

Pressing on towards the goal

2020 has been a very challenging and different year for all of us in Britain and around the globe. Most of our ministry activity in CEF Britain moved from face-to-face direct contact with children in the same venue to exploring ways of reaching children with the gospel via the internet. Our workers found creative ways and learned skills to develop new online programmes to evangelise and disciple children and young people. Training new volunteers and workers was initially cancelled and then moved online, which meant that no-one needed to travel long distances to access the courses. One of our potential new workers completed the online “**Teaching Children Effectively**” (TCE1) course in Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Towards the end of the year, we piloted a new foundational course to train twenty new enquirers.

We praise God for the progress He has enabled us to continue in the ministry of CEF, despite the increasing and varying constraints of lockdown from the impact of the enduring COVID 19 pandemic.

Statistics tell only part of the story. Those of 2020 show that, in Britain, although we reached 28% fewer children, trained 42% fewer workers, involved 64% fewer volunteers, our support team increased by 8%, compared to the statistics of 2019. The views for our online content increased by more than 54%, which is a conservative estimate, since the accuracy of total online viewing data figures are almost impossible to measure. The www.cefbritain.org website added content each month as workers, churches and volunteers recorded Bible lessons and missionary stories for their children.

The increase of online content on our www.cefbritain.org website, produced by CEF workers and some children’s workers in local churches provides a growing resource of new content available for CEF workers and local churches to use in Good News Clubs, 5_Day Clubs, Holiday Bible Clubs, Camps, Sunday Schools, School Assemblies and lessons.

During 2020 another notable increase has been in our prayer programme. During the summer the “**Together in Prayer**” initiative was launched, linking countries to join and pray together online. Britain was partnered with the Netherlands team and our joint prayer meetings continue. The annual **World Day of Prayer** on the first Wednesday in November was marked with five prayer meetings in the European region, most of them using Padlet to share prayer requests and ministry information. Praying together has been helped by using Zoom, some of our team meeting weekly to “**Connect and Pray**”.

Two workers resigned from CEF Britain in the last thirteen months. In February 2020, a couple joined us to start part-time CEF ministry in Glasgow and a missionary from the USA joined us to work near Edinburgh. More recently God has brought two new workers to us who have applied to join the team as candidates in training. In the coming months, we look forward to a couple joining the team in Scotland, as designated missionaries from CEF Ireland. One of the members of our National Committee resigned on 31st December and yet God is bringing to our notice new members to strengthen the team.

If you are interested to know more or know, please contact us at info@cefbritain.org

David Cook, Chairman, National Committee. 4th February 2021