Bible lesson, sing songs, and ask questions about what Christians believe.

opportunity to be in the schools each week for lunch club—a time for children to come and hear a Bible lesson, sing songs, and ask questions about what Christians believe. It is my prayer that in the coming months, more and more opportunities like this will be opened

to us, and that more and more children will hear the Good News of the Gospel.

God’s plan took me to Scotland, a place I never imagined myself living. But He also has taken me around the world, serving in places I never imagined myself serving. The other side of my role with Child Evangelism Fellowship is an international one, working alongside the directors of leadership and ministry

development. Together we plan and facilitate training programmes for the national directors of CEF.

The National Directors Institute (NDI) is a two-week training course, where 30-40 directors from across the globe gather to rest, learn, and fellowship together. The two most recent NDIs took place in Sri Lanka and Brazil. Getting to travel to these places and meet the directors from every region of the world is something I’ll never forget. God even allowed me to use my passion for teaching in each of these places, a gift and blessing I’ll treasure forever.

In Isaiah 55:9, we read, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” While I thought I would be teaching phonics in suburban USA, God knew I would be teaching the Gospel in Scotland and leadership principles around the globe. All glory be to His name!

LYDIA HARDESTY

CEF International ministries
and Scotland

