

[on mission]

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
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Reaching children worldwide™



A SUMMER OF SURPRISES IN RUSSIA

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!” (Psalm 118:1) – this is what comes first to the minds of Alexander and Raisa Andreev, the leaders of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® in Russia, when they think about CEF® in their

country. Despite the fact that they face a number of restrictions, the ministry is increasing steadily. Every year more than 200,000 children hear about the Lord through the 53 CEF workers and the over 4,000 volunteers. We asked

Alexander and Raisa Andreev how they experienced the last months. Here is their wonderful report.

SUMMER CAMPS ARE NOT POSSIBLE?

All of our summer plans were falling apart before our eyes, but

Continued on page 2

... AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS.

LUKE 1:31 (NKJV)

Dear friends,

The name our Lord should receive at His birth, indicated the purpose of His coming into the world, namely, to save sinners. When we make known the name of Jesus (*the LORD saves*) today, we must do this with the same purpose in mind; that children know Jesus as the Saviour from sin. Even though it is not popular to talk about sin (I wonder if it

ever was), to conceal the need would mean the Saviour is hidden as well.

With great joy we look back at our summer ministry. What a relief that it was possible again to teach many children face to face in 5-Day Clubs or camps. And in addition, the Lord allowed us to reach children through digital means. I regret that we can show only a little glimpse of what the Lord has done these past months across Europe. It was marvellous!

At present, even the near future is unpredictable; we don't know what

our Christmas ministry will look like this year. But we do know our mission: to proclaim the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For Him there are no restrictions, *the word of God is not chained* (2 Tim 2:9). With great expectations we look forward to what the Lord has in mind for us.

Sincerely yours

Gerhard-Walter Buskies



[A WORD FROM **GERD-WALTER BUSKIES** CEF EUROPEAN DIRECTOR]

RUSSIA

Continued

we made new plans. Due to the pandemic we could not hold big children's camps. Instead we offered outdoor activities, each time for up to 20 children. We hiked in the forest, walked with children on the riverbank, picked mushrooms and berries and observed the wild life in the forest – birds and insects! There are so many opportunities, which we did not use before. We taught about the beauty of God, how He created the world, what happened to the world after the fall, about the Savior Jesus Christ and personal faith. When the children went back to their homes, their parents kept calling and telling us that their children were changed. They had begun to pray daily, to read the Bible and were talking a lot about God.

IS THIS CAMP ONLINE?

The pandemic revealed some amazing new talents of our workers.

Video lessons for children along with separate lessons for preschoolers as well as online camps became very popular. Over 1200 children have participated in these camps.

PARENTS SEEK HELP!

Finding themselves in quarantine with their children, thousands of parents in Russia desperately realized the need for raising their children in a Christian way. CEF of Russia is seen as a kind of “expert” in the field of Christian parenting. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have received thousands of calls and letters from parents with requests – help us, teach us, share with us ... So, we began conducting online consultations, seminars, and conferences for parents. We thank God for this opportunity.

**I UNDERSTAND
THAT I AM
ALSO A SINNER
AND I NEED
TO COME TO
CHRIST.**

“Mailbox Club” correspondence course lessons are most popular at this time. Parents understand that no child will contract Covid-19 when they answer the lessons. One mother said: “My 8-year-old son began to take the course. I helped him. We answered the questions together. I had never read the Bible before. I realized that

a lot of important things are written there. One day after finishing his lesson my son wanted to pray. He prayed that he was a sinner. I understand that I am also a sinner and I need to come to Christ. Something new has entered our family, because now my husband is interested in these lessons, too. Thank you! It is so cool!”

Pray that many more people in Russia will see the importance of sharing the Gospel with children and join our ministry.

GOOD NEWS ACROSS ROMANIA 2020

**THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING. IT
IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES..**

PSALM 118:23

“Will you be coming tomorrow too?”

It was the last day of Good News across Romania (GNAR) and the children, like us, knew it had been a special week. We certainly have reason to praise God for GNAR in 2020.

“M” attended CEF training in May and said, “God spoke so clearly to me during that online training, I knew I had to attend GNAR this year. After GNAR she said, “Yesterday while distributing literature packs, I gave a gentleman a few books about God. He said: *I prayed to God to speak to me and He sent a special messenger to my door!* It was a great

blessing for me to be part of this ministry this week. God opened my eyes to understand better that the children outside the church walls need to hear the Good News...”

5 Day Clubs in 23 locations, 785 children and many parents who heard the Gospel message and almost 2,000 literature packs distributed in one week.

Isn't it the Lord's doing?

Isn't it marvellous?

A mother said, “My child has never been able to memorize anything, but he came home from your clubs having learned the poems perfectly. I had to come to see for myself what you are doing with

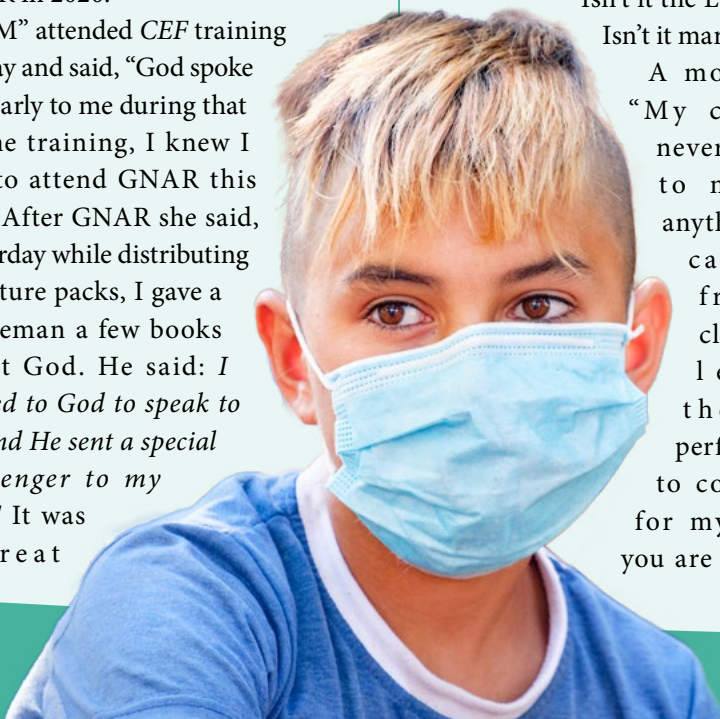
the children.” (*This mother was so impressed by the Bible verses learned each day that she too attended GNAR and heard the Gospel message herself!*)

On a very rainy day, 7-year-old Caleb prayed, “Lord you know that we want to take the Gospel to children and adults who attend the clubs so that you can save them. Thank you for stopping the rain.” The rain stopped and all clubs continued as planned.

Children across the county rejoiced in hearing the message that they could have their sins forgiven. One child said, “During this week I learned that God sent the Lord Jesus Christ to solve the problem of our sins!”

“We want to thank you very much for coming to teach our children, please continue to come every week, our children need to learn these things weekly”.

And that's what Cosmin & Tatiana (CEF workers in county Buzau) intend to do!



CHALLENGES!

In I Chronicles 28 v 20 we begin to read of David's **challenge** to his son Solomon about building a house for the Lord.

"Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished."

The **challenge** to build the house of the Lord was great, but the promises of God are greater! He is greater. He promised to be with Solomon until the job was done!

	Gifts up to Sept. 2020
USA Headquarters	€ 497,226
European Headquarters	€ 27,725
Kingdom Builders Czechia	€ 4,994
Kingdom Builders Great Britain	€ 1,060
Kingdom Builders Germany	€ 8,853
Kingdom Builders Ireland	€ 440,429
Kingdom Builders USA	€ 10,000
TOTAL TO DATE:	€ 990,287
STILL NEEDED FOR 2020	€ 409,713

Often as believers, we can fix our eyes on the challenges. There are 300 CEF workers across Europe who need financial support to continue their ministry. The Shortfall project exists to help those workers. There are unique **challenges** and frustrations during 2020 that we have never faced before. We have worked together, shared ideas and resources and encouraged each other as we face challenge together. There are challenges all around, but our God is greater, so we look to Him!

During 2020, we have rejoiced in seeing that God is faithful. He keeps His promises. He gives opportunities for the Gospel to be brought to hundreds of thousands of children and He provides for all that is needed! We are confident that God will continue with us until the

end. We are sure that He will provide for all the CEF team in Europe. We just don't know how He is going to do it yet. But we know He is able!

We are specifically praying for opportunities to present this project to new partners who may wish to get onboard and help. There are around 50 countries in Europe and we would love to see God's people from across the region getting involved in meeting this challenge together. We are encouraged that even since we last wrote, several new partners have joined with us from Germany and the UK.

I Chronicles 29 is a great read! When met with a challenge, how did the people respond?

They got involved, willingly and with great joy! May God help us to respond to the challenge of meeting the need for supporting workers—**willingly and with great joy**.

Visit partners.cefeurope.com to see how God is providing for this project. If you can help, **or know someone who might**, please contact us at partners@cefeurope.org.



Thank you for coming to tell me about God. Now, I know that Jesus came to pay the punishment for my sins. There is no one greater than God and His goodness.

(A Child who attended a 5-Day Club™ in summer 2020)



[CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP COURSE]

Thirteen students from Germany and the Netherlands attending the Children's Ministry Leadership Course in Germany. It's the only residential CMLC held in Europe during this first year of the pandemic. We pray that the course will continue as planned until the end. Several of the students consider joining CEF.

EURO NEWS

In October 2020 **Vilijam Valentini** from Serbia has taken up his role as Director for the IT department of CEF Europe. He has worked in the department for the last two years. The IT department is responsible for the technical aspects of all our internet-based ministries to children, including Wondersurf and Online Bible Correspondence Course. The department is also responsible for the websites of CEF Europe, which sometimes are in several languages. Though Vilijam thinks that face to face ministries are always the first choice, he is convinced that we should also make good use of the tools of our time to reach and teach the children of the 21st century. Vilijam and his wife Tabita have three children. Tabita serves as bookkeeper for CEF Serbia.



In their September meeting the International Board of Trustees has approved Iulian Mangalagiu as Assistant European Director from January 2021. **Iulian and Anca Mangalagiu** have served as assistants to the European director during 2020. Gerd-Walter Buskies plans to make Iulian and Anca familiar with the different aspects of his ministry. They are already jointly taking part in many meetings, at present mainly online due to the present situation. God willing Iulian will take over from Gerd-Walter in May 2022.



At a 5-Day Club® in Central Europe many more children came than expected. The little packs of biscuits ran out and some boys were left without. When they were promised biscuits the next day, they said,

"It doesn't matter that we didn't receive biscuits, we received Jesus and that is more important."



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