

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Winter
2018

HOPE
FOR THE HURTING



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY



FROM THE PRESIDENT



**BOYS AND GIRLS
NEED TO LEARN
ABOUT GOD AND
HOW THEY CAN
TRUST HIM.**

As I've traveled throughout the world I've seen children who live in prosperity and many more children who live with far less. I remember happy, smiling faces of some children and serious, sad eyes of others. Children everywhere experience hurt. When I turn on the evening news and watch reports on the war in Syria, the physical pain many children experience is heart wrenching. But their suffering extends far deeper—fear, insecurity, and loss of home, friends, and family. Tragedies like war, fires, floods, and damaging accidents hurt children. But so do the tragedies of a broken home, bullying, abuse, neglect, families in financial crisis, and the loss of a loved one. You may remember hurt you experienced as a child—rejection, failure, persecution, or loss. All of us have this in common—we all hurt.

Recently a student attending Children's Ministries Institute shared her testimony of childhood abuse and

hopelessness. Then someone shared the love of Jesus with her. Although her situation didn't change right away, knowing God made a difference in her life. She declared, "I want to tell children about Jesus. No child should go through what I did."

How do you process hurt? Do you turn to the One with answers and power to help? You can trust God to help you through your hurt—and so can children. Boys and girls need to learn about God and how they can trust Him. Child Evangelism Fellowship missionaries around the globe regularly teach boys and girls the Good News of Jesus and how they can trust God to help them. Hurting children can have hope through Jesus.

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

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 Saved children worldwide will spend meaningful time with God every day, learning to be obedient disciples.

3 The Lord of the harvest to send more workers to reach children around the globe.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

04
SNIPPETS

06
**HURTING CHILDREN
NEED HELP**

Children
Hurt Too

08
**HURTING CHILDREN
HEAR HOPE**

Hope for
the Hurting

10
**HURTING CHILDREN
TAUGHT TRUST**

Learning
to Trust

12
**HELP REACH
THE HURTING**

Training
Changes
Ministry

14
**GOD HEARS
THE HURTING**

Brokenhearted
Taking Time

♥ HELPING HURTING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

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TURKS AND CAICOS

A team from South Dakota went to the Caribbean islands of Turks and Caicos to teach Easter Party Clubs and help to revive the ministry in that island nation. As a result of the outreach, 444 children were reached through the Easter Party Clubs and two new Good News Clubs will start soon. Over 1,800 children have been reached through public school assemblies in all but one of the public primary schools throughout the Caicos Islands. —*Turks and Caicos*

DENMARK

A *Good News Club* teacher who puts great emphasis on the memory verses saw how God uses His Word in the lives of two children in her club. Last Christmas the father of the two children committed suicide. When the local pastor visited the grieving family, the oldest *GNC*™ girl turned to him and said, “But don’t forget that ‘God himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you’ Hebrews 13:5.” Though this child had just been left by her father she knew her Heavenly Father would never leave her! The pastor shared this verse during the funeral. Later, he told the *GNC* teacher what a great work she was doing and how important he thought the memory verse teaching was. —*Denmark*



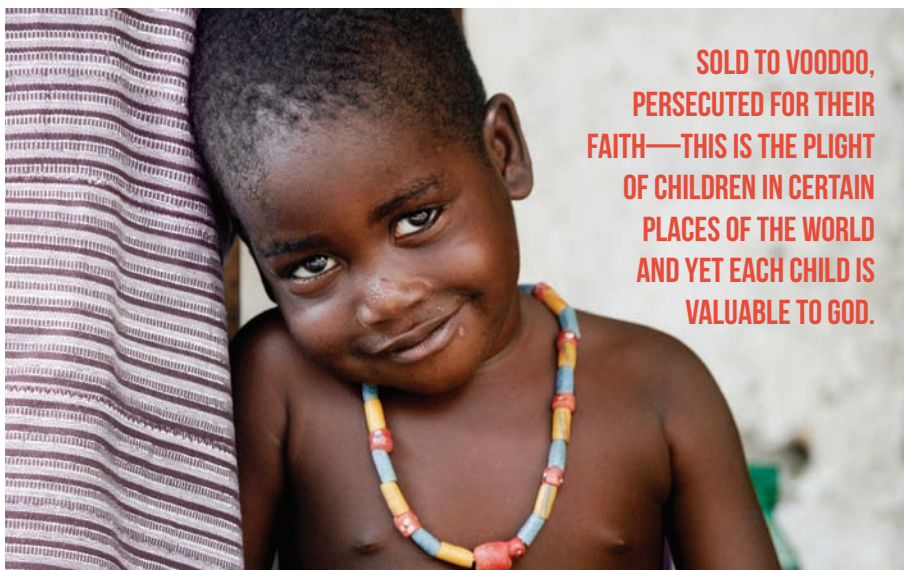
GIFT OF EASTER

This Easter you can tell boys and girls why Jesus lived on Earth, died, arose, and ascended to Heaven— *Because God Loves You!*

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USA “As I taught the Easter Lesson *Always True Treasure Hunt*, I asked the children what treasure they wanted to find. A third grader said, “My father.” She later told me that her parents were not married. I’m not sure how long her dad has been gone, but she has not seen him since he left. A first grader missed his mom who moved out of the family home. He now doubts God’s love for him. Both children placed their trust in Jesus.”

—Marty, Good News Club teacher, USA



VALUABLE TO GOD

Espides, CEF® missionary in Benin, West Africa, lives in an area considered the cradle of voodoo. Parents are encouraged to sell their children to voodoo worshippers for what amounts to about eight dollars in US currency. Many children are sold and many people are convinced to become voodoo worshippers. In September of 2016 Espides started a children’s ministry. Within a year, more than 400 children had been taught through ten different Good News Clubs. The *Good News Club* ministry continues to expand through many newly trained volunteers. These volunteers tell the children that God loves them—they are valuable to Him. There have been many spiritual attacks on this work. Children are even persecuted for their faith. One boy gets beaten by his dad every time he returns home from *Good News Club*, yet he still comes to learn about the God who loves him. Even amid this darkness, God’s light shines bright.

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.

Children Hurt Too

BY YOLANDA DERSTINE

Kate Spade. Anthony Bourdain. Last spring you would have linked them by the words celebrity, highly successful, talented. But in June of 2018, both committed suicide.

Everyone would like to think that suicide is only a grown-up word, but it isn't. According to The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Among children ages 5-14, the rates have risen dramatically, moving it from the seventh leading cause of death in 1980 to the third leading cause of death in 2015. With 413 deaths that year, more than one child per day took his or her life. Though we cannot know the factors that caused their deaths, it is obvious that children, too, need to know they can ask for help, that there is no shame in hurting, and that Jesus is the ultimate Heart Healer who knows them thoroughly and loves them deeply.

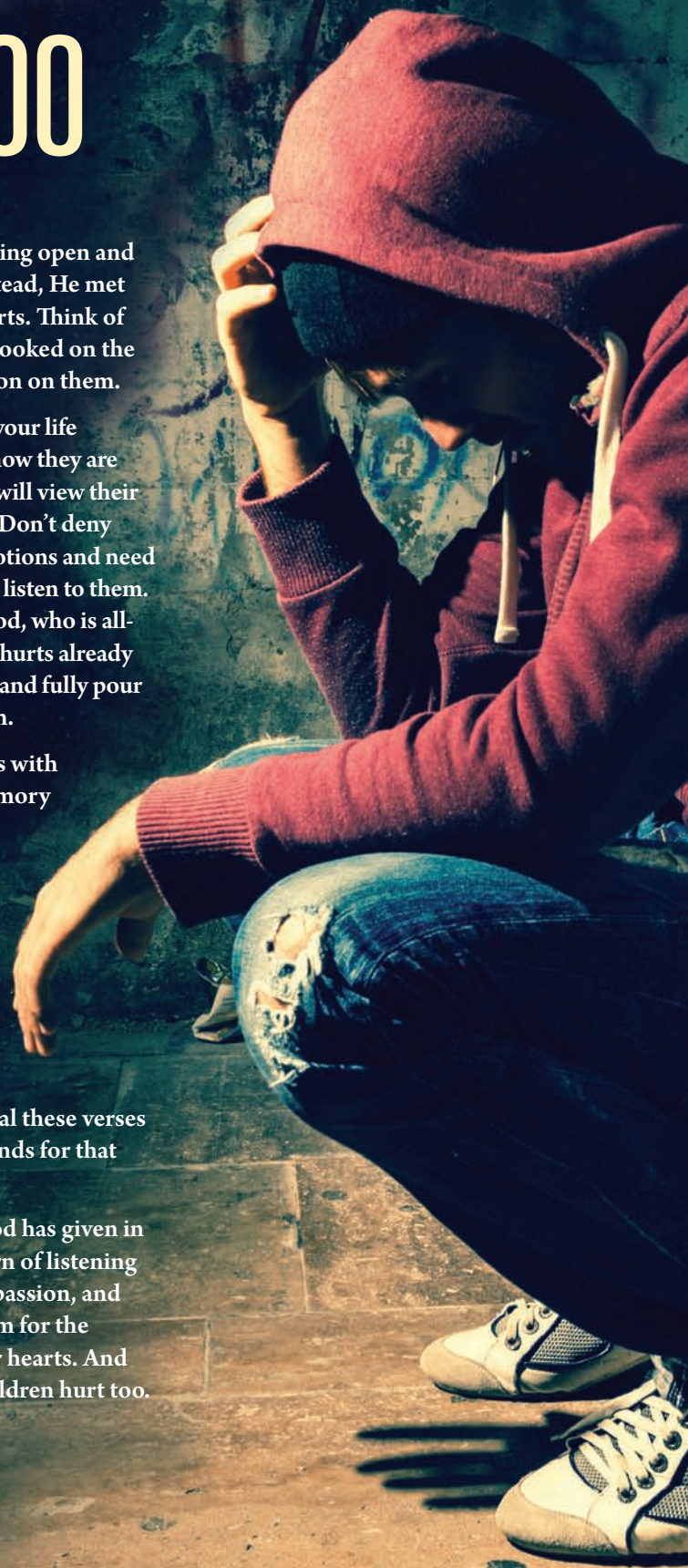
The Bible tells us that God is a God of compassion and deep love. He is the One to whom we run. The same is true for children. Just think of David's Psalms and how he poured out his heart to God. Think of Job—who was even told by the one who should have loved him most to “curse God and die,” yet he poured out His heart to God instead. God did

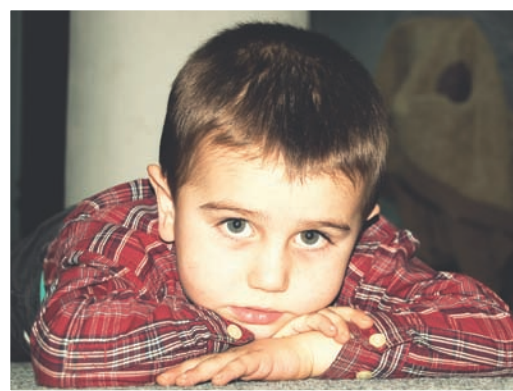
not reject them for being open and honest with Him. Instead, He met the needs of their hearts. Think of Jesus, who, when He looked on the crowds had compassion on them.

Teach the children in your life that they can tell you how they are feeling and know you will view their feelings as important. Don't deny that children have emotions and need someone who cares to listen to them. Teach children that God, who is all-knowing, knows their hurts already and they can honestly and fully pour out their hearts to Him.

Feed children's spirits with the Word of God. Memory verses give help and encouragement to go through difficult times. When you hide God's Word in your heart, the Holy Spirit brings it to mind at just the right time. Songs help to seal these verses in their hearts and minds for that moment.

Follow the pattern God has given in His Word—the pattern of listening deeply, showing compassion, and pointing others to Him for the deepest needs of their hearts. And always remember, children hurt too.

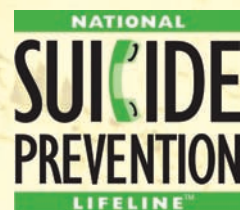




Suicide is not limited to teens and adults.

If you are in crisis, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service is available to anyone. All calls are confidential.

suicidepreventionlifeline.org



**PICKING UP THE
PIECES POST
DISASTER IS
A TEST OF
ENDURANCE.**

Shocking disasters can happen without warning. People instantly thrust into survival mode eventually realize their losses: homes destroyed, possessions gone, lives displaced, injuries, and possibly loss of loved ones. Picking up the pieces post disaster is a test of endurance. The difficult road to recovery is daunting. Many wonder why such a thing happened to them. Children struck by disaster struggle to cope with all the change and how to handle their new fears and insecurities. But these hurting children can hear hope. They can learn about the God

HOPE FOR THE HURTING

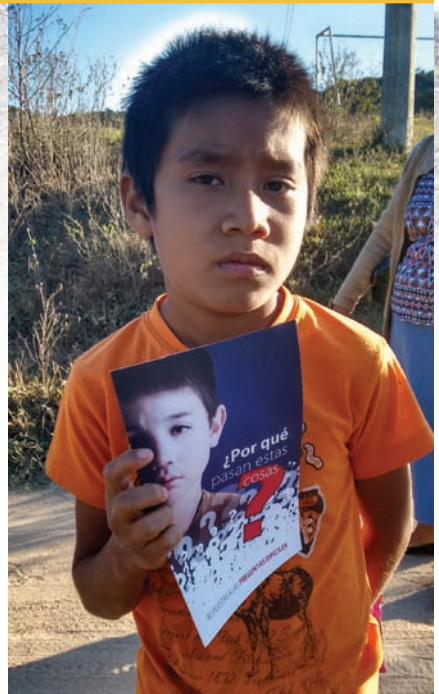


who loves them and can help them through life's troubles.

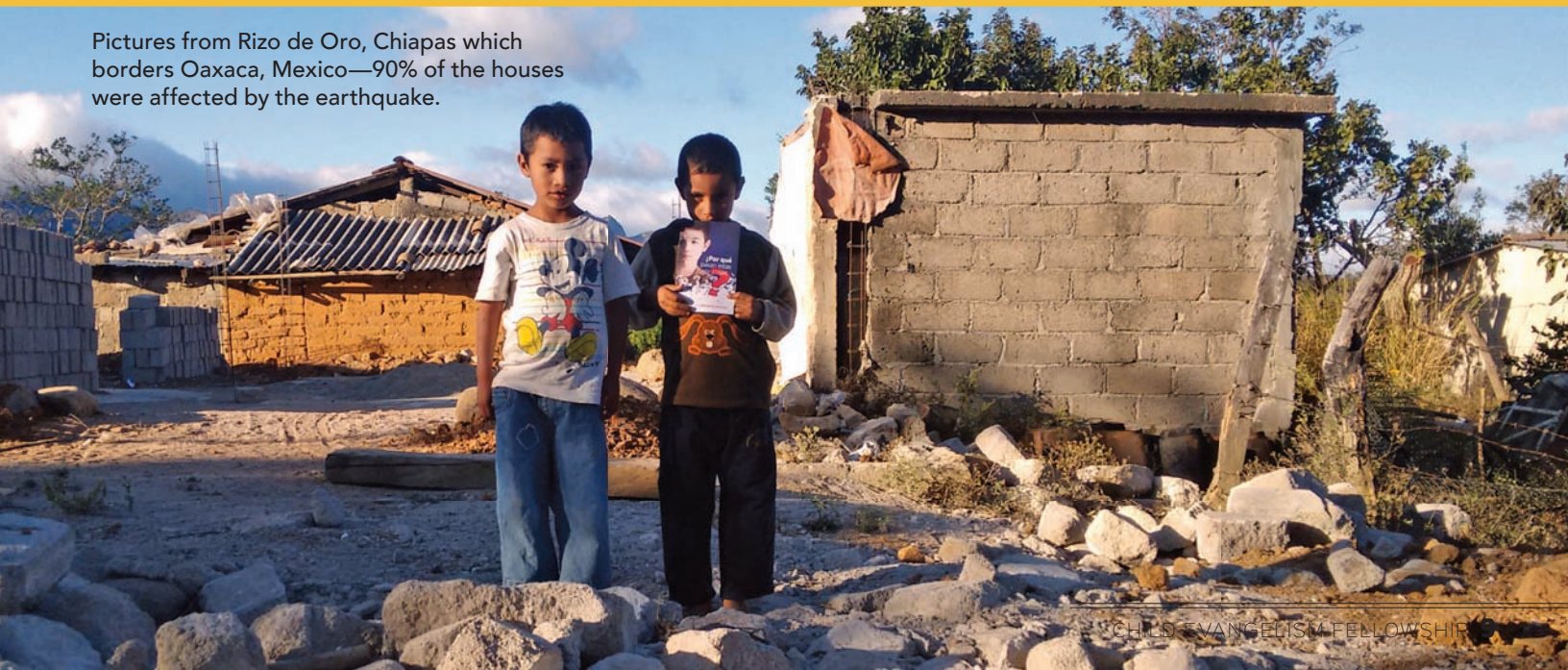
Many in Mexico still displaced from the past year's earthquakes and floods have received this message of hope through the *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets produced by CEF. One million copies of these Gospel booklets have been distributed to children in areas traumatized by earthquakes.

A team from CEF of Mexico spent five days distributing the booklets, talking with children, and training teachers from different churches in Oaxaca. The trained teachers began eight

Good News Clubs which continue to minister to the children. Six-year-old Gabriel came to one of these clubs where he received Jesus as his Savior. A few days later Gabriel was hit by a truck and was not expected to survive for more than an hour. Many prayed for Gabriel as he lay unconscious for weeks. His parents were not believers but in desperation his mom knelt and prayed to God for her son. Gabriel miraculously recovered and faithfully attends GNC. His parents also received Christ as Savior. Gabriel told his parents, "When I grow up I will be a pastor."



Pictures from Rizo de Oro, Chiapas which borders Oaxaca, Mexico—90% of the houses were affected by the earthquake.



Learning to TRUST

At home Jerry* was constantly told the Bible is not true and God does not exist. “But I believe in God and the Bible,” Jerry said confidently during *Good News Club*.

Seven-year-old Sebastian* didn’t feel God could help him change his ways. “I know I am a sinner because I fight a lot. The madder I get, the more I fight.” But as Sebastian attended *Good News Club*, the Gospel became clearer to him and he willingly placed his trust in Jesus.

“*Good News Club* is my church,” declared eleven-year-old Joshua* whose family is Muslim.

All sorts of children attend *Good News Club*. Some attend church, others do not. Some have intact families, others come from broken homes. Some succeed in school, others struggle. But

whatever the situation, every child experiences hurt—we all do. Children like Jerry, Sebastian, and Joshua who attend GNC have the opportunity to learn how they can trust God even in life’s difficulties. Most importantly, they hear the Good News about Jesus and how to believe in Him as their Savior.

This year many Good News Clubs will teach boys and girls about the life of Peter from the series *God: The One to Follow*. The life of Peter provides examples on how to trust God. Boys and girls will learn how they too can follow Jesus and trust Him.

*name changed



TWO EXAMPLES OF WHAT CHILDREN WILL LEARN FROM GOD: THE ONE TO FOLLOW:



In lesson one, children will learn how Jesus called Peter to believe on and follow Him.

You can follow Jesus just like Peter did. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, follow Jesus with your whole life—what you think, say, and do. Jesus is worthy of being followed! He loves you and knows what is best for your life. As you spend time reading God’s Word, it will help you know Jesus better and understand the ways you should think, feel, and live. This will help you to know how to follow Jesus. When you are struggling with being kind, not complaining, or having a good attitude, remember that you have the strength of the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus. You can spend

time with God, getting to know Jesus better and learning to trust and follow Him. When you read God’s Word, ask God to help you obey and to work in your heart each day. Let’s say your memory verse together, 2 Peter 3:18, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18. Will you follow Jesus with your whole life, starting today? You can probably think of something you struggle with already. You can follow Jesus today by asking the Holy Spirit to help you with that. Next week you can come back and tell us one way you chose to follow Jesus this week.

GOD:

THE ONE TO FOLLOW



Children have so many voices calling to them, tempting them to follow with their words, actions, styles, or habits. Some voices are worth following, but sadly, many are not. Children need to hear the truth that Jesus is the One worth following—and why. In the series, *God: The One to Follow*, children learn why Jesus is worth following and how to follow Him as they learn about the life of Peter. Peter followed Jesus and learned much from Him. As a result, Peter's life was changed and he became one of the clearest voices for the Gospel in the early church. CEF Press® offers a variety of curriculum to teach the truths of the Bible to boys and girls.

VISIT CEFPRESS.COM TO LEARN MORE.

Peter's faith is displayed in lesson two as he gets out of a boat to walk on water to Jesus. But as his eyes drift from Jesus to the crashing waves around him, Peter needed Jesus to rescue him.

If you know Jesus as your Savior, remember Jesus is the all-powerful God. You can trust Him! When you are faced with something you know God wants you to do but it seems impossible, remember God the Holy Spirit lives in you. Ask for His help, then do what you know He wants you to do. The Bible says, "For he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4b). Jesus is greater and stronger than anything you will face in this world. This week, will you make a list of ways God has helped you in the past? Then when you are scared or sad, you can look at that list and remember God has been with you in the past and He is with you now.



TRAINING CHANGES Ministry

BY JENNA WEIS

The desire to reach unsaved children with the Good News of Jesus was burning in Lori's heart, but Lori and her husband were discouraged. They had been working in ministry at their church for so long, but they didn't feel like anything was being accomplished.

"Doing a vacation Bible school or a children's event fell short of reaching out to unsaved children in the neighborhood. We rely on our church families to invite their kids' friends, but these friends usually end up being other church kids," Lori remembered.

Things changed, however, when Lori got an exciting opportunity! She worked in the CEF summer ministry program, where she received training in evangelizing children in her neighborhood. "As I visited my neighborhood, I saw firsthand the condition of the children," Lori said.

She went on to teach *Good News Club* during the school year and children learned about who Noah and many other people in the Bible were for the first time in their lives! The children were exposed to the love of their Creator and learned more about Him. For Lori it was a life-changing experience.

Ministry at her church hasn't been the same for Lori since her time with CEF.

Neither has her job. Because of the new perspective she gained, Lori's job as a supervisor for the YMCA Kids' Club became an even greater joy. Now she is praying for God to bring more opportunities for her church to reach out to children in their community.

For those who have felt the same desire as Lori, *Child Evangelism Fellowship* offers a training course called *Teaching Children Effectively™*

LORI FELT
INEFFECTIVE
UNTIL ONE
CLASS CHANGED
EVERYTHING.



Level 1 that is entirely focused on reaching unsaved children with the Gospel.

TCE™ 1 includes training on how to counsel unsaved children for salvation, how to teach Gospel-centered Bible lessons, effective teaching methods, and more! Classes can be taken online at online.cefcmi.com, through your local CEF office, and at *Children's Ministries Institute*® at CEF International Headquarters in Warrenton, Missouri. Contact your local CEF office or *Children's Ministries Institute* for more information on how you can receive training to reach children with the Gospel.

“As I visited my neighborhood, I saw firsthand the condition of the children.”

– LORI



Whether you are a Children's Church worker, a seasoned Sunday School teacher, a small group leader for Vacation Bible School, or new volunteer in any children's ministry, Sunday School Solutions provides help for all of the mysteries and dilemmas that come up while working with children.



Check us out on Facebook at **Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.** or visit cefonline.com/sundayschool.



The *Children's Ministries Institute*® offers one of the most innovative practical training programs available for leaders in children's ministry. This 12-week diploma program can be taken in one- or two-week modules. Students receive training in direct ministry to children, teacher training and ministry organization and leadership. Academic credit may be available through various colleges and CEUs can be granted through ASCI. Under the direction of the Education Department, Institutes are held on every continent except Antarctica! Regional education directors oversee Institutes in their region and help ensure that international standards are maintained for the quality and integrity of our training programs. CMI® also offers classes online through the CMI Online program. Find out more about CMI at cefcmi.com or about CMI Online at online.cefcmi.com.

Brokenhearted

BY MARTHA HEIDINGER, Ministry Coordinator, CEF of Greater Cleveland Ohio

My heart is broken for the children of Greater Cleveland affected by the opioid crisis in northern Ohio. Just south of Cleveland, a couple of school districts have seen an explosion of child-suicides this year. Our children are without hope and without direction for their lives. How desperately they need to swap this darkness for the love of our Father God, who will never leave them or forsake them.

I am extra grateful to share in the teaching at an after-school *Good News Club*. This past school year three of our children trusted in Jesus as their Savior. What a joy to see their eyes light up when they understood new-to-them spiritual truths that help them grow in their relationship with Christ!

Some struggle with believing God really loves them because they have been abandoned by one of their parents. I once asked as part of a lesson introduction, "What kind of treasure would you like to find?" One girl answered, "My father." After the lesson she came for counseling. She talked about her pain and I prayed for her.

How we need to listen with our hearts to hear their hurt before seeking to encourage them with His Word!



TAKING TIME

BY NELSON MUHWEZI,
Kabale Local Area Director, Uganda

After the service in my church, I take time to talk with children before we go home. One time three children from one family came to talk. The oldest girl, about seven years old, was taking care of the other two. She told me, "Today I have received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior." She said her parents are divorced and asked me to pray that God would bring their mother back home.

Her father married three wives, and every woman divorced him after producing a child. The next Sunday when I came to church she welcomed me with excitement. She told me, "God is faithful; He has answered our prayer—my mother [step mother] is back!" God did an amazing thing that Sunday—her step mother came to church!

“

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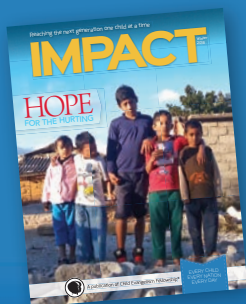
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