



February 2021

Devotional

Fix Your Eyes On Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-3)

In November the leaders, in our local church, gave every family a book for Advent. The idea is that everyone will read a chapter each day in December, (I'm sure you get the idea), something like a spiritual Advent calendar but with less calories. This year the book was 'Fixated' by Tim Chester. It led us through some chapters of Hebrews and encouraged us to fix our eyes on Jesus. I want to encourage you to take time to do this at the beginning of 2021. Be encouraged with these words - it's not about trying, by your own strength, to keep up some new year's resolution to be a better Christian, CEF worker, prayer partner, supporter etc. According to Chester, 'to fix your eyes' is a two-step process - to look away and to look to. To look away from the world and ourselves, and to look to Christ.

Hebrews 12:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2 fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

Hebrews of course doesn't only give the command, it gives the content. In the first few chapters alone we read how when we fix our eyes on Jesus we see he is the Word, the Son, the radiance of God's glory, the one who finished what God gave him to do, above the mighty angels, the King, the Creator, our Salvation and on and on it goes.

Recently I read these words that have been attributed to Corrie Ten Boom. "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest."

I'll leave it up to you to think about what's going on in the world that has the potential to bring you distress, or the circumstances in your life that could make you feel depressed. I'm sure it's different for all of us individually. But I want us to be encouraged that fixing your eyes on Jesus is the answer.

So, let us fix our eyes on Jesus and enjoy his rest, his peace, and joy in our lives together as we serve him.

1. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

As the statistical reports are coming in, I praise the Lord for all the children that could be reached despite the pandemic. Let's pray that the Lord continues to use all the videos that have been produced so that children may be saved.

2. Germany:

We thank the Lord for a successful CLMC in Autumn 2020. The Lord has used it to call some of the students to do a practical period which will hopefully lead into full time ministry with CEF in Germany.

3. The Netherlands:

Pray for the initiative of the KidsArk. It's a vehicle (behind the car) painted with animals which can be used for child evangelism. We plan to set up a corona program to reach boys and girls with the Gospel.

4. France:

This month we will be organizing 3 weeks of Holiday Bible Clubs by zoom. Please pray for children's lives to be changed and also encouraged through the teaching.

5. Ireland:

Under normal circumstances we would have been conducting a number of JYC weekends this month. However due to COVID-19 that will not be possible. Instead we are planning a one day programme for the young people. Pray that this would be an encouragement to them, and that during these difficult days they will continue to keep their eyes upon the Lord and His Word.

6. Chris & Lynn Holt, Member Care

Pray for workers who have family responsibilities caring for aged parents.

7. European Partnership Ministry:

Praise God for his provision for CEF ministry throughout a challenging year in 2020. Funds were available for January to December and all payments have been made to date.

8. Gerd Walter Buskies:

Today and tomorrow, I will take part in the German speaking literature committee meetings (online) to discuss the content of the teachers' magazine (Ideen-plus) and other literature projects.

9. Sweden:

Pray for the Online meetings for children that we have on YouTube. And please pray that we can reach more children through our Bible Correspondence Course website and Wondersurf.

10. Switzerland:

We give thanks to the Lord for the children who have heard the Christmas story in December. Pray for the children who attended a club and received the booklet like "Do you wonder why".

11. Norwegian Lapland:

Praise God we don't have any Covid 19 in Lakselv or the surrounding area at the minute and we are so thankful that we can continue to have all our Clubs. Please pray that the children will continue to come, and that God will speak to their hearts through the lessons on Daniel.

12. Portugal:

We would ask prayer for Sandra (wife of Franc, the manager at the Retreat Centre in Vendas Novas) as she is due to give birth in March. Praise God that He has taken care of her and the unborn baby in what has been a high risk pregnancy from the beginning.

13. Italy:

Praise God for online TCE training being run by Sara Pizutti, and the help given by Gary and Ester to teach this course. Please pray that many may be better equipped to teach children & young people.

14. Lithuania:

Pray for TCE-1 students to finish the course online and evangelize children outside the church as well.

15. Great Britain

Pray for God to raise up a team to continue the work in Tees Valley, in North East England, now that Claudine has stepped back from direct CEF ministry to begin training for a new career in counselling.

16. Denmark:

Please pray for a building event with LEGO in Copenhagen, God willing. It is for very vulnerable families and therefore still allowed by the government in the midst of restrictions.

Luke 10:2

Pray for the online TCEs that take place in a number of countries, that these will lead not just to teachers being trained but also to new workers.

17. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Thank the Lord for [TeachKids.eu](https://www.teachkids.eu) ministry and many years of faithful ministry of Chris Haaijer. Please pray for a new coordinator for this ministry once Chris retires at the end of 2021.

18. Spain:

We thank God for being able to hold our first TCE1 online with 60 students. May God use these prepared students to open many new Good New Clubs.

19. Iceland:

We thank God for the camps that take place in the summer - pray for plans that will begin soon for this summer. Pray they will have the necessary finance.

20. Great Britain:

Continue to give thanks to God for more enquirers wishing to volunteer with or join CEF Britain. Pray that God will guide the National Committee as they interview Megan (South Wales), to consider her recent application to join CEF Britain's team. Pray for S, from Egypt, whose vision is to reach Arabic speaking children and their families with the Gospel in the North of England, that his home country will complete their work to prepare to commend him as a cross-cultural missionary to Britain.

21. Finland:

Praise God for the answer that seems to solve the problem of losing our office space. Please pray that the end result would be just perfect for us.

22. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors SW Europe

Please pray for God to identify potential leaders to us, in particular national directors for Belgium, Britain, Italy and Portugal.

23. European Partnership Ministry:

Pray for ministry partners who gave in the past and are now struggling financially. May God's presence be near and their strength each day be in Him.

24. France:

For several years we have been looking to see national co-ordinators for all areas of CEF's work. We are grateful for Frédy Augsburgger who agreed to coordinate the prayer ministry.

25. Italy:

Please pray for the CEF Italy General Assembly Meeting planned for the end of February or possibly the end of March. We praise God for the strong board there, and the work that they do for the ministry.

26. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors, NW Europe:

Pray for some opportunity for us to make new contacts in Iceland, who would be interested in a partnership with CEF, to proclaim the gospel to the children of Iceland. Pray the Lord will lead and guide us in this and that they will see very clearly that's it's God who is doing this work.

27. Germany:

Today the German Board will come together for their regular meeting to discuss a number of items on the agenda. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom and guidance.

Latvia:

Today we will have an online seminar. Pray for effective technical solutions to provide online training and seminars.

28. The Netherlands:

Thank God for Emma, a new worker in the Dutch team. She did the CMLC in Germany last autumn, and 2021 is a year of training. Pray that God will lead her into the ministry in these difficult times to do direct children's work.

March 2021

1. European Partnership Ministry:

Please pray for more countries to be involved in supporting those in need. Pray that in 2021 we will have for more partners with a heart for reaching children in Europe.

2. Great Britain:

Continue to Pray for Megan (South Wales) and Priya (Watford) as they seek God to guide them in reaching girls and boys with the gospel. Priya successfully completed the TCE 1 course in December and is still unable to return home to Trinidad until the travel restrictions relax. Pray, as she puts her training into practice with online Good News Clubs in Britain and begins to raise her support to prepare to do the Children's Ministry Leadership Course (CMLC) in Sibiu in the summer, that she will continue to see God's hand at work in guiding her path to prepare for future ministry.

3. Switzerland:

Pray that materials will be ordered in 2021, despite Corona. May these materials continue to be a big help among workers and for the children.

4. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

In the morning I share from God's Word at the CEF Germany workers' conference, in the afternoon we have Regional Directors' meeting (all online).

5. Ireland:

Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for our leadership and Board of Trustees, as to how to progress and plan for the summer ministry this year.

6. Portugal:

Praise God for the material which continues to be posted online. Please pray that many boys and girls will continue to tune in to the Boas Novas YouTube channel.

7. Finland:

Ask help from God for us to see how to do this ministry in changing situations. We need to be flexible and ready to learn new things. We should think out of the box all the time!

8. Netherlands:

Pray for the initiative of the Dutch team to help the Flemish speaking part of Belgium. Pray that God will give us wisdom and open new doors for ministry.

9. Latvia:

Pray for the effective restart of direct ministry to children after the lifting of restrictions.

10. Germany:

Ute Bartz, the leader of the Mailbox-Club (correspondence course ministry of CEF in Germany) had to undergo a major surgery because of cancer. We pray for a quick and complete recovery so she can serve the Lord without hindrance.

11. Spain:

If God allows it in the midst of this special situation that we are living in, we want to do the Easter Camp so that many children can come and hear the Gospel message. Pray that this will happen!

12. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

This afternoon the executive of the CEF Europe Association meets to discuss matters regarding the European office. Pray for God's leading and wisdom.

13. Italy:

Praise God for the clubs being run by Brindusa Vieriu, and especially the wonderful Christmas video which was put online. The retelling of the Christmas message was enhanced by the contribution of the children from the GNCs. Ask God to use it in the lives of many children.

14. Norwegian Lapland:

Pray that as we send out camp brochures that children and young teens will want to book for camp.

15. Sweden:

Pray for the preparation of our Easter clubs. Please pray that we can meet and teach the children face to face.

16. France:

Pray for the economic crisis which is beginning to affect the country, and for the financial needs of the workers.

17. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Please pray for the Multimedia Advisory Group meetings today and tomorrow. The ministry in the last year has changed very much. Pray that it will be possible to continue with new ministries as we go back to some things we did before the pandemic. Pray that we will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of our digital production.

Ireland:

Normally today on St Patrick's Day our workers would have been distributing gospel tracts and booklets at the various parades. Pray for alternative opportunities to share the gospel.

18. Finland:

Our on-going forever prayer request is new workers. We would like to find people who already are experienced with children and able to work independently and efficiently, but also as a part of a team. Naturally they should love the Lord and children!

19. Denmark:

This weekend we have planned our annual retreat for workers and committee members. We don't know if it will take place but prayers for workers and committee members are still needed. Thanks.

20. Lithuania:

Pray for Easter seminar planned for today, that the quarantine will end and we'll be able to have a face-to-face seminar.

21. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors, SW Europe:

As a family we praise God for His protection of us as 5 immediate family members recover from Covid, especially our son-in-law (Philemon) who was put on a ventilator for 12 days.

22. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

Pray for more opportunity for us to make new contacts in Austria. Praise God that we can follow up some existing contacts - pray the Lord will call the right people to the right roles in his time.

Norwegian Lapland:

Please pray that we will be able to have Easter Clubs this week, especially in Alta and the Horseshoe Block in Hammerfest. Pray we will get contact with children, and that they will be allowed to come.

23. Switzerland:

Pray for two TCE1 courses to be held in Germany (online); pray for the Swiss students who will attend. May they be able to apply a lot of what they learned.

24. Great Britain:

Pray that God will give wisdom and insight to the National Committee as we meet online this afternoon. Pray for good decisions to be made.

25. Lithuania:

Pray for the effective promotion of the Lithuanian page of the Wondersurf website. Please pray that more children will register, and come to know Jesus as Saviour, and that Christian children will be helped to live for God.

26. Germany:

We ask the Lord that He will make it possible to start new local offices, for example in the areas of Frankfurt/Main and Berlin, since these areas have been vacant for a very long time.

27. France:

Today our General Assembly will take place. May the Lord guide in the decisions to be made. Pray for wisdom and discernment.

28. Latvia:

Pray for good opportunities to teach children online and pray that teachers do not lose their strength and creativity.

29. Spain:

Pray for the personal, family and financial situations of all the workers.

30. Denmark:

Please pray for the preparations for Easter this year. We have challeng



ed many churches to reach beyond this Easter with Easter gifts for families around the churches.

31. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Thank the Lord for the four-year Good News Club curriculum that is almost finished. Pray that many teachers will use it to teach and reach boys and girls across Europe.

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