Reaching the next generation one child at a time



FROM THE PRESIDENT

" Everyone needs the hope that is found in knowing God."

re you rejoicing that 2020 has come to an end? For many across the globe this has been a difficult year. We want to put the hardships behind us and hope for better times. But I always marvel that in the midst of hard times is when I grow closer to God. The power of God becomes more evident as I face my own inadequacies. I'm driven to pray and study God's Word because I know how desperately I need God.



Everyone needs the hope that is found in knowing God. God's love is so great that He continues to reach out to people. I'm amazed at the lives touched through the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship.



Consider the power of God displayed:

Places are closed but God opens doors for ministry.

Children are hurting but God comforts and strengthens.

Difficulties bring brokenness but God brings healing.

People are lost in sin but God changes lives.

Christians live for God but God directs their steps.

Many face an uncertain future but God gives hope for an eternal home.

This issue gives testimony to the power of God in these areas. I praise Him for doors He has opened and the lives He has changed, but there are many more who have yet to hear. The power of God continues to reach out. CEF missionaries around the globe pray for God to open more doors so they can minister to the hurting, bring healing to the broken, and see lives changed as God directs their steps. We are driven by our vision to reach every child, every nation, every day with the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

Please Fray

More doors will open to get Good News Club® programs in schools across the USA.

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Children around the world will hear about Jesus, believe in Him, and be changed.

God will equip our workers to minister to hurting children.

God will minister through our workers and tools like the Do You Wonder Why? booklet to bring

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The Lord of the harvest will call more teachers to reach children who still need to hear.

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The message of salvation will be clearly shared in every region of the world, bringing hope.

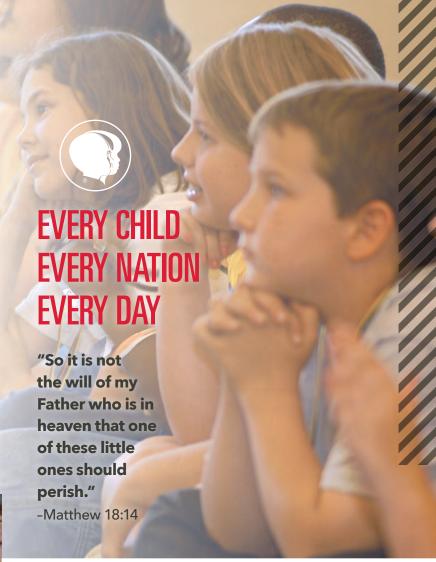




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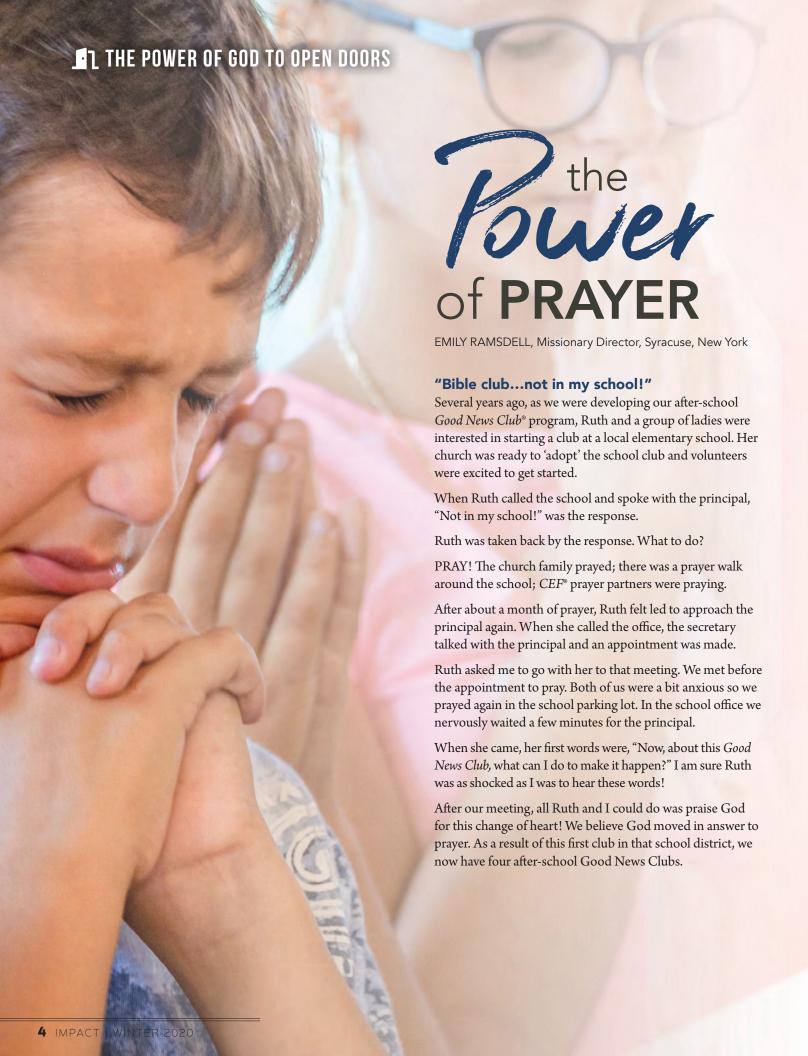
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LEAN MORE ABOUT GOOD NEWS CLUB AT: cefonline.com/ministries/goodnewsclub



We approached a local Syracuse school with the desire of having an after-school Good News Club. We had meeting after meeting with school staff just to be told we needed to wait and come back another time. Many were praying. After two years of waiting, we did a prayer walk around the school. It was a Saturday morning, the sun was shining, and a good number of people attended. As we neared the end of our prayer walk, one of the club coordinators received a text from the vice principal, "Come to the school, we are ready for the Good News Club."

All of us on that prayer walk were speechless. In that next meeting, the vice principal shared with us, "Thank you for your patience."

The pastor almost fell over

Recently a CEF director emailed me about a new after-school Good News Club in her area. A church had been praying about starting ministry to children in the local school or community. The day after one of their prayer meetings, a local CEF committee member visited the pastor and told him about the after-school Good News Club program.

The pastor almost fell over! He could not believe that someone came to tell him how to do ministry in the school. That new school club had 40 children come the first day.

The power of prayer

These are just a few of the stories of God working in answer

If your church wants to impact your community or get involved with children, what better way than a weekly Good News Club. Why not do a prayer walk around your neighborhood school and see what God will do.





CEF BELIEVES IN

The Importance of Prayer as **Our Foundation**

It is not the work we do, the meetings we hold, or the decisions we make that bring the greatest advances in the work; it is the time spent before the throne of God in prayer, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that brings power, laborers, and resources into the ministry.

FIND A LOCAL CEF CHAPTER NEAR YOU AT: cefonline.com/location-finder

THE POWER OF GOD TO MINISTER TO THE HURTING



"Toney, this is going to be our new beginning."

Dad had left and even though Leah* longed for her folks to be back together, she was hopeful that her new stepdad would give them a good life together. As time went on however, stress rose as her stepdad was deployed to Iraq, her new brother was diagnosed with special needs, and Mom was expecting a baby. This was Leah's world when she began Good News Club. For three years she attended GNC™—singing songs, learning verses, and letting truths of Christ penetrate her soul as our team faithfully ministered to her each week.

"Will you pray for Mom?" was often her prayer request as things at home continued to spiral downhill. "I might be going to live in Georgia with my dad—I'll miss *GNC*," was Leah's uncertain future when her stepdad returned from Iraq with severe PTSD. Leah cared for her two younger siblings as things at home continued to decline with restraining orders, regular shouting and cursing, and her stepdad being hospitalized for trying to hang himself.

"She rarely missed a week," and "Leah was a very quiet and sweet child and finally seemed to begin coming out of her shell a little more this year," recalled her *GNC* teachers.

When schools closed and COVID-19 quarantine was in full swing, Leah and her two siblings witnessed their worst nightmare come true right in front of their eyes. In the midst of cursing,

wrestling, and dragging, Leah's stepdad shot her mom to death and then left the home and took his own life.

It is hard to fathom children living through such horror. When faced with tragedy, loss, and suffering where does one go to find hope? The answer is Christ. Children like Leah are not "celestial accidents." Chance is not their mother or father. No, we are made in the image of God, and therefore are of invaluable worth! No one can pay you a higher compliment nor deliver such dignity than to carefully and uniquely create you, lay down His life to save you, and express His desire to see you as His child. This is the hope that must be shared and nurtured in the hearts of today's children. This is the hope Leah heard as she attended Good News Club.

Although 2020 was not what any of us planned, through it all God opened doors to proclaim His hope in a world gripped by fear. "Can my daughter get a Bible from you?" a mom asked. GNC teams reported, "Praise God in our Zoom meetings we had the majority of our kids present!" After a team member passed out packages to her GNC children who were stuck at home, she reported about one child, "As soon as she got her package, she sat down and began working on her devotional."

This is God's work. While methods may change and avenues broaden, the message stays the same. Children need hope, and they need it now.

*name changed





Response to Terror

any people were traumatized by the 2019 Easter Sunday terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. One ten-year-old boy was so badly affected that those around him rejected him. He and his family were abandoned by the villagers due to their bad behaviors, especially of this boy. But after receiving the Do You Wonder Why? booklet he came to know Jesus loves him. He and his family were changed—now they are Christians.

A nine-year-old girl received the Do You Wonder Why? booklet and believed Jesus can answer any question we ask. When her father was bitten by a viper that night—after midnight when they could not get medical help—she asked Jesus to heal him. The next morning her father was fine—the poison had not affected him. The whole family now goes to

church and all have received Jesus as their Savior.

Sri Lanka's population of 21 million includes 520,000 children and is only 1 percent Christian. In response to the 2019 Easter terrorist attack, CEF of Sri Lanka received 600,000 copies of the Do You Wonder Why? booklet thanks to the Boxes of Books program and those who gave through the CEF International Headquarters. Since religious books cannot be distributed publicly or in government schools, distribution has been through Good News Clubs with GNC children sharing booklets with their friends and through churches with members sharing with neighbors and others they meet. Through this network of Christians, booklets have spread to every district in Sri Lanka resulting in many children and adults receiving the Lord Jesus as Savior.

Sri Lanka's population of 21 million includes 520,000 children and is only 1 percent Christian.



THE IMPORTANCE OF EVANGELIZING CHILDREN

There is no limit to the number of organizations that do many good things that are important to boys and girls in need. We are thankful for them and believe that God uses them to help hurting children. CEF, however, has been called by God to make it our highest priority to present the Gospel so children may be saved and discipled in God's Word. We must stay on point.

NEEDING SOMETHING

EDYTA WOJCIESKA, Poland

fter my father's death, I felt lost; I was hurt and closed myself off. I did not understand why God did this. I was only 12 years old and a big hole in my heart was created.

My aunt invited me to a Christian youth meeting where I met new friends, and for a moment I could

forget about my loss and the hole in my heart I couldn't

> fill. I went to camp with my new friends and heard there is someone who loves me and can fill my ache. I confessed my sin to God and asked Him to be my Savior. I gained a new Father and the hole in my heart was flooded with God's love. Since that day I walk with God through my life.

I desired to serve God and began to serve in the church. I taught clubs for



children and young people from

non-believing families. After high school, I prayed my service could be my job. I wanted to devote myself fully to telling children and young people about God and His plan of salvation. For five years I worked with children on the street. When I looked at them, I saw they needed something more—they needed the hope that only Jesus Christ gives. I prayed for

God to show me what to do. And then a CEF of Poland board member invited me to teach at a children's camp. After camp I was invited to attend Children's Ministries Institute®, then was offered a position in CEF. My desire

was fulfilled. God gave me the answer to how I can give children and young

people hope!

My support from inside the country increases every year, but it's still not enough to cover all ministry costs. With the help of *Sponsor-A-National*™ program, I can serve children. SPAN™ covers the missing costs so I can focus my attention on telling children and young people and their families about Jesus. This support allows me to pass on hope to future generations and prepare them to pass on the Gospel to future generations.

[During coronavirus restrictions, Edyta continued to teach children through online Good News Club.]



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 1,000 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.

the DIFFERENCE in VALERIA

ANDREA SARAÍ MEJÍA, Good News Club Teacher, El Salvador

rix-year-old Valeria faithfully attends Good News Club. It is where she received the Lord Jesus as her Savior and learns how to depend on Him every day. When Valeria learned about prayer, she prayed often for her family and shared prayer requests: that her

father would get out of jail; that her grandmothers, Maria and Conchi, would be healed; and that her mother would receive the Lord Jesus as her Savior. She would say, "God will answer according to His will."

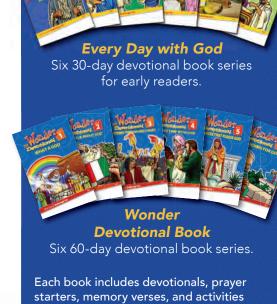
Although Valeria lives with her mom, she is often left alone at home with her sister. Her mother works nights at a bar and regularly returns home the next day with the effects of alcohol or she goes with her lovers and doesn't go home at all.

On weekends, Valeria and her sister

Valeria to GNC each Saturday. Last year Maria accepted the Lord Jesus as her Savior, thanks to the testimony of her young granddaughter. Valeria encourages Grandmother Maria to trust God and to accept His will even in difficult times.

Grandmother Maria shared, "I have learned to have a devotional life, thanks to my granddaughter. One day Valeria brought home a Wonder Devotional Book from club and from that day, Valeria began to have daily devotions. Since Valeria still can't read, she always asks me to read the Bible and The Wonder Devotional Book for her so we can do our devotional together."

> Because of the change in Valeria's life, her father received Jesus as His Savior. He looks forward to the day he can get out of prison and take care of his daughter.



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

designed to provide children with a daily

devotional tool. Children will learn about

a life pleasing to Him!

the character of God and how they can live

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





DIANE EAGLES, Rochester, New York

aijayyah, a devout Muslim woman who cares for several children, invited me to teach a 5-Day Club® in her backyard. The children told me she asked them questions about the teaching every day. On the last day, Naijayyah invited me to use her spacious basement to hold the club and quietly listened to my teaching at the top of the stairs. The teaching material includes the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every lesson. Four children attended club and three accepted Jesus as Savior. Naijayyah invited me to return. Now I go once a week to teach and pray with the children. I see God working in the heart of this Muslim woman as she responds with excitement after the teaching of God's Word.

"My nieces and nephew enjoyed the Bible teaching class. They learned a lot and were really surprised about the different type of sin a person can commit without being conscious of them. They truly were interested in how to get closer to God. They enjoyed the singing and the games. I was very impressed with the teaching method that was taught. I am a Muslim but do believe there is a higher authority than us. I was happy that Ms. Diane asked me if she could teach them." ~ Naijayyah



CEF BELIEVES IN

THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAR AND BIBLICAL PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL

The fact that a young child can comprehend the simple message of salvation and become a child of God is the foundational principle of CEF. Everything else that we do is based upon this fact. The Good News of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation. We must present it clearly and accurately.



CLAUDIA CALDERON, California

God Had Other Plans

was born in Guatemala but became an American citizen some time ago. My husband Fernando and I have three sons and a daughter. Life has not been easy, especially with two disabled children in the home, but I wouldn't change anything. Knowing God personally, that He loves me and wants the best for me, is such a comfort.

When I was five and growing up in Guatemala, my mom started taking us to a Christian church. One day the pastor spoke about Heaven and how only God's children could get in. After the service, I went to the pastor, pulled on his suit, and told him I wanted to go to Heaven. He explained that God is the Creator and loves me with an everlasting love. And He wants me to be in Heaven with Him, but because of all the wrong things that I have said, done, or thought, I couldn't go. But God loved me so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to pay for my sin and take my punishment. If I believed Jesus had done that for me, I could ask Him to be my Savior and I could become His child. I would be able to go to Heaven one day. That day I became a daughter of God.

Because I wanted to learn everything about Jesus, I never wanted to miss church. At age 15 I was baptized and committed my life to serve the Lord. I started teaching Sunday school to 600 children each week. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Lord used me to bring many children to Christ.

I remember that as a 25-year-old I told God that, whether I got married or not, I wanted to serve Him—in Guatemala or another country. Boy, does He take our prayers seriously!

After Fernando and I got married, we moved to Los Angeles so he could study at a Bible college to bring what he learned back to our Guatemalan church. But God had other plans.

He led us to a church in downtown LA where they

Jodo está bien en la casa de mi padre Ahf hay were 16020, GOZO, GOZ teaching ESL (English as a second language) classes. The pastor of this church asked for someone to babysit the children on Tuesday mornings. I volunteered with these words, "I will help, but I won't babysit; I will teach them." The number of children in my class grew rapidly, and the pastor panicked. He called the CEF director in Los Angeles to help me. She told me that she could not help me, but that I could help her!

"There are nine million children in Los Angeles who don't speak English and I cannot tell them about Jesus, but you can," she said. She taught me how to share the simple and beautiful message of the Gospel and helped me start a ministry for the Hispanics in Los Angeles.

My first training had 85 people—some of them are still teaching with me after 35 years of ministry. We started Good News Clubs, conducted training classes and conferences, contacted pastors, and saw many people get involved in the ministry. We have seen lives changed with the Gospel.

I have the best job in the world. I AM A WITNESS! I work for the Lord sharing the Gospel with boys and girls and training adults to do the same. It's the best thing that could have happened to me.

WE HAVE SEEN LIVES CHANGED WITH THE GOSPEL.



THE GOOD NEWS **CLUB PROGRAM** IS ONE WAY THAT **WE CAN TELL CHILDREN THE GOOD NEWS AND** SHOW THEM THE WAY HOME.

ave you ever played the board game Sorry! by Hasbro Games? The object of the game is to get all four of your pawns home. There are many things along the way that can send you back to start, but once you have a pawn home it is safe.

My friend Liz was playing Sorry! with her grandchildren when it struck her that just like her pawn was home safe, so she had a child Home safe. Liz and her husband Jim lost their 24-year-old son Doug to cancer in 2009. He knew the Lord Jesus as Savior. Doug is Home.

Perhaps you've lost a preborn child or a newborn baby. Pastor John MacArthur's book Safe in the Arms of God can bring comfort. MacArthur shows from Scripture the care God has for every life, including the very little ones. There is peace in knowing they are Home.

Would it be accurate to say that every parent's desire is to see their children safely Home? That after each one has lived his life here on Earth, he will be forever with the Lord in Heaven, Home safe? Sometimes that happens much sooner than we plan, and the heartache and grief can be overwhelming. But when that child knows Jesus as Savior he is safely Home.

Preparing for Home

As Christian parents our goal for each of our children should be to prepare them for *Home*. How do we do this? First, we must share the Gospel with our children. There will come a point in each child's life (a moment that only God knows), when he will be held accountable for his sin. It is our responsibility to teach them the truths of God's Word—that because of His love for us, God sent His perfect Son into the world to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus willingly died for us, was buried, and came back to life. Whoever believes in Jesus can be forgiven and saved—no longer separated from God but experiencing a relationship with Him that lasts forever—until Home (John 1:12; 3:15-16; 5:24; Acts 16:31).

Ideally, parents are to be the ones to prepare children for Home. Unfortunately, in our world today many parents either don't know the way *Home* themselves or they don't know how to guide their children into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Some are resistant towards the things of God and don't want their children to have anything to do with Him.

That's where you and I come in. God's command to all believers is to "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel" (Mark 16:15). That includes going to the children. It is God's desire that all children know Him. Matthew 18:14 expresses God's will: "So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should



perish." There are many opportunities for us to share the Gospel with children in our communities. The Good News Club program is one way that we can tell children the Good News and show them the way Home.

Homeward Bound

It is safe to say that 100 years from now all who are reading this, including our children, will be in eternity. They will either be Home with the Lord or separated from Him

forever. What are we doing to prepare children for Home?

Will you take seriously your part in sharing the Gospel with the children in your life and in your community so that they can know Jesus and someday be safe at Home with Him?

If you would like more information on how you can do this, please contact your local CEF office. We'd be glad to equip you to guide **HARVEST IN** the children safely Home.

A PASTOR'S HOME "Daddy, why tell us about the Gospel?" a boy asked.

The boy's father attended a CEF Super Seminar in Kampala, Uganda. During the training, this pastor learned to share the Gospel with children. Until then, he didn't know children could be saved.

His children had never confessed Jesus as Savior, so he sat them down and said, "I want to tell you things about the Gospel."

His son said, "I am in choir. You are a pastor. I pray daily and do



praise and worship in Sunday school." The boy asked why they needed to hear the Gospel. He thought prayer and church would save him but with prodding from his sister, the boy agreed to listen.

Their father explained the Gospel just as he was taught. When he finished, both children received Jesus as Savior.

The pastor said, "I was overjoyed and excited seeing this happen in my life, my family, and ministry."



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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