Reaching the next generation one child at a time







never thought I would live through a global pandemic. It is common for many of my friends throughout the world to face sacrifice, hardship, instability, and loss. But COVID-19 brought new challenges. Quarantine and social distancing have become the norm with fear of the unseen, highly contagious, possibly deadly virus. We've faced attacks against our ministry from protesters and those trying to start after-school Satan clubs to dissuade parents from allowing their children to attend Good New Club or other ministry events. Missionaries knew arrest was possible for teaching boys and girls about Jesus—and some were arrested. For a ministry that thrives on face-to-face contact, this appeared like a crippling blow. When schools suddenly shut down, after-school Good News Clubs could no longer meet. Good News Clubs that met as religious instruction during the school day in many countries also stopped. How do you reach children when you are told to stay home and limit contact with others?

You look to God to provide another way!

It is easy to focus on circumstances and become overwhelmed and discouraged but we find hope in God's Word. We read Joseph's response to his brothers in Genesis 50:20, "but God meant it for good." Throughout this edition of *Impact* you will read testimonies from around the world of how God opened doors, expanded ministry, improved communication, and fostered a greater unity among our workers.

The dramatic global response to this pandemic caused us to react quickly. Our hearts were burdened for boys and girls and their families living in fear and isolation. How could we continue to reach out with God's message of love, life, and hope? In more ways than I could have imagined, especially by making use of today's technology. Our goal at CEF International Headquarters was to provide a variety of resources to help our workers encourage children to believe in Jesus and grow in His ways. God graciously provided creative people and excellent resources.

As I look at all God is doing in the midst of this pandemic, I can't help but marvel at how awesome He is!

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

# Please Fray

God will continue to direct His workers in the best ways to reach children during this time. •.....

More boys and girls around the world will hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus.

The Lord of the harvest will send more bold witnesses to reach children in every area of the

The L. witnesses to read world.

Praise Cod!

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God was not silent during the COVID-19 pandemic. This edition of *Impact* contains only a small portion of testimonies we received about the amazing ways God worked through these uncertain times.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

-Psalm 100:5





Reaching children in their own homes with the Good News of Jesus through free online resources at cefonline.com/covid19





Do You Wonder Why? booklet and video

Downloadable devotional materials **Good News Radio programs Good News TV episodes** 

And more...









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oncerns were raised earlier this year when reports of a contagious virus in China made the news. But no one could envision the effects of a global pandemic. Maybe you remember where you were when you heard the World Trade Center was struck by two hijacked commercial airliners. Our lives changed with one sudden event. Fear and uncertainty gripped the nation and measures were put in place to ensure safety. But this pandemic suddenly impacted lives around the globe, not only with fear and uncertainty but with personal restrictions—quarantines, social distancing, wearing masks; financial instability with loss of jobs and closing of businesses; and limited resources as store shelves were empty of critical supplies. Schools were closed and many Good News Clubs halted.

But God knew what would happen.

God's providential timing was proven. Just before coronavirus measures were put in place in Tonga, our CEF® team distributed the Every Day with God 30-day devotional book to many children at school assemblies.

God urged teachers to not delay. A GNC™ teacher from Arizona shared:

When Joe and I finished our Good News Club® on February 13, just before spring break, we had no idea it would be the last day of club for this school year. Four new children were there, and God placed an urgency on our hearts to talk with each one before they left club that day. After hearing the Gospel, three of the four students received Jesus as Savior. The fourth student held back. He seemed to understand that 'bad kids sinned' but he did not understand his own need for a Savior. I asked, "What are some sins kids your age do?" He listed some, then I asked him if he had done any of those things. He finally realized that he was a sinner and needed Jesus' forgiveness. He prayed with me to receive Christ.

# Changed

God burdened workers to move forward in a new way. Such was the case for Shelly Hikes from CEF of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania:

On March 13 everything changed. We had planned to reorganize the lending library in April after the club season was over. When news came of a two-week shutdown due to coronavirus, we got to work on the library with the hope of reconnecting with children after the two-week closure. But that did not happen.

Our hearts broke. We didn't even get to say goodbye. We wondered, How will they continue to grow in their knowledge of God? Who will tell them how God loves them so much that He gave His Son to pay the price for their sin?

Our burden kept growing. We needed to do something—so we took a deep breath, recorded a Bible lesson, and put it up on our Facebook page. We recorded more Bible lessons, missionary stories, and even a video showing children how to make a Gospel flower. Then we ventured into making puppet skits. We even created a YouTube channel to host all our videos.



God opened new doors for ministry to meet people where they are. Vasti Peralta from Arizona testifies:

Ministry never stops! Crisis creates opportunities for us to show God's love to others! One of those opportunities was to distribute the *Do You Wonder Why*? booklets at the Gospel Rescue Mission during their food distribution hours. Cars pulled up for a food box, and the last stop was the prayer station. We distributed the booklets and prayed with many families. Not only did boys and girls receive a booklet, but some of the adults got one, too. A woman asked me to pray for her son-in-law who is suffering from cancer. The doctors gave him no hope. As we prayed together, the Lord prompted me to hand her a *Do You Wonder Why*? in Spanish. She was grateful!

God always has a plan and His purposes can never be thwarted. Even when the world seems out of control and we struggle through troubling times, this truth remains: "The Lord reigns, let the

earth rejoice..." (Psalm 97:1).



Crisis creates
opportunities
for us to show
God's love
to others!

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FEAR WITHOUT HOPE CAN BE DEVASTATING.

DELIVERERS OF

Alope

ear and confusion took hold as the highly contagious coronavirus quickly spread from country to country. Fear without hope can be devastating. People needed to hear the Good News of Jesus and the hope He brings. CEF produced two tracts, "The Greatest Doctor" and "STOP the Spread!" to share God's hope. These tracts were delivered door to door in places around the globe. Some missionaries sewed Wordless Book colors together into masks to use as a tool to share the Gospel as they talked with children they met.

In one **undisclosed** country, 80,000 Gospel masks were made and 300,000 "The Greatest Doctor" tracts were printed. Trained volunteers went out on streets and in neighborhoods to share the Gospel. The outreach was so effective they made 20,000 more masks. One volunteer handed a tract to a boy coming out of a mosque and shared the Gospel with him. The boy received Jesus as Savior, then found

In the Southern Africa/Indian Ocean Region, the most prominent work during this pandemic has been one-onone ministry. People go into the streets to pass out tracts and share about Jesus. It is exciting to see that during this time people started training their children how to tell their friends about Jesus. One thousand masks with The Wordless Book colors were made in Mozambique to share the Gospel message in

open-air ministry.

HOPE

some friends and brought them to hear about Jesus.

Ravi\* went walking ready for an opportunity to share the Gospel. He met a boy who eagerly listened. The boy seemed interested in receiving Jesus as his Savior, but he never spoke a word. After that he ran off and returned with 14 of his friends. He pointed to the Gospel tool, showing his desire for Ravi to tell the story to his friends. Ravi learned that this boy was not able to speak. But he and his friends received the Lord Jesus as Savior that day.

#### In the West and Central Africa

Region, missionaries went house to house to talk to boys and girls about Jesus. One mother was uncomfortable with these visitors showing up at her home but reluctantly allowed them to talk to her four children. The children and their mother received Jesus as Savior. Tracts were given to 292 children who heard the Gospel message



in Sierra Leone and 258 responded that they wanted to believe in Jesus.

Twelve-year-old Alida thought there was no hope for her because of the war, insecurity, and poverty. As CEF missionaries went from house to house in Central African Republic, they got to her house and asked permission from her father to talk with Alida. She was eager to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior, Alida finds

comfort from God's promise in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." She now has hope for the future.

At another home, Marcel was skeptical to allow the CEF missionaries into his house to talk to his two children, but he said, "Well, we have nowhere to go," and invited them in. Marcel sat behind his children and listened. Before the missionaries left, Marcel said, "I have never heard in my life, after going to church all my years, that you can receive Jesus as your Savior." He said, "When the children were praying, I also received Christ." He has promised CEF two things, "Prayer for CEF and the good work you are doing and when the normalcy comes and I resume work, I will support CEF so you can continue the good job."

\*name changed

## Share life and hope with children through tracts!



#### "The Greatest Doctor"

God sent Jesus to save us from a danger far greater than coronavirus.

Visit cefpress.com to learn more about Christian evangelistic and growth materials for children.



#### "STOP the Spread!"

Six fear busters from the Bible can help stop the spread of fear and give God's comfort and peace.





hen children around the globe were quarantined, CEF staff quickly assessed resources that could be made available online for children to have something to do at home. The quick resource webpage, cefonline.com/covid19, was created. The first resource made available was the Do You Wonder Why? booklet which speaks to the hard questions children ask in the midst of tragedy and presents the hope found in Jesus Christ. This booklet can

be read online or downloaded in 16 different languages. Homeschool Resources were also made available to help children learn more about God through age-appropriate Bible correspondence courses. My Very Own Stuck at Home Devotional, also in several languages, contains 30 devotionals to help children recognize God is still in control and rely on Him to help them.

#### Togo

Four thousand Bible correspondence courses were distributed to children house to house. Parents appreciated that their children were engaged in the Word of God and kept busy for a good purpose. Some parents took the courses for themselves. When more than half of these lessons had been collected and over 1,000 indicated they had trusted Jesus as Savior, pastors took notice. This has fostered more friendships between CEF, families, and churches.



#### **Burkina Faso** A child from a

family of nine received a Wonder Devotional Book from his GNC teacher. After reading it, he wanted to talk with his teacher. As they

know the Lord.

discussed the book, the boy expressed his desire to receive Jesus as his Savior. He then brought all six of his siblings to hear the Good News and they also received the Lord Jesus. When the mother saw the way the children's lives were changed, she also received Jesus. Now they are praying for their father to come to

#### Kenya

During the time of quarantine, one housing area published their desire to meet the psychological, physical, and spiritual needs of the estate and asked people who could help in those areas to let them know. Kathy, a CEF worker, shared the link to the free CEF online resources. She also offered to print the Bible correspondence courses for any child who wanted a copy. Expecting only a few responses, Kathy was surprised to receive 90 requests. Each course contains 6 lessons—she would have to print 540 lessons! Although it took a few days to prepare, she was excited to put these lessons in the hands of eager children. She also gave them a copy of "The Greatest Doctor" tract.

#### Southern Africa/ **Indian Ocean Region**

Although under quarantine, some countries allowed people to go outside one or two hours a day for exercise. CEF missionaries took advantage of this time to share The Wonder Book™ and tracts with people or put them in mailboxes. In some suburbs they threw them over the walls that enclosed people's property. Many responded.







#### Stuck at Home Devotional

The Stuck at Home Devotional is designed to help kids deal with challenges they may be facing during this difficult time around the world. Each devotional has been carefully selected from our Wonder Devotional Series to help children recognize that God is still in control, and to give them practical help in

relying on Him to help them through.



#### Guam

A Good News Club teacher handed out Every Day with God devotionals to children in her apartment complex. Every two weeks she gave incentives to the children who worked on their devotionals while reminding them of the eternal rewards that await those who faithfully read God's Word and apply it in their lives. Because of this, children stuck at home were encouraged to become more responsible for reading God's Word daily.

#### Canada

Jenne and her family

felt the stress of the

pandemic. Anxiety

and worry plagued her 10-year-old son, Immanuel. He thought everyone he knew and loved would die and he wouldn't get to see them. When he started using the Confiné mais en Paix (Stuck at Home Devotional), God helped bring peace back into his heart and life.

#### Venezuela

When the army delivered food to neighborhoods, CEF missionaries followed and gave Wonder Devotional Books, pencils, and tracts. When men from the army approached, they thought they would be told to stop, but instead the men asked for devotional books for their children.

#### **Czech Republic**

About five years ago, missionaries developed an online Bible course but only a few children followed the program. Once the pandemic hit, children stuck at home could easily access this course. The program now has five courses and has been translated into Romanian where it has at least 500 children involved.

#### Macedonia

CEF is the only children's ministry that had online resources for kids. This included both their online correspondence program, which slowly gained children as time went on, and YouTube lesson videos.





# CLUE

ver 100,000 Good News Club programs around the world teach boys and girls the Good News about Jesus on a weekly basis. When the pandemic hit, many of these programs were in danger. Places where clubs met were no longer available as schools and churches shut down. Social distancing, a term made popular because of this pandemic, forced changes to how ministry could be done. Crisis, however, stimulates creative solutions. Good News Clubs weren't halted, they just took on a new look. Some children still met for Good News Club yet sat distanced from one another and wore masks, some in open fields and others in homes. But for many, Good News Club moved online and a "Good News Across the Web" manual was developed to empower teachers to hold live clubs through the internet.

#### West and Central Africa Region

Since there have been restrictions on the number of people able to meet together, CEF missionaries began the house-to-house Good News Club. There may be between 5-15 children in one family and often parents listened. Bible correspondence courses were given to children and parents also read them. Through this program, children and adults received Christ as Savior. One GNC teacher was moved by some persistent boys and girls. Since the children were not allowed to go anywhere, they asked their GNC teacher to teach club for them every day. He has been teaching five days a week for over a month now.



#### **Central African Republic**

Through house-to-house Good News Clubs 586 children were reached and 120 believed in Jesus as Savior.

#### Namibia

Some teachers used their cellphones to teach Good News Club or have devotions with children. New clubs started and many mothers who couldn't go to work because of the quarantine came to club with their children. Two farmers wanted to host a club on their farms where there are lots of children.



#### **South Sudan**

When the world was closing down because of COVID-19, South Sudan was opening up after six years of civil war. CEF missionaries were able to return to their homeland. In the capital city of Juba, two missionaries reached 750 children in GNC in March and April and about 300 children received Jesus as Savior. Over 1,600 children were reached in the refugee camps in May.

#### Santa Barbara, California

During the summer, 5-Day Club® ministry was not allowed in parks, but when CEF workers learned they could lead hikes through the parks, they changed the format to hiking clubs.

#### **Norway**

Because of the lockdown, a pastor contacted the local CEF director to find a way to keep ministering to children. They began a weekly online Good News Club. The first club had over 1,000 families and 17 of them sent it to their Facebook friends.

Every Sunday, about 1,000 viewers join for the live-stream Sunday school (Good News Club), and once the videos are uploaded to YouTube, they gain 2,500 more views!

#### Grenada

Approval was given for an online Good News Club to be held in a school. In addition to the almost 50 children who logged in, several parents and siblings watched as well.

#### Asia Pacific Region

Children from 17 countries attended an online Good News Club. These children printed and colored the activities.

#### Anguilla

The Zoom Good News Club not only reached children on the island, but also in the United States, Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts, sometimes with as many as four or five children watching together on a device.

#### Mexico

Each day GNC teachers shared an online devotional with the children and many parents listened as well. One child was so excited, he eagerly waited online with his pencil ready to write the answers.

Good News Club programs were recorded in two languages. GNC volunteers then viewed the videos on smartphones with small groups of children in their neighborhoods. One CEF staff member recruited her nephew to record her as she taught the lessons each week. This nephew wasn't a believer but after listening to the Bible lessons his aunt taught, he finally believed in Jesus as his Savior!

CEF missionaries use WhatsApp to cheaply share Bible lessons, Gospel music, videos, and prayer times with the boys and girls.



Missionaries created a summer camp for kids to experience from home. Camp was held through a variety of online activities and Zoom meetings. Crafts and worksheets were mailed to the children's homes.



# Online and On the Air

REACHING **CHILDREN AROUND** THE WORLD WITH TWO NEW PROGRAMS: GOOD **NEWS TV AND GOOD NEWS RADIO**  ur vision to reach every child in every nation and to teach them how to spend time with God every day drives us to keep asking, "What is the best way to reach the children?" In response to the fear and confusion stimulated by COVID-19, resources were quickly made available to share the love of Jesus with boys and girls around the globe and Good News Club ministry evolved. But what could be done for the children who couldn't join a club online? Not all children have internet accessibility and not all Good News Clubs have the resources to host their own online clubs. What if we could video a club for children to watch or record audio Gospel stories for children to hear? Child Evangelism Fellowship International Headquarters quickly developed two new programs, Good News TV and Good News Radio. Both can be accessed from our YouTube channel, U-Nite™ at youtube.com/unitekids.



To provide weekly *GNC* through the end of the last school year, 11 episodes of Good News TV were produced. When COVID persisted, the realization that the summer 5-Day Club ministry would also be affected prompted the production of 5 new episodes called Good News TV Summer Fun! These episodes utilized video graphics and encouraged more interaction. Good News TV can be viewed at U-Nite, on Facebook, and is also aired on different TV networks around the globe.

CEF video and audio productions were also produced in other regions of the world.

Despite challenges and opposition, radio ministry is growing throughout the world. Missionaries in St. Kitts were able to do radio Good News Club through three radio stations. Tanzania's radio program reached children in 11 regions. A radio program in the Caribbean had 22 children call in, including one child who received Jesus as Savior. Zambia had a radio broadcast in every province and in some areas Good News Club was held over the phone. Even in countries where it was said to be impossible, radio ministry grew strong and took hold.



Many children responded to the Senegal Good News Club TV program, including several Muslim children saying they had received Jesus as Savior. The person in charge of this program was soon recognized by children wherever he went. Boys and girls quickly gathered around him and listened as he shared lessons with them in person.

CEF of **Quebec** produced a children's video club in French. Videos that included Bible lessons, object lessons, verses, songs, a missionary story, and skits were posted Monday to Saturday for three weeks. Activity sheets were available to download and print. Other French-speaking countries viewed them as well. With only one week to post the first video, the eight-member team worked from their own homes, only able to meet over video calls. God truly pulled this entire project together!

you never know 🙃

# who's listening

efore schools were shut down due to COVID-19, the CEF chapter in Port Huron, Michigan, had 28 Good News Clubs. They quickly adapted to Zoom clubs, and the attendance rose dramatically. One club went from 23 to 43 in attendance because the children invited their friends to watch with them!



Some rural areas didn't have an adequate internet connection for a Zoom GNC to work. For these areas, local director ReNee Vance encouraged children to watch Good News TV. Parents also watched these videos with their children, and one mother called ReNee with questions.

Based on her questions, ReNee went through the Do You Wonder Why? booklet with her. This mother received Jesus as her Savior and watched the Do You Wonder Why? video while still on the phone with ReNee. She cried, talking about how the video answered her questions. ReNee helped the mom get the family started with the

Stuck at Home Devotional, and invited the family to her church which was streaming online, which the family did begin attending.

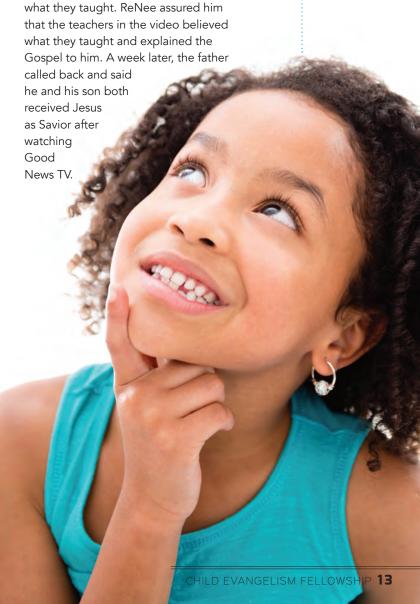
This wasn't the only call ReNee received. A father called after watching Good News TV with his son. Among other questions, he was curious about the young people in the Good News TV videos. He wondered whether they were acting or if they actually believed what they taught. ReNee assured him that the teachers in the video believed what they taught and explained the

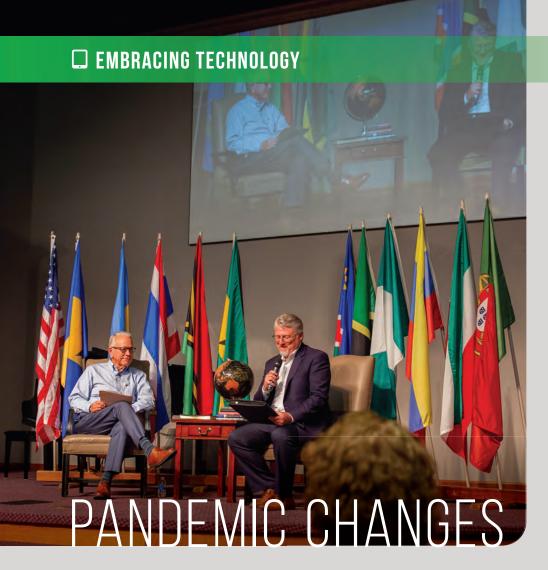




#### Do You Wonder Why?

7 This short booklet and video help answer questions that are on everyone's minds: Why do so many bad things happen in the world?





ou may have heard someone ask, "What's up?" or use the word zoom to describe something fast. But after much of the world was shut down in March due to the coronavirus, people had to quickly find new ways to learn what's up with others. This was especially important for a worldwide organization with thousands of workers and a multitude of volunteers spread across every region of the globe. How could ministry continue in the midst of a pandemic?

#### **Utilizing Technology**

Thankfully, today's technologies have made it possible to provide resources online and hold virtual meetings. For many, all this could be done through their cellphone. WhatsApp and Zoom became popular modes of communication. Many in CEF had to quickly adapt to using technologies

to not only communicate with one another but to also provide ongoing ministry to children.

Throughout his 30 years as president of CEF, Reese Kauffman has traveled the globe to meet regional and national directors and see local ministry firsthand. Time and cost to travel for these face-to-face meetings limited opportunities. Reese and many in the CEF family look forward to time together during conferences held each year. This year, International Conference was to be held in May. As the lockdown lingered, the decision to postpone the conference until next year seemed prudent. But the need to come together as a family was pressing. The idea to host an online day of prayer was initiated. Zoom meetings were scheduled throughout the day to enable a variety of people from various areas to pray together—right from their own homes. They were encouraged to join at least three meetings to pray with different people. Many responded, feeling encouraged, unified, and desiring more opportunities to keep connected.

#### **Reaching Others Around the World**

Thus began a new adventure for Reese—speaking online. Twice a month, CEF family from around the world met online to hear Reese share a devotional, give a ministry update, and pray. Reese and the regional directors could readily spend more time together online. Even though he was stuck at home for several weeks due to the quarantine, Reese was able to meet with more people during that time than he would have otherwise.

Without a doubt, God used this pandemic to improve communication and foster unity through better use of today's technologies. Finding out what's up through WhatsApp and zooming to meetings on Zoom have bolstered ongoing ministry during this pandemic.



Frik Janse van Rensburg, regional director for Southern Africa/Indian Ocean Region, uses WhatsApp to meet with than 200 households every morning for devotions.

# Locked in to Online Training

Offering training through online meeting rooms like Zoom has opened doors for people around the world who would otherwise not have access to such training. Many people took advantage of time spent at home during quarantine by investing in online training. One volunteer called asking, "Do you have any training program? I am here at home doing nothing, because of the lock down. Please provide something so I can spend my time on training." Another missionary thanked God for COVID because it gave him the time to complete his online Instructor of Teachers course while staying home. After five years of praying for an opportunity to take the training course, another trainee praised God for the opportunities given during COVID-19.

CEF of Sri Lanka decided to offer a portion of Children's Ministries Institute® in July via Zoom. Since there was no cost for a venue, meals, or traveling costs for instructors, the expenses were much less.

### UNMASKING THE **DANGEROUS CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN OUR TIMES**

Because of the COVID situation, Micronesian students at Harvest Baptist Bible College in **Guam** were not able to go home for their summer break. Their professor considered how to make use of this time for something worthwhile that would prepare them in the ministry and invited CEF of Guam to do a Super Seminar with the students. God used this crisis and their confinement to speak to them about what they could do to rescue children from the dangerous condition of their sin by leading them to Christ. Students were challenged to do children's ministry when they were able to return home to their islands.

Jaylyn, a recent graduate, said, "I wasn't sure what I'd do after graduation. I wanted to go back to our island on Yap and minister to women by counseling them. After going through this Super Seminar, God gave me a desire to continue my training with CEF so I can minister to children on my island."



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