

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Winter
2019



LIVES
TRANSFORMED



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY



FROM THE PRESIDENT



**GOD'S GOODNESS BRINGS
POSITIVE TRANSFORMATION.**

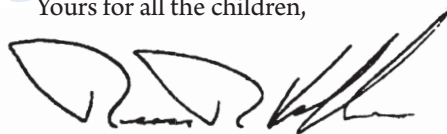
Lies, hatred, violence, drugs, scandal, abuse—the first few minutes of the nightly news reinforces the negative condition in our world. My perspective, however, has been broadened by what I witness when traveling around the world. I've seen families living in dire poverty, held a malnourished child, and talked with men and women displaced by war. The condition of our world can seem quite grim—especially if that's where we focus our attention.

But the condition of our world can seem quite different when our focus remains on God and what He can do.

Truth, love, kindness, sacrifice, giving, caring—God's goodness brings positive transformation. I've seen joy in abject poverty, peace in those affected by war, and generosity from those who have so much less than I have. I am humbled by the transforming power of God and the change it has made in my life. My life's course changed when I received Jesus as my Savior as an eight-year-old boy, when I committed to daily Bible study and prayer as a young man, and 30 years ago when I began serving as president of Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. Through this ministry I've seen God's transforming power in the lives of boys and girls through our ministries such as the Good News Club and literature we provide. I've seen God use teachers, the training they receive, and partnerships made with CEF to not only transform children's lives but all the lives of those involved.

As you read these stories about transformed lives, I hope you will be encouraged to keep your focus on God and what He can do. Maybe God will transform your life too!

Yours for all the children,



Reese R. Kauffman

Please Pray

- 1 More children will attend *Good News Club*® and other *CEF*® ministries.
- 2 More children will have access to daily devotional booklets and spend time with God every day.
- 3 The Lord of the harvest will send more laborers at every level in the ministry.
- 4 *CEF* training will prepare effective children's workers.
- 5 More churches will partner with *CEF* and sponsor after-school Good News Clubs.



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PLEASE PRAY FOR
NORTH KOREA

ORDER YOUR "PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN IN NORTH KOREA"
WRISTBANDS FROM CEFPRESS.COM

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God Will Never Abandon Me!

BY STEPHEN & HANNAH DAVIS, Local Directors, CEF of Carroll County, Maryland



Tears overflowed from eight-year-old Molly's* face as I sat cross-legged with her in the school hallway while she was made a new creation in Christ. When Molly was six months old, she was abandoned in a hotel room by her mom and her grandmother took full custody of her. Her dad has been missing for several years and they wonder if he has died from his heroin addiction. Because of drugs, her mom is now in jail for the third time.

Her grandmother called and asked, "At club have you had any reason to be concerned about Molly hurting herself?" She explained that from five to seven years of age Molly had been cutting herself and desiring to

take her life. She said, "Since Molly started going to *Good News Club* she is a different child. Every morning she wakes me up and says, 'Nana, read to me my devotion from *Good News Club!*' and every night she asks, 'How many more sleeps until church club at school?'" Her grandmother then thanked me for making an impact in her granddaughter.

It brings tears of joy to my eyes every time I see Molly at GNC™ and the obvious difference in her life. Each week she expresses a hunger to know God. Once, as I shared from Hebrews 13:5 that God promised He would never leave her, Molly brightened into a huge smile and said, "Now I do not just have my dog, I have Jesus!"

POWER OF PRAYER

Aaron's* devout Hindu grandfather was upset when he learned Aaron and his sister attended *Good News Club*. Aaron prayed he could still go to club and be allowed to attend the GNC Appreciation Sunday that would be held at a Christian church. Aaron asked us to pray that his grandfather would attend the service.

Aaron and his sister were able to come that Sunday. Seated beside them was their Hindu grandfather. Later, Aaron's mom commented, "Thank you, thank you for all you have done for my children."



*name changed

HELP TO THE HURTING

BY ROSE GALEANO, Utah

KNOWING WHAT IT
WAS LIKE TO BE A
HURTING CHILD AND
THE DIFFERENCE
JESUS MADE IN MY
LIFE, I WANTED THE
CHILDREN IN MY
NEIGHBORHOOD TO
KNOW JESUS TOO.

As a young child, I was an unhappy orphan in Chicago who felt unloved due to sexual and physical abuse and abandonment. But I was able to attend a *Good News Club* in our neighborhood that I absolutely loved. I learned Jesus loves me and at age six became a Christian. I still vividly remember the joy and hope it gave me.

Years later, after I began a family of my own, I started a *GNC* in our home. Knowing what it was like to be a hurting child and the difference Jesus made in my life, I wanted the children in my neighborhood to know Jesus too. Each week for about five years, I

taught 15 to 40 children in our home and then continued as a *GNC* helper for many years.

About 20 years later when I was in my front yard, a car stopped and a young man got out and introduced himself. He had been in my *GNC* and was now a pastor at a church in California. He was excited to tell me that through the *Good New Club* he became a Christian and followed the Lord.

Through the *GNC* I learned about Jesus and have followed Him all my life, teaching, leading, sharing, and serving as a missionary to Mexico.

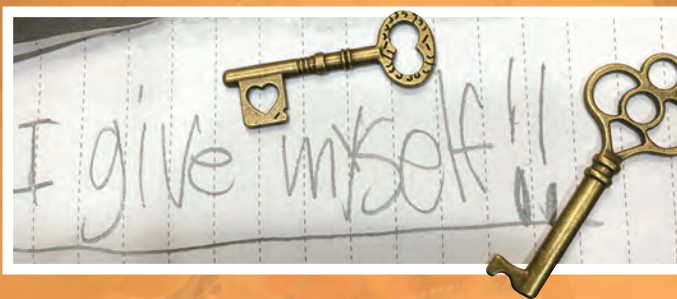
a life set apart for God

BY SHEIDA CATALAN
Local Director, CEF of Pasadena, California

Sean* attended *Good News Club* at his elementary school. On Sundays, he walked alone to the neighborhood church. He loved being in church except for one thing. He felt sad every time the offering plate was handed to him. He had no money to give. But one day Sean had a brilliant idea! He would be ready the next time around.

The following Sunday, the ushers were a bit irritated to find a crumpled piece of paper among the envelopes and

**name changed*



dollar bills. Who would throw trash in the offering plate? But they were surprised to find a child's handwritten note: "I give myself!" Sean had given the best offering of all that day.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF ONE

BY STEVE CARLSON

Recently the environment in Quebec has become increasingly hostile to the Gospel. In planning for a week-long Spring Break Children's Camp, Ketura had fairly low expectations. However, in God's economy it is very important to never underestimate the value of each child. Six children attended throughout the week, including Antone.

Six-year-old Antone came from an unbelieving family with no

father. His aunt brought him to the camp. A contrary camper from the start, Antone did not understand about prayer or God. In fact the team was surprised to see him come back the second day.

God began to work in his life, and as the week progressed Antone received Jesus as his Savior. The change in his demeanor, desires, and outlook were amazingly apparent. Now he wanted to pray and read

the Bible for himself, although he couldn't read yet. But undaunted he asked his mother to read for him.

Now Antone's aunt brings him to *Good News Club* and to an affiliated church. Antone expresses that he has never experienced such joy.



The Difference God Makes

A volunteer in a sensitive country organized a small camp for children and afterward continued to meet with them. After meeting several times, one boy called to say he had unintentionally told someone about the camp. Knowing that the authorities would most likely come to visit her, she immediately took time off from work, rushed home, and removed anything that might incriminate her. And it was just in time. When the police searched the house, they didn't find anything.

But the home of the boy was also searched and he was put into a police car to be taken to the police station.

The family was known for their bad lifestyle. His father, mother, and grandfather are strong drinkers who often violate public order. The children are often hungry, dirty, and frequently miss school.

But through the Bible lessons at camp the Lord had touched this boy's heart and he accepted Jesus as his Savior.

While in the police car the boy talked to the officer about God. "One should stop drinking, stop smoking, and stop doing bad things," the boy told him. "But without Jesus it doesn't work. We must receive Jesus into our hearts and He frees you from sin. If Jesus saves you, then when you die, you will come to the Golden City. But if you do not accept Christ as Savior, you won't be in paradise with Him."

The policeman listened for some time, then braked sharply, turned around, and took the boy home.

He later told someone, "I couldn't listen to this boy any longer. I know his family very well and how they live. If Christ can change people's lives in this way, I didn't want to oppose it. We could not change this family, although great efforts were made. Through the boy God himself began to work in them. I am a man and could not hold back the tears when I listened to the boy."



EVERY CHILD, EVERY NATION, EVERY DAY.

EQUIPPED to ENCOURAGE

The sun never sets on the ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship* as people from various cultures who speak different languages strive to achieve the same goal—evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God, and establish them in a local church for Christian living. By the grace of God, this 82-year-old ministry continues to grow as we train, equip, and support laborers to go into the harvest.

Translated into over 90 languages, *CEF* literature equips missionaries around the world with biblically sound visualized Bible lessons, missions stories, and songs as well as booklets and devotionals for children.



A pastor in Sri Lanka shared, “Children enjoyed these lessons and were convicted of their sins and accepted Jesus. They loved the pictures in the lessons and were able to understand the Creation very well.”

Bogdan Bassara, *CEF* International Multimedia Director, visited Good News Clubs and other ministries in schools in Uganda and Kenya. The highlight of his trip was “seeing how attentive children are when the Bible lesson is taught. It was amazing to see every teacher using *CEF* flashcards and many children coming to the clubs with *The Wonder Devotional Book* or *Every Day with God* in their hands.”

CEF teaches boys and girls about God from the Bible and also encourages them to spend time in God’s Word every day. Devotional materials are given to children to help them develop a habit of personal Bible study and prayer. During the first weeks of *Good News Club*, Jantina worked with the children to teach them how to use the *Every Day with God* devotional booklet. “I considered that two pages were enough, but the children asked, ‘Please, may we do one more page?’”





JOIN US IN PRAYING GOD'S OWN PRAYER REQUEST—

LUKE 10:2

AND HE (JESUS) SAID TO THEM, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST."

Below are comments from children about the *Every Day with God* devotional.

"I like to read this book as we learn many things about God and His miracles, and it teaches us not to sin any more. We need to trust God, read the Bible, and ask Him to forgive us." ~Salu

Mariana, age 11, does not read very well, but when she started to read and solve the activities in *Every Day with God* she said, "Finally, this is a book for me."

"I like this book as we learn many things about God and that Jesus Christ gave His blood on Golgotha for my sins. It teaches me to be faithful and obey Him." ~Marta

Every Day with God



The six-book set of these devotional books for early readers is now complete. Many new translations have been done and these booklets are now available in Latvian, Italian, Polish, German, Swedish, and two versions of Chinese (traditional and

simplified). These booklets are a great asset to the *Every Day* aspect of our vision.

"CEF MATERIALS ARE EFFECTIVE AND EASY TO USE. THEY HAVE THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION AND ANYONE CAN USE THEM TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST. ONE OF MY STAFF SAID, 'WITHOUT CEF MATERIALS I WONDER HOW WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN.' MANY CHILDREN IN GNC HAVE ACCEPTED CHRIST THROUGH THE WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOKS."

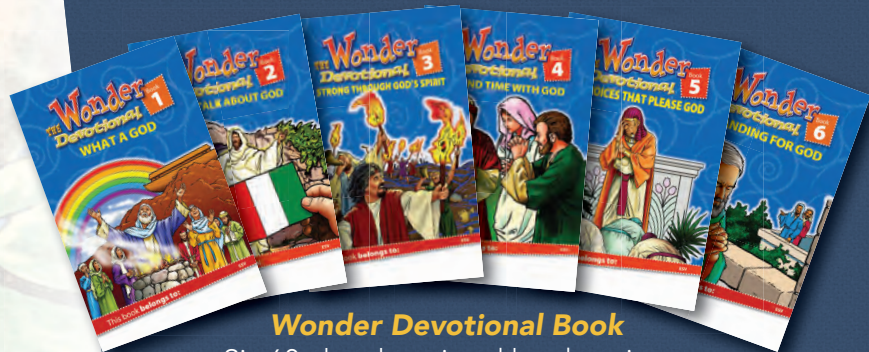
— REV. ELIAS, SOUTH SUDAN

Help children spend time in God's Word EVERY DAY!



Every Day with God

Six 30-day devotional book series for early readers.



Wonder Devotional Book

Six 60-day devotional book series.

Each book includes devotionals, prayer starters, memory verses, and activities designed to provide children with a daily devotional tool. Children will learn about the character of God and how they can live a life pleasing to Him!



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

little things, Lasting Impact

BY VICKIE SARGENT-KLER
GNC teacher in Florida

● get excited to hear the big Kingdom stories about how a *Good News Club* leader has taken a troubled child and turned him around or rescued a child from an abusive relationship. But if your club is like mine, you may feel like your club doesn't have many (if any) of those big Kingdom stories to share. However, we have the opportunity to partner with Jesus in small everyday ways that can make a big difference in children's lives. Although it may not sound impressive, it's still important. Each meets a need, and neither is more significant than the other. When we act on what God calls us to do for children in our club, we are contributing in the

building up of His Kingdom.

We did one of these small things for a boy in our club. Mike* had been a member of our club for two years. During that time he always came dressed in clean, well-fitting clothes. Slowly we noticed that things were changing for him. Then one day

we found him crying in the bathroom because he couldn't get his pants zipped; they were just too tight. He confided that he and his mother were living in a tent and he didn't have his own clothes. We didn't want to upset his mother but felt there had to be something we could do. After praying about it, we decided to purchase a few pairs of



pants for Mike and slipped them into his backpack while everyone was occupied with the lesson. Although it was a small gift that didn't change his living situation, at least he would have clothes that fit and belonged to him. We also hoped it would be an encouragement to his mother.

When I saw Mike and his mother that summer, she asked if we had been the ones who gave Mike the pants. With apprehension, I said yes. Tears filled her eyes as she thanked me and told me how finding those pants had given both of them hope that Jesus was looking out for them. This spurred her to rekindle her relationship with Mike's grandparents, and now they live in an apartment near them. Because of this move, Mike was sad he wouldn't get to attend GNC anymore, but he loved going to church with his family. Joy filled my heart as I walked away from this wonderful child of God. What a blessing to play this small part in God's plan for Mike!

Be open to the call to do small things, and let Jesus do the rest.

**name changed*

When we act on what God calls us to do for children in our club, we are contributing in the building up of His Kingdom.



Grandchild Teacher

BY ASHBY AND PEARL KURIAN, South Africa

For the last couple of years, Aunty Vivian, one of our devoted volunteer teachers, has faithfully run five Good News Clubs in various communities and in one school. At the beginning of this year, however, she became ill and was hospitalized for quite a while. As a result, she had to stop all of her Good News Clubs.

But one time when she was feeling a little better, Aunty Vivian managed to head to one of her clubs. She found that GNC had been going on without her. During Aunty Vivian's absence, Buhle, the club hostess's grandchild, gathered the children on the day of club. They would sing and pray for their teacher!



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.



Encouraging Words to a Teacher



Karen Sowalla, a GNC teacher in Pennsylvania, was encouraged to hear how one of her third grade students remembered what she was taught when another child called her a loser. Karen shared, **"She said that when someone calls her a loser, she remembers that I taught her that God said she is a winner."**

Treasured Wordless Book LEADS TO TRAINING CLASS

BY TINA BUSENITZ

Lori was helping her retired parents sort and pack for a move when she found a little *Wordless Book*. She showed it to her mother, Birtie, who was delighted to see it again and shared with Lori the story of how she received the little book.



As best as she can remember, Birtie was around ten years old when her parents took her to the Oklahoma State Fair. It was there someone shared with her the Gospel using *The Wordless Book*. Birtie trusted in Jesus as her Savior that day and was

given a *Wordless Book* of her own. She has treasured it ever since.

The Wordless Book has pages of color rather than any words. It is green on the outside with a page each inside of gold, black, red, and white. The colors are used to share the Gospel message on a child's level.

As Lori thought about the impact of that little book and how it was the tool that brought her mother to the Lord,

she wanted more people to know how to share the Gospel so simply and clearly. That desire led Lori to arrange special training for all the staff of their upcoming Rodeo Bible Camp.

Thirty teens and adults showed up for an evening training with CEF. Each was given a *Wordless Book* to use in presenting the Gospel to children attending the rodeo camp.

Child Evangelism Fellowship has a seminar course entitled "1,2,3 Jesus Loves Me" that shows how to share the message of salvation in a way that a child can understand. Notes are provided and helpful bookmarks with the basic Gospel truths that can be placed in the Bible as reminders of what to share with a child.

The hour-long training equipped the staff to know how to share the truths of the Gospel using *The Wordless Book*. The attendees found the training practical and encouraging as they not only learned how to share the Gospel but once again were reminded of the wonderful grace of God that provides salvation to all who believe.

One seasoned cowboy commented

that the training helped him be more confident in sharing the Gospel message.

Two weeks after the training, Rodeo Bible Camp staff put into practice what they learned as they ministered to 44 campers. While children were trained in roping, riding, steer wrestling, and other rodeo events, staff watched for opportunities to share the Gospel. Four campers trusted in Jesus as a result of the camp ministry and training.

Lori was able to use the training she received that night to lead a girl to the Lord at her church's vacation Bible school a few weeks later.

The Wordless Book is just one tool that can be used to share the Gospel message with children, but it is one that is special to Lori and to her mother, Birtie.

If you want to know more about how to share the Gospel using *The Wordless Book*, contact your local CEF office. Find the nearest one at—[chapters.cefonline.com](#). Learn how you can get involved at—[cefonline.com/get-involved](#).

JUSTIN FONSEKA

NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CEF OF SRI LANKA REPORTS:



A pastor whose son attended *Teaching Children Effectively*™ Level 1 training said, “He thought children’s ministry was only singing action songs, giving out pictures to color, and doing crafts. But when he attended *TCE*™ he learned why he should do children’s ministry and is so grateful to God.”

A *TCE* student from a Bible college told

Justin that he had not thought about reaching children, rather he wanted to minister to adults. After this course his whole belief system changed and now he wants to reach children for Christ.

After attending Super Seminar training, a teacher expressed she had been to many training programs and seminars over 30 years but this training was different and challenged her to share the message of salvation with girls and boys. She thought of all the children she had taught over the years and had not shared the Gospel with them.



GERD-WALTER BUSKIES

CEF REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF EUROPE REPORTS:

During a training class, the instructor demonstrated how to lead a child to Christ using *The Wordless Book*. The next day, one of the students phoned to tell the instructor that she had just practiced *The Wordless Book*. She first shared with her six-year-old daughter who responded by wanting to receive Christ as her Savior. After that, she shared *The Wordless Book* with her husband, and he wanted to receive Christ, too.

Andrei from Bulgaria had the opportunity to work in Cyprus, earning a good salary. But he knew the Lord had something different for

him—to reach children with the Gospel. So he gave up his plans and applied for the *Children's Ministries Institute*®. After this training, he said: “It turned out to be a time I’ll never forget—a time of equipping and growing, a time of joy and correction—a time so rich, which I never had before.”

After the training, Andrei decided to become a full-time CEF missionary in Bulgaria. He says: “Though the future is insecure, I know I do what God wants me to do—to reach children with the Gospel and I experience His blessings which are much better than making money.”

Church Partnership Expands Church Ministry

BY LISA KILGORE
Ministry Coordinator, CEF of
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania



What do you do when your *Good News Club* is running well? Start a second *Good News Club*! In 2015, Harvest Bible Church partnered with CEF of Lancaster County to open a second GNC at Brecht Elementary School in Manheim Township.

The church already had a team that had been running a club at Wharton Elementary School in the School District of Lancaster, and they had enough volunteers to start another club. Brecht was chosen because it was close to their new location in Manheim Township.

Since its beginning, the club has ranged from 6 to 22 students, and for the most part, the team of volunteers has remained the same. When asked why so many volunteers return year after year, team leader Stacie Marrie replied, “We love it!”

The team’s love for the children is evident as they

listen carefully to prayer requests and address the children’s questions in small group time. Whether there are 6 or 16 children, each adult in club works to ensure that the children are heard and valued. As the current students were asked what they enjoyed about club, each one mentioned something about their leaders. They know they are loved.

The Brecht team has been blessed with a wonderful relationship with their school principal and secretary; and Harvest Bible invested in the school—hosting a staff breakfast and providing “rainy day recess bins” for the classrooms.

There are many after-school activities at Brecht, which can sometimes decrease the number of students who attend the club. The team asks for prayer that more children would hear

More Good News

When churches partner with CEF, excitement rises as boys and girls hear the Good News of Jesus, grow closer to God, and begin attending church regularly.

➤ A Ugandan pastor said, "We have never seen anything like this. We felt so challenged when we saw the young people who were trained by CEF ministering to the children. I was surprised at the level of skills they have in sharing Christ with the children."

➤ A local director met with a church interested in adopting a school and shared their vision to reach the children in their county through *Good News Club*. An excited pastor's wife told her story: "We were praying for ways to reach our community for Christ and asked God what we should do. The Lord's answer was, 'Get the children.' I told God we could not just go get the children, the parents wouldn't let us get the children. However, God kept telling me, 'Get the children!' A few days later, my husband told me about a conversation he had with you, our local CEF director, about a program in the public school and opportunity to tell children about Jesus. That was the answer to my prayer; we had a way that we could 'get the children!'"

➤ Lisa* faithfully attended *Good News Club* all year and looked forward to the *GNC* Appreciation Sunday hosted by the partnering church that adopted her school's *GNC*. Lisa's mom came to see her daughter awarded and later told the CEF local director, "All year I have been seeing a difference in my daughter and I have desired myself to go back to church. When we went for her award I was so touched by the message that I had to go again that night. I was deeply moved by what that pastor shared. I want to begin attending there regularly!"

*Name changed

WHETHER THERE
ARE 6 OR 16
CHILDREN, EACH
ADULT IN CLUB
WORKS TO
ENSURE THAT
THE CHILDREN
ARE HEARD
AND VALUED.



Photo credits: Ashley Christ, Photographer

about club and have easy access to the permission slips.

The club has been blessed to open doors for volunteers to share with teachers as well as children. One child challenged his teacher when she said, "No person is perfect" by piping up, "Jesus is perfect!" That teacher went to Stacie to ask her how to respond. The child's question opened the door for Stacie to have additional conversations with the teacher. Praise God for blessing this club with a dedicated team, positive school relationships, and an active partner church!

If your church would like to begin a *Good News Club*, check out our chapter finder at chapters.cefonline.com.



Teaching to Transform

Whether you teach Sunday school, children's church, *Good News Club*, or some other children's ministry, *Child Evangelism Fellowship* provides specialized, practical training to help you evangelize and disciple children.

A variety of seminars and courses are offered through our local offices*, online, or the *Children's Ministries Institute*®.

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The Gospel:

Prepared for a Child's Heart

Wordless Book

Training and Demonstration

FREE ONLINE CLASS

(Three weeks)

Romans Road for Children

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*Find a local chapter near you at cefonline.com/location-finder



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