

[on mission]

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™



**GOD HAS PREPARED
WONDERSURF.COM FOR
SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

For the first time, almost all children in Europe are experiencing a global crisis that affects them personally. Within a few days a lot has changed in their lives. The internet has gained enormously in importance and with it so has the children's website

www.wondersurf.com, which is online in 19 languages and is in preparation for an additional 9 languages.

Three particular features of Wondersurf make it an important website for children now:

1. A message exchange system that is anonymous yet individualised

We are thankful for the short message system that makes it possible for children to come to us with their worries, fears, questions and prayer requests. Every day children write to us in search of answers, security, safety, love...and thus in search of God, who alone can satisfy these needs. It is a great joy that more and more children are asking, "What do I have to do to go to heaven?" or express the desire, "I want to live with Jesus."

2. A fun interactive online-garden

Shortly before the beginning of the crisis period a garden game was finished and added to the website. Children can create their own online garden by earning bonus points from

Continued on page 2

[A WORD FROM **IULIAN MANGALAGIU** ASSISTANT TO THE EUROPEAN DIRECTOR]

Dear friends,

The Apostle Paul was convinced of his calling to "preach the gospel, not where Christ was named". (Romans 15:20) However, when he was captured in Jerusalem and taken to Rome, he could maybe have been excused for believing that this calling had come to an end.

What do you do when you are imprisoned in Caesarea for nearly two years and then under house arrest in Rome? Can God use His servants when they are in a time of "quarantine"? As we read about the Apostle's life, we can see what happened during this time in his life. King Agrippa and Festus hear the

Gospel; on his way to Rome, he is able to meet with believers (and he didn't need to pay for this himself); all those in the king's court in Rome hear about Jesus Christ and he writes Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and 2 Timothy. For Paul, quarantine was not a crisis, it was an opportunity that served for the *furtherance of the Gospel* (Philippians 1:12).

Looking back, we return our thanks to God for the many, many given opportunities to present the Gospel over these past weeks. CEF workers from across Europe worked hard continuing

to contact children, teachers and local churches to organise online Good News Clubs and other ministries (Wondersurf, Bible Correspondence Course, Easter Clubs etc.) and online training (in some case with more students than usual). We believe that what happened served for the advancement of the Gospel. To God be all the glory!

Sincerely yours



WONDERSURF

Continued

the Bible lessons and adventures. After a few rounds it is time to harvest the garden and receive new bonus points, which can either be invested in the garden or used to support mission projects.

3. A new Wondersurf App

In recent days the German Wondersurf app became available to download from the Google Play Store (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.doromic.GardenApp.de>). The app makes it easier and safer

for children to use the contents of the website. Development of the app for other languages will begin in August and the development of an iOS version is in the planning.

Another special feature that is currently in development is the **Discovery club—Online Bible Reading Clubs**

With small groups of children, we would like to read and discuss God's word together on a regular basis, daily if possible, online at Wondersurf. Each group should have 1-2 leaders who will put the Bible text online, start the discussion with a question or thought,

check comments from children and share them with the group.

We will start with children who, just like this girl, are already interested in God's word: "I was so happy today! I found a Bible ... and I can keep it! Today I already read through Genesis 1."

In May, we had a total of 18,841 visitors to the website and nearly 450,000 page views of all 19 languages that are online. In June we had 11,846 visitors and 1,011,614 page views. We are so thankful for every child who has stopped by.



CORONA AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

When the lockdown, this past spring, very quickly affected one country after another in Europe, we were all surprised at first. From one day to the next, ministries were no longer possible, camps had to be cancelled, any direct contact with children was forbidden. When have we ever seen anything like this? Immediately our workers began to adapt to online teaching and were quickly able to move as much of our ministry as possible online.

Innumerable children's meetings were recorded in our own four walls, in many countries weekly. In Norwegian Lapland, Ida Johnston reached more

children in a single live online club than she would normally reach throughout the year. In Denmark, Dorthe Jensen asked the children for prayer requests in a live Zoom club. Suddenly the previously invisible head of a father appeared on the screen. He too wanted to share a prayer request. I assume he was not the only "onlooker" in our online clubs. CEF in Ireland not only ran a whole 5-Day Club® online, but also summer camps. I have seen very nice videos from Portugal and Bulgaria, from Germany and Armenia, from Russia and Ukraine and many other countries. You can find samples in many languages at onlineresources.cefeurope.com.

Most of all I was delighted to observe that a calling remains a calling.

For our leaders and workers, it was clear that the Great Commission would remain unchanged even under corona conditions. With great enthusiasm they have implemented it under the new conditions!

Nevertheless, we are very happy that more and more "real" ministry with children can take place. A lot of creativity is often required here as well. Hygiene concepts must be drawn up and, in some cases, completely new ways of ministry must be developed.

Please pray for our staff in East and West, for their ministries and for their health. Because the Great Commission stands unchanged!

*Gerd-Walter Buskies,
CEF European Director*

SHORTFALL

Shortfall is the voice of the CEF national workers asking business and professional people to partner with them in their ministry to children.

“Sometimes I feel that people around me do not understand why I would leave my comfort zone to take the Gospel to children. Even with all my attempts to explain the importance of this ministry, there is still a shortfall in my budget.”

Comments like this can be heard from CEF workers in many of our European countries. Through sharing in local churches and other promotional meetings, around 90 percent of their needed finances are faithfully given by God’s people but over 300 workers find themselves with a shortfall in their budget.

In 2019 God touched the hearts of a number of business people to partner with us in meeting this shortfall need. They have different gifts and callings, but listen to how God used them to bless the workers ...

“This support is so precious for us as a family, in the ministry that God has called us to.”

“Without this support, I would have returned back to my old job.”



“People and churches in this community are so poor, they are able to gather so little, but they give generously. Without this support many children in my area will never have the chance to hear the Gospel.”

Praise God for how He uses the different gifts that He gives to us so that children may hear about Jesus and that God may be glorified!

	Gifts through June
USA HQ	€ 337,714
European HQ	€ 23,221
Kingdom Builders Ireland	€ 424,353
Kingdom Builders Czechia	€ 14,994
TOTAL TO DATE:	€ 800,282
STILL NEEDED FOR 2020	€ 599,718

WILL YOU PRAY?

As we look to God to supply our needs, (Phil 4:19) pray that He will move the hearts of additional supporters. Pray that there will be believers in **more countries** who will, like the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8, **long for the privilege of participating in helping.**

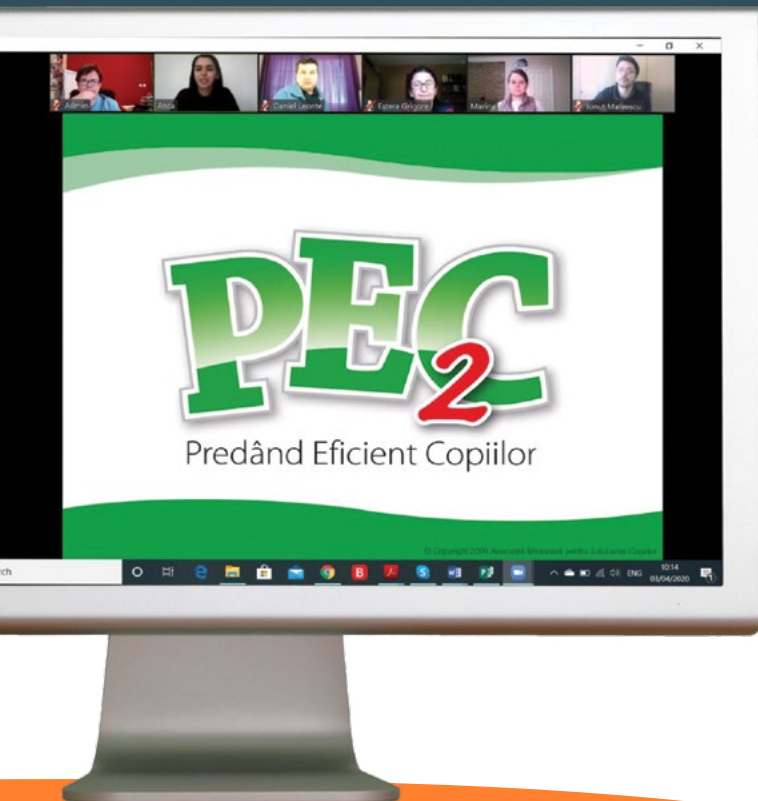
WILL YOU TELL GOD’S PEOPLE?

In one country a group of Kingdom Builders who are business people want to give back as God has blessed them (1 Chron. 29:16) and are encouraging each other to work together to meet the shortfall need. Would you set up a group like this in your country? In your city?

To date most of the funding has come from America and Ireland. We are praying that more countries get involved—for the children and for His Glory.

If you would like more information, please visit our website partners.cefeurope.com

God has promised that He will supply all our need, but He graciously chooses to use His people so that we may be blessed. Blessed as we pray and see Him answer. Blessed as we give and see Him work. Blessed as we partner together to reach and teach the children and so glorify Him.



COURSE UNDERWAY— THEN BORDERS CLOSE

It was with a heavy heart that on Saturday 15 March we called the students, who were taking the Instructor of Teachers Level 2 (IOT2) course in Sibiu, Romania together. We had just completed the first week of the course when news began to filter through that borders were closing and governments were calling states of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We made the decision that everyone should pack up and head home as soon as possible (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Moldova and within Romania). Praise God everyone got home safely.

Then we faced a new challenge—how to complete the training with everyone hundreds of kilometres apart! Quickly we revised the teaching schedule and moved to the online Zoom platform. On the following Tuesday afternoon, we were back in the “classroom”. It was different, a new experience for all of us, but by the end of the first afternoon already we were starting to feel more comfortable with this “new normal.” Technology worked well as we met each day and everyone was able to finish the course.

You could be tempted into thinking that this was the end of the story—but it wasn’t—in fact it was only the beginning! Already these newly trained instructors have been involved in running their own online training courses—equipping and investing in volunteers (65 until now) to reach and teach children. There are many other stories like this which could be told from around Europe at this extra-ordinary time—Russia, Germany, Lithuania, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Estonia... Why not pause just now and take a few moments to give Him all the glory because, “This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.” (Psalm 118:23)



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 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)**
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.

Our Address:

CEF European Office,
Lischmatt 2, 4616 Kappel, Switzerland
Tel.: + 41 62 387 30 10
Email: info@cefeurope.org
Website: www.cefeurope.com

USA: CEF, PO Box 348, Warrenton, Missouri 63383

Canada: CEF, PO Box 165, Winnipeg,
Manitoba R3C 2G9

Ireland: CEF, 199 Templemore Avenue,
Belfast BT5 4FR

Britain: CEF, PO Box 9281, Poole, Dorset. BH14 4FS

onmission is available by e-mail as a PDF. To receive it electronically, send an e-mail to onmission@cefeurope.org, along with your full name and address in the message text. We save your personal details on a secure data base so we can send you our newsletters. You can unsubscribe any time through one of our contact possibilities listed above. For more information please see the Privacy Policy on our website.

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

The CEF logo is a registered trademark of Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.