

SHARING THE VISION

OF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

2021 SUMMER

A good place to start



In-person training programmes have come to a screeching halt. But the need for training, especially foundational training for children's ministry, has only seemed to grow over the past year. That's why a new kind of training course was born, called EQUIP.

Rather than gathering a group of students in one room for a day or two or three, instructors recorded lectures and sent them to the students two at a time. Each week the students would watch two lectures and complete corresponding worksheets, then the cohort and instructors would meet on a Zoom call for discussion.

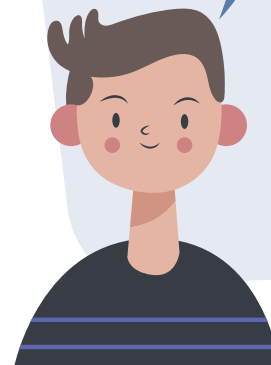
Through the wonders of technology, students from across Great Britain, and even other continents joined the EQUIP course! It was amazing to see the Lord open doors for "international" ministry, even as CEF workers are unable to work outside their homes.

Here are some of the things the students had to say after completing the course:

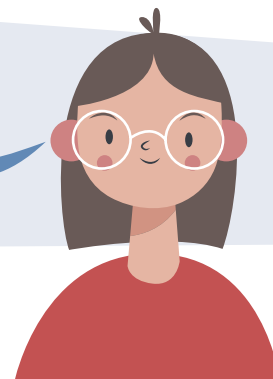
"I thought that gospel was too difficult for children, completely disregarding Jesus' instruction to bring the children to Him. I have learnt that if we Christian adults do not 'bring the children to Jesus,' using our influence over them, then we are disobeying Jesus and I don't want to do that."



"This course has completely changed the way I see the world. I now understand why it is so difficult to convince a teenager or adult their need for God, in fact, introduction to God at that age is very dangerous. Children need God from the time they are in the womb!"



"It has been an eye-opener. For me, it is a profound and humbling awakening to how we view the calling and responsibility to teach the Gospel to children and the need to take this responsibility very seriously."



It is exciting to see the students gain practical knowledge on reaching children for Christ, but even better is seeing heart-change like the students described above.

If you're interested in taking the

EQUIP course yourself or having a group from your church complete the course, please send a message to info@cefbritain.org. We would love to connect with you!



UPDATE

Frances Furnell worked for CEF in Yugoslavia for many years when it was behind the Iron Curtain. She is now with the Lord she loved and served. The following tribute was shared at her funeral.

Homecall of FRANCES FURNELL

■ My introduction to Frances was in May 1982 during my first visit to Yugoslavia with Slavic Gospel Association. Frances had already been working there for some years with CEF and had by this time learned the Serbo/Croatian language which would prove very helpful to us in SGA as we sought to expand our ministry in Yugoslavia which at that time was still a Communist State.

Frances very graciously agreed to assist us in our exploratory trip to the south of the country, into Macedonia, which at that time was still part of Yugoslavia. This proved to be an amazing new opportunity to expand the work of SGA in that region which gathered pace from then and continues to this day.

She was invaluable to us then and for some years following, not only in acting as interpreter but also in advising us in the cultural and church life and order in that region of Europe.

Frances was a most humble and dedicated servant of the Lord who never pushed herself forward but was always available and willing to serve when needed. Only eternity will reveal the amazing ministry she carried on, and the impact this had on teaching children and training children's workers, and that at a time when the church there did not see the importance of children's ministry and indeed discouraged it. Largely due to her influence and dedication that has now changed and a new generation of pastors and children's workers has been raised up to carry on the work amongst children.

She will be greatly missed here and amongst those she served. Now it can be said of her 'She has fought a good fight and finished the race, kept the faith and received the crown of righteousness'.

WILLIAM SMYLIE

Lockdown opportunities

■ When face to face Good News Clubs, Teacher Training, Toddler Groups and Youth Challenge ended abruptly CEF workers found themselves facing the challenges of online ministry. Zoom (which was once only a word in a very loved toddler group song) took over so much of everyone's life. So, what did we do? This is just a snapshot.

During lockdown Bibletime was able to continue with several new children joining. (Bibletime is the correspondence course that CEF Britain uses. Published by Bible Education Services it is a monthly mailing of Bible Stories with puzzles and questions) Even when the postal service was under pressure Bibletime was still being sent out and returned. At Christmas, each child was sent a gift of a book.

CEF workers made good use of technology. Some have held online clubs over Zoom while others have posted Bible and Missionary stories on YouTube. The YouTube videos can also be found on the CEF Britain website in the Locations pages.

Teacher Training has been held too using Zoom. This has been a blessing allowing more people to join and take part.

The CEF Workers have benefited from two online conferences with Bible talks and training seminars. As these were both virtual events several retired CEF Workers were able to join.

Back in March 2020 Reese Kauffman CEF International President spoke to the Worldwide CEF family in a live YouTube broadcast. It was a very moving and special time for us to feel connected and cared for. Reese has continued these live YouTube messages which have included news from International Headquarters and from around the World. It has helped us feel



more connected to the larger family of CEF. The CEF International Conference, which is usually held in person in the USA is online this May. It will be great to be able to participate without the expense of travel.

The past year has bought opportunities and God has been faithful. Pray for the CEF Workers as they make the transition back to face-to-face ministry. Pray for children to return to Good News Clubs, for Workers beginning ministry in new locations, for families to attend toddler groups. Pray for us to continue to find new ways to reach children with the Good News of Jesus.

STEVE AND RACHEL BALL (London)

Restarting Toddler Groups

■ Are you looking forward to your toddler group reopening? For many of us beginning again will be a little like starting from scratch. New families, new ways of doing things and maybe a new team of helpers too. Here's a few things to think about.

What is the 'why' of your toddler group? Take a minute to jot down your thoughts. My 'why?' includes giving hospitality to families, providing a safe place for children to play, getting to know each family, offering support and a listening ear, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

I think we share the Good News of Jesus best when the welcome at toddler group is warm and the care and friendship offered come from the heart. People know when we are genuine. We also share it best when we marry those important traits with the telling of Bible Stories. Word and deed go together.

There are so many Bible Stories to choose from but if your relaunched group is mainly families that are new to your group there are some stories that are particularly good to begin with.

'Thank you, God, for' stories are a gentle introduction. You can think about the body or the senses. Thank you for my



feet, my hands, my eyes and so on. You can use a Bible story to illustrate each thank you. Zacchaeus for feet, Tabitha for hands, Bartimaeus for eyes.

Or focus the 'Thank you, God, for' on the things we enjoy; food (can be linked to harvest), family, clothes, home.

These themes are familiar to toddler group families and easy for toddlers to

relate to. They are a great place to start when sharing Bible Stories at toddler group.

For more Bible Story and craft ideas visit my blog lettheirlightshine.com

Go Teach Toddlers from Go Teach Publications

RACHEL BALL (London)





CEF International Focus ITALY

...Pizza, pasta, espresso, Ferrari, sun and beach...are some of the things Italy is famous for...

It's true! Yet, Italy is one of the most difficult countries in Europe for reaching people with the Gospel. Only 1% of the 61 million Italians know Jesus as their Saviour while 85% of the population lives under the strong influence of the Catholic Church.

And yet God is working:
"...the other day I heard Sara saying



in the lesson that without Jesus into our heart we can never be really happy and a few days later I felt really sad and empty in my heart so I asked Jesus to come into my heart, forgive all my sins and give me a new life." Wrote a boy who attends Good News Club. His mother shared, "I can see he's changing a lot so thank you so much for what you've been doing for the children..."

And teachers are being trained:
"I'm very happy to be among those

being trained ... there is more to teaching children than I thought. The training is really opening my eyes of understanding; I want to be a great teacher like you by the end of this training".

And new opportunities are being given: During 2020, Sara was asked to prepare an online children's program ("L'Isola Felice") to be broadcasted on YouTube and Facebook every day. God opened opportunities ... Since then, more than 100 programs have been broadcasted so that many children have had the opportunity to hear the Gospel message

(1,000+ views every week). Praise the Lord!

Sara writes, "God has used the words in Mark 1:7 to encourage me recently. After me comes the One more powerful than I ..."

In CEF, our desire is to be able to reach more children with the Gospel but it's hard. However, He is "more powerful than I". He is working. Please pray for the children of Italy to hear the Gospel and for more Italian workers for our country.

CEF of Britain would like to encourage and be a blessing to **Sara Pizzuti** (CEF full time worker) in her ministry to children in Italy and so we are praying that God will provide support for her as a result of this article. If you would like to give for Sara, please send your gift via the CEF website.



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™

Tel: 01202 233286

E-mail: info@cefbritain.org

Website for kids: www.WonderSurf.com



For online donations visit
<https://www.cefbritain.org/supporting/giving/>



When you shop with Amazon Smile, a donation of 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to CEF Britain: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/235080-0>

Sharing the Vision is distributed by **Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain** to those who love the Lord and have a heart for the spiritual welfare of children. Please advise us of any change in address.

Gifts: If you would like to financially support the vital work and witness of CEF in evangelising children in England, Scotland and Wales, please send your gift to: CEF of Britain, PO Box 9281, POOLE, BH14 4FS.

Registered Charity in England No 235080 Registered Charity in Scotland No SC040343 Registered Company No 570740

"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

Matt. 18 v 14

We continue to send you Sharing the Vision news letter because you have previously requested it. We shall continue to keep your contact details safe and protected. We have updated the privacy notice on our website accordingly. If you no longer wish to receive Sharing the Vision, please notify us on email or by telephone.