

onmission

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



SEEK AND
FIND—A NEW
CEF APP



Adam, who is about ten years old from the Czech Republic, was invited by a schoolmate to view “Seek and Find”, the CEF online Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) App. Adam had never visited a church, and knew literally nothing about Jesus. He started with the “Emoji course” and had

many questions. Alena, one of our course guides, answered them.

Adam then worked his way through the “What do Christians believe?” course. It is based on *The Wordless Book*. When he got to the clean page, he trusted Jesus and shared his prayer with the BCC guide: “*Lord Jesus, not what I want,*

but what you want. Let it be so. I want to live like that.”

When Adam learned more about prayer in another course, he wrote: “*It is the best to pray praises. You know, when you don’t ask anything from God.*”

Adam convinced his fifteen-year-old sister to take at least

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While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

LUKE 24:15

Dear friends,

Many times when facing a problem, a shattered dream or a delayed response to prayer, our human tendency is to focus on the problem and not on God. I think this also happened to the two disciples who in their sadness walked the road to Emmaus remembering the death and burial of the Lord. They were focused on their disappointment, not on a resurrected Saviour.

How wonderful it is to see that Jesus cared about their troubles and

their problems. The disciples were disappointed, but the Saviour turned their attention to God’s promises concerning the Messiah. Jesus was with them, but they didn’t recognize him.

When we are focusing on our problems and disappointments, when we may have unrealistic expectations from God, it is very likely that we are unaware of the Lord’s presence and the truth that He cares.

We discover Him when we open the Scriptures and when we meditate and understand who He is and what He has done for us. We see Him when we look

up, we feel Him when we enter into a personal fellowship with Him.

How wonderful it is to know that the Living Saviour is interested in our problems but especially in our Salvation. This Saviour who is alive also cares about the millions of children in Europe. We turn our eyes to Him and we ask Him that in 2021 many of them will know Him as personal Saviour.

Sincerely
yours



A WORD FROM IULIAN MANGALAGIU ASSISTANT EUROPEAN DIRECTOR

one course, too. She did so and showed interest in God. Adam's mum started to read the Bible with Adam. Now Adam's great hope is: "Maybe she will trust in Jesus, because she allowed me to do the courses and reads the Bible a lot."

We pray at present for Adam's mum, his sister Zdiška and for three other children, who have asked questions about salvation.

The BCC App uses the same principle as a printed correspondence course. Children do lessons with stories, quizzes and mini



games. They also answer questions. A guide checks them, counsels the child and unlocks the next lesson.

CEF in the Czech Republic developed the application in 2016. Over 400 children have completed at least one series and hundreds of children follow the daily devotions on the website.

Five other European countries also started to use the app—Slovakia, Macedonia, Romania, Latvia and Sweden. Another 1,221 children from these countries used the site last year.

Zbyšek Šikula,
Daniel Fér

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We are currently in the process of giving all CEF-Europe publications and websites a corporate design, including *onmission*! How do you like the new look? We would love to hear your opinion: info@cefeurope.com



EVANGELISM THROUGH A SCREEN

In September 2020, CEF in Greece decided to produce a new video every week! The programme includes the Bible lesson, song, memory verse, craft idea and an activity sheet. The plan is to cover the entire Bible!

The whole team is involved. They take turns in teaching the Bible lesson, the verse, and the craft. Already a total of 24 videos from Genesis to Moses are finished and now they continue with the rest of the Old Testament.

Everything is recorded in front of a green wall. Later the appropriate background for each lesson is added, also live acting of the different characters. This way the teaching comes alive. And the children seem to like it.

"Every time I see a verse in the video, I search my Bible to find it and read it from there!" A 10-year-old girl from south of Greece.

"Thank you for helping us to teach our children about God now that we are stuck at home!" A mother of four children.

"I'm in trouble! My children ask me every evening if there is a new CEF video to watch." A mother of three.

The videos are uploaded on Vimeo, Facebook and the Greek CEF children's website, with close to 10,000 views. Many Sunday schools are using their videos during the lockdown. Please, pray for the children who watch the videos. God can save them even through a screen!

Stefanos and Magda Botonis



A “REAL” CHILDREN’S MEETING AGAIN AT EASTER?

After a one-year CEF outreach in another country and a second year of COVID-19, quarantine and restrictions, we called the parents who attended a *Good News Club*® (GNC™). We were not sure if they would still remember us. When we did not reach anyone at the first numbers, doubts immediately arose. But we kept trying and finally reached Natalia. What we remembered about her village was that there were no proper roads—as soon as it rained, all the children came into the house very dirty. We asked Natalia if she still remembered us and if the children

and their relatives were healthy. She wrote back, “Of course I remember you, Rustam. Thanks to you, a GNC for the region was established here. We are always happy to see you because you bring the light of God to our children. You do what not many people in this world do.”

It was nice to hear that. Immediately we agreed to come for Easter in early April when the roads in the village dry out. The children are already eagerly looking forward to us. This little experience warmed our hearts a lot and encouraged us to do what God has called us to do.

Zamira and Rustam, Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan



SHORTFALL

More joy in heaven!

If God has answered your prayer for someone to trust in Jesus Christ, or you have been present when they did, you will know there is little else to compare to the joy that it brings. Luke 15:7 tells us that there is great joy in heaven when a sinner repents.

During 2020, we know of thousands of children who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. We can't even begin to imagine the joy in heaven!

One child said, “Since I was 5 years old, I believed that the Lord Jesus died for those who were not even born yet, that is, I believed He died for me!”

For reasons that are hard to fully comprehend God calls us to be labourers together with Him. We can

joyfully be part of this great work of evangelism and share in the joy as God does His work of salvation in many lives through praying and giving to the *Shortfall* project.

The *Shortfall* project is a designated project to enable CEF workers to continue their ministry, even if they serve in economically challenging contexts. You can let us know that you want to give to SPAN, workers in Europe, workers with the greatest need or *Shortfall*. They all mean the same thing and will of course result in more children hearing the Gospel. Thank you!

EQUIPPING DIGITALLY

It's different! We didn't do it before! Change, change, change.

Doing things differently has become our “new normal”. Over the past year we all had to find the best solutions for different aspects of our lives and ministry. It is amazing to see how CEF workers and volunteers adapted to the new circumstances. Some became film directors, others actors. Many learnt new computer skills to move their regular ministry online. Praise the Lord that since March 2020 most of the 38 languages in Europe have had an online ministry. Boys and girls are taught Bible lessons on YouTube and other platforms. Digital libraries provide devotional and Gospel leaflets. Resources are shared on special websites.

From time to time the CEF Europe Multimedia Department organises a Multimedia Summit where co-workers come together to learn and exchange ideas. In November 2020 we met online for four consecutive Monday afternoons to discuss over 20 ministry opportunities to equip teachers and children. We were amazed to see representatives from most of the European languages join each week. With over 80 participants it was our best attended Multimedia Summit ever! This time the new IT Department and staff from National Offices were also involved. Information was shared about COVID-19 related publications, *Wondersurf.com*, Bible correspondence course online and the revised *TeachKids.eu*. Practical hints on running a Zoom *Good News Club* and recording Bible lessons helped many to improve their ministry.

Workers from various parts of Europe shared how helpful it was. An experienced co-worker from North West Europe wrote after the Summit: *“It was informative— about how to work during very different circumstances. Inspirational— to use different methods/ideas and proved by examples from real life. To God be the glory!”*

Each day we started with a fellowship time around the Word and in prayer. A co-worker from a sensitive country in Central Asia said: *“I was encouraged a lot by the devotional. I will try to put what I learn into practice.”*

The real highlight was when workers from different countries presented ideas for *Christmas Together*. With Christmas being just around the corner, for many this was very practical, especially for those using the same language. Several workers from Russian-speaking countries shared their ideas which was a great help for those who could not prepare anything in these circumstances. (Russian is used in at least 12 countries of CEF Europe.)

We are thankful for the internet ministries we already had before the pandemic and that the Multimedia Summit could strengthen this area of ministry. Please continue to pray for children to be reached through multimedia. The spread of COVID-19 and the lockdowns across Europe have not stopped ministry! Nothing can stop God's work!

Bogdan Bassara



onmission is distributed three times a year free-of-charge by the European Headquarters of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*®.

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