

onmission

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



FINALLY!

When children in a Romanian Good News Club® were asked what they would like to happen this summer one of them answered: “I would like for this summer to be **real!**”—“And what is a *real* summer?”—“A summer full of games and activities, a summer in which we go to camp!” The same thought

was enthusiastically expressed by a child in Estonia: “Küll on äge, et saimegi jälle laagris kokku!—It’s **great** that we got together again at camp!”

But not only the children feel this way. After a long time of lock-down, children’s workers across Europe are united in their

joy: “**Finally**, we meet children in person again!” Though in some countries like Norway the summer camp could still only take place online, in most places *real* camps could be organized with real fruit as a result. In the Estonian camp, pictured above, 12 children trusted the Lord this summer!

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God is our refuge and strength PSALMS 46,2 (ESV)

Dear friends,

How good it is that our confidence does not rely on the things of this world. **God** is our refuge and strength! This is a great advantage. If something “gives way” in this world (v 3-4) or if something of personal importance or value is taken from us, our place of refuge and strength will not give way or be taken. We are safe and secure in God, a God who will never give way, as He is not part of this world. This gives

us confidence as we face the great challenges of our time.

In the past months, many of the usual possibilities to reach children have been taken away from us. But God’s power and the relevance of His Word were not affected. That is why we could confidently try new ways and experienced His support in doing so.

Also, in view of the challenges of the future, we place our confidence completely in Him. We are already

planning, in summer, how to bring the Christmas message to more children than ever before. Our strength comes from the God who opens doors and blesses the proclamation of His Word!

Thank you so much for your faithful support through prayer and gifts!

Sincerely yours

Jed-Walter Buskies



A WORD FROM **GERD-WALTER BUSKIES** CEF EUROPEAN DIRECTOR

Training, too, went back from the virtual to the real classroom. A *Teaching Children Effectively*™ student in Moldova summed up his experience: “I came to this course like a cup turned upside down, convinced that there will not be too many new things I can take from

this training. Now, I’m going home like a cup that is overflowing with motivation, love and new ideas for ministry among kids. My idea of how I should teach the Word of God has completely changed. Now I strongly believe that I should teach children knowing that they can be saved.”

Though we missed the personal contact during the year of pandemic we also learned a lot of new ways to reach and teach children and to train adults, which we plan to improve, professionalise and integrate into the ministry. You can expect exciting new things to come. We will keep you updated.

SEE YOU ON THE CONFERENCE APP!

Last year the CEF International Conference had to be cancelled but God provided an alternative in the form of an International Conference 2021 app.

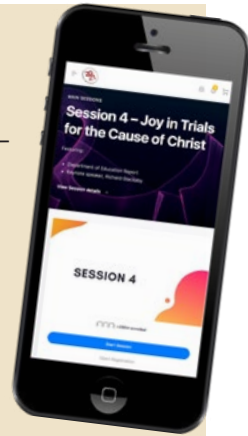
From the user dashboard every registered participant could access all information pertaining to the conference, chat streams, groups, forums, and much more. English was the main language and translation was offered in

9 languages, including Russian, French, Spanish and German.

We were encouraged from God’s word by the main speakers: Adam Bailie, Richard Blackaby and CEF President Reese Kauffman. In between the morning and evening main sessions were a choice of live Zoom workshops, recorded workshops and Zoom fellowship/prayer times. The Zoom meetings provided an opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. A

favourite highlight—the regional reports—was not missed out.

Praise God for the fantastic solution. On one evening alone there were 2,700 computers registered from 193 countries, no telling how many people were watching each screen!



NEW AREA DIRECTORS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Organising conferences during the pandemic is a great challenge. We praise the Lord that we could still organise a hybrid conference for the Central European Area. Almost 25 people (and many more on YouTube) could meet in Balatonszemes from 18 - 19 May 2021 to celebrate the

handing over of the leadership in Central Europe.

Sebastian and Georgina Edelmann worked with CEF for more than 37 years and led the area with tireless dedication for the last 14 years. We thank them very much for this!

Darko and Lydia Adamek served as national leaders for Serbia where God has used them in a mighty way to develop the ministry. We pray that God will continue to use them for His glory and expand His Kingdom in the 17 countries of Central Europe, for which they are now responsible.



Sebastian Edelmann symbolically presents Darko Adamek with a shepherd's crook for his new task. On the left in the picture Georgina Edelmann and Lidija Adamek.

“LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT”: A NEW DEPARTMENT IN CEF EUROPE

Imagine an eight-year-old boy sitting in a *Good News Club*, surrounded by boys and girls his age, hearing the gospel in his language and at a level he can understand. Standing in front of this boy and his friends is a CEF-trained volunteer who took a *Teaching Children Effectively* course that was led by a local worker. This local worker took an Instructor of Teachers course which was led by a country education coordinator. This education coordinator works in a national office and is led by a national director. This director oversees the ministry on a national level—supporting the education coordinator, who supports the local worker, who supports the volunteer, who teaches the eight-year-old boy and his friends sitting in the *Good News Club*.

Support and training are available for almost every person in this scenario. **But who is there to develop and train the national leader?** Historically, there has been no consistent, designated training programme in place to help develop national leaders in CEF. This is now changing.

As the newly-formed European Leadership Development department, **our vision is to see God's glory declared among the children of Europe through gospel centred leadership.** We believe that at the core of a thriving national ministry is a thriving national leader, and at the core of a thriving national leader is a heart rooted and grounded in the gospel. It's not enough for national directors to just know general leadership principles and CEF procedures, although these are very important. We want to see leaders who have eyes that see every opportunity and challenge through the lens of God's Word and hearts that are resting in His grace.

Whether national ministries are thriving or dwindling, leaders need the gospel (as we all do). They

need the gospel, so they do not become puffed up in pride at their success, and they need the gospel so they are not left in despair at their shortcomings. Ultimately, we want all of our leadership development to have its footing in the truth of God's Word.

How will this be accomplished? We hope to see this vision fulfilled through various means. A website is currently being designed, which will be updated each month with articles, videos, and other resources to encourage and equip national directors in their leadership and their walk with God. This website is set to be launched in September.

Alongside the website will be short online training courses, written and taught specifically with the CEF national leader in mind. We hope to launch the first of the short courses in January 2022.

God willing, in-person leadership development training will be possible in the coming months. We hope to put on conferences and training events for national leaders in different locations and capacities. One-to-one coaching has also started with some national directors, and we trust that this has been a blessing and help.

Will you pray with us as we continue in this new endeavour? First, ask the Lord to fill and change our hearts with the gospel. Then ask Him to help us minister gospel centred truth to the national directors. Pray that CEF Europe would be a ministry marked by gospel centred leadership.

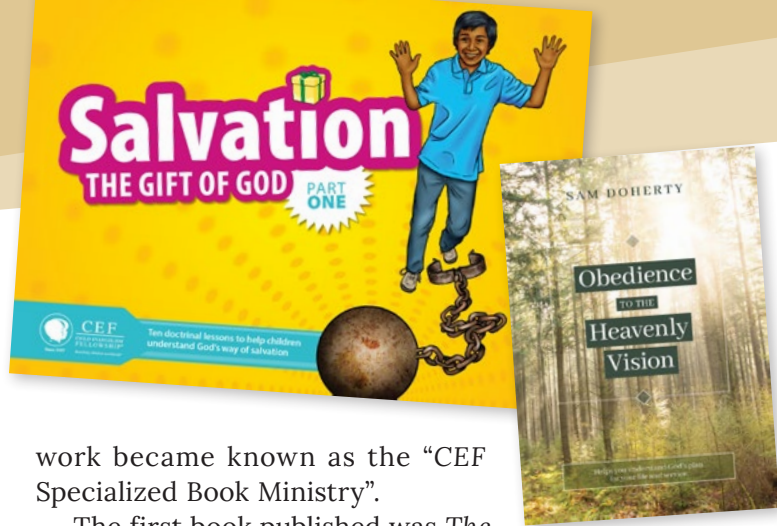
As leaders grow and thrive in the gospel, there will be a ripple effect. They will be a blessing to the department leaders and local workers, who in turn will be a help and blessing to the volunteers, who—at the end of it all—will bless the unreached children with the Good News of Jesus!

Philip Annett, Denise Annett, Lydia Hardesty



25 YEARS OF HELPING!

“Lord, what do You want me to do now?” This was Sam Doherty’s big question when he ‘retired’ from the leadership of CEF Europe after 29 years. As Sam prayed about this, it became clear that there was a mighty work to do in writing and publishing literature to help and encourage children’s workers around the world. Such a ministry would be based on the many lessons Sam had learned over the years. After some time of planning and organising, a charitable trust was formed to govern the work commencing on 29 August 1996. The name given to the trust was “Assisting Children’s Evangelists Worldwide” (ACEW) with the particular aim of helping CEF workers. Eventually the



work became known as the “CEF Specialized Book Ministry”.

The first book published was *The Problems of Children’s Workers and God’s Solution*. This book proved to be a great encouragement to many struggling workers as they learned to trust God. The ink in Sam’s pen began to flow as book after book was published and over 50 titles of training manuals, devotional books and also a series of visualized doctrinal lessons were available. In addition, 52 small booklets were produced covering subjects applicable to children’s ministry. Much credit is due to Isobel Metcalf (Sam’s Secretary) who took Sam’s handwritten notes and transcribed them for the printed page. Terry Flannigan became the administrator of the Trust, and a team of volunteer workers was assembled to handle the big task of mailing the books to thousands of workers around the world. God provided a base for the work in offices kindly provided in Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

As the work grew many books were translated into over 70 languages including Chinese, Russian, French, Spanish, and Hindi. In several countries these publications became the means God used to extend and strengthen the work. In using these publications CEF Ghana says, “Our knowledge and understanding of concepts and principles have been greatly enhanced”. In Nepal, the work has grown as the workers have been equipped with study books and teaching tools giving the work stability. The CEF Leader says, “It was a 100 percent blessing for my ministry, a work that has now grown to 13 workers”. Such publications gave strength and dignity to the work.

A more recent development has been the production of “Mini Mag” a digital tool written to develop the spiritual understanding of children’s workers as well as giving training on ministry.

In an amazing way God has provided the large amount of finance needed so that millions of books have been distributed at little or no cost to the worker.

Today the work continues as many children’s workers access the resources available online at www.CEFBookMinistry.com.

25 years of helping has brought untold blessing to countless children’s workers around the world and to thousands of precious children.



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