

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Fall
2021

OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Throughout my travels I've met a variety of people. Some stand out—those whose character reflect the nature of Jesus. It shows in how they *sacrifice* for the sake of the Gospel, in how they are *flexible* to reach children however they can and *bold* to share the message of salvation, in the way they're always *giving* and *willing* to serve, and in how they are *prepared* to make the most of every opportunity God gives.

For some, unfortunate circumstances can be opportunities to share the Gospel. I thought of this while reading a newsletter from one of our missionaries. She told about visiting an aunt in the hospital and sharing the Gospel with a lady in a nearby bed. The woman trusted in Jesus as her

Savior that day and was in God's presence the next day.

A local director in the Middle East shared how he and his mother were hospitalized due to COVID-19. But he had the opportunity to share the Gospel with two children who then received Jesus as Savior. His mom witnessed to a woman who was in the same hospital room who also put her trust in Jesus as Savior.

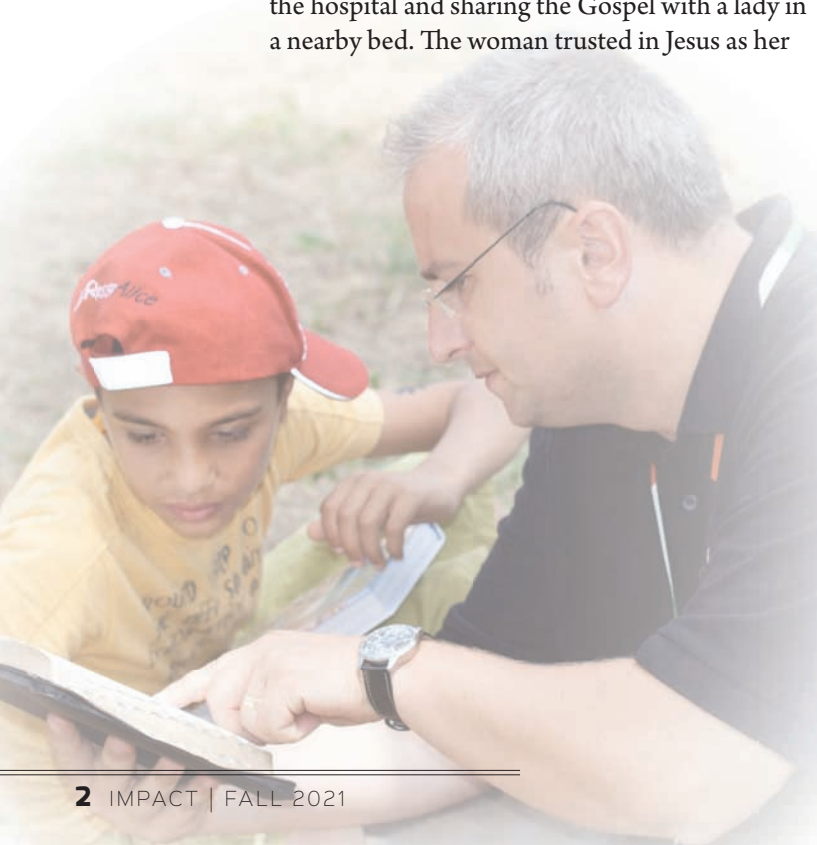
This edition of *Impact* shares testimonies of men, women, and children who sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel and make the most of God-given opportunities to be bold witnesses for Him. I'm humbled when I read about what God does through the ministry of CEF around the world and how He uses the lives of His dedicated servants. It is a joy for me to pray for them and support them in their ministries.

Whether you are one who prays, gives, or goes—I'm grateful to partner with you to reach Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day.

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day.



Please Pray

- 1 Praise God for dedicated missionaries who are making the most of their opportunities.
.....
- 2 God will raise up more workers for *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® with a character that reflects the nature of Jesus.
.....
- 3 Praise God for Christmas Party Clubs that will take place.
.....
- 4 God will prepare the hearts of boys and girls to hear His message.
.....
- 5 God will continue to provide the funds, resources, and training for *CEF*® missionaries.



TELL CHILDREN OF THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS—

HOST A

CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB!



Visit chapters.cefonline.com to become involved in your area or learn about training opportunities near you.

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Impact is published quarterly by Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc., PO Box 348, Warrenton MO 63383 800.748.7710

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Design SDPcreative

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For the Gospel

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a powerful, life-changing message. Yet in some places around the world, it is a dangerous message. Every day, there are Christians who face persecution—some unjustly arrested, imprisoned, abducted, even killed. Although some live in the midst of such hostility, their love for God fuels them with courage to share His love with others. And sometimes they see God works in miraculous ways.

IMPRISONED

Last year, I thought the door for ministry was closed due to COVID-19, but I was wrong. Thanks to God, He has made many ways for us to stay connected with children and teachers and minister to them using online Good News Clubs and videos. Ministry in this country is not easy, and the pandemic made it more difficult. But our hearts toward children have not diminished. So many children are facing a godless eternity. We were excited to watch God use 286 Christmas Party Clubs to reach more than 6,000 children.

After receiving online Christmas Party Club training, one volunteer decided to conduct Party Clubs in two areas known to be hostile to Christians. She knew she couldn't sing and play games, so she focused on sharing the Christmas story with the children. Because of security, she kept it brief and was happy to share the Gospel with children who heard it for the first time. When local authorities heard reports of the Christmas Party Clubs, her father was arrested and put in jail. He was threatened with more years in jail if he didn't leave the faith, and sometimes he wasn't given food. Many prayed for him, and God did something that has never happened for Christians in this country. After 37 days he was released!

GOD WORKS IN MIRACULOUS WAYS.

BEATEN AND THREATENED

God is a living God. Even during the pandemic, He is working. This was my confession during my ministry in 2020. Our goal was to reach 1.2 million children in 35,000 villages through the Christmas Party Club ministry. And for this, we held training seminars in 98 villages. When we finished the seminars, 5,614 volunteers promised to hold Christmas Party Clubs. Reports I got so far showed 37,500 clubs were held and reached nearly 1.2 million children. I am so thankful that despite the difficult situation in this country, we have been able to hold clubs.

Four ladies, who were Muslim converts, came to the seminar in one village. On their way back from the training, they were beaten, and all the materials were taken from them. There were other Islamic extremists waiting for them when they got home. The ladies were threatened and told if they didn't return to Islam, they would be killed. They were so afraid, they rejected Jesus and left. The extremists then went to the pastor who had prepared the seminar in that village and threatened him to return to Islam. He was told he would not be able to preach the Gospel in that village. The pastor told us about what happened and asked us to pray for them. We prayed that all the people who were trained in that seminar would be able to keep their promises. All the people who attended the seminars, except for the 4 ladies, kept reaching children. We are so thankful we got reports from people trained from 95 regions. God is working even more greatly during this pandemic. Our goal in 2020 was to reach 2.5% of the child population. Even during the pandemic, our ministries grew in all aspects and by the grace of God we were able to reach more than our goal.

37,500 clubs
were held and reached nearly
1.2 million children





SURPRISING BENEFITS

Many *Good News Club*® teachers may have been reluctant to venture into this new world of virtual clubs just over a year ago. Some had a rocky start as they learned to adjust to interacting with children and making it fun using this new forum. But the benefits of virtual clubs quickly showed.

Sharing the Gospel is not confined to a classroom but can go around the world virtually, reaching any child in any nation, any day.

Virtual clubs keep children connected where there is no *Good News Club*.

When the pandemic hit and clubs had to move online, no one knew how many more children would become involved. We started opening our class up to a group that is unreached by in-person clubs. We found a hunger for God's Word. I have been involved in counseling more children since we had Zoom clubs than in approximately



eight years as a *Good News Club* volunteer. In the small Zoom clubs, we have more opportunity to get to know each child. On the other hand, the classes are shorter. You have about an hour before you start to lose the children.

Virtual clubs enable children to stay connected when they move.

Military children move many times through their childhood. *Good News Club* members who transfer to





a new installation may have the option to attend a virtual club or a live *GNC™*, if available. Two *GNC* students at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, moved with their families to a new military assignment, one in Europe and the other to Fort Wainwright in Alaska. Both students were able to continue participating in virtual *GNC*s.

CEF of West Texas, Rio Grande Chapter had five children attend a virtual club—two in El Paso (Fort Bliss), one in Colorado Springs (Air Force Academy), and two in Savannah (Hunter-Stewart). The two brothers in Savannah both put their faith in Christ!

Virtual clubs connect with children who would never attend an in-person Good News Club.

Noah* was the only child registered for the Zoom *GNC*. The team, determined to teach even for one child, prepared the lesson, songs, etc., and everyone logged on and waited. But Noah didn't show. They learned that Noah struggles with depression and anxiety. He was having a bad day and refused to log onto Zoom because he didn't want anyone to see him. They encouraged him to attend with audio only, which he eventually did. Although Noah didn't attend regularly, when he did the lesson always seemed to be particularly relevant to his situation. Once, he asked the team to pray for him about his anxiety. They did and sent him a list of Scriptures to study during his quiet time.

The commitment this team made for just one child reflects the love God has for every child to come to Him.

Virtual clubs can offer extra time to disciple children.

We were able to have five Zoom Good News Clubs this year. I was able to teach the Bible lesson in one club where a child stayed after club was over

because she had questions about how she could witness to her friend who doesn't believe in Jesus. Praise the Lord that as we are faithful to teach children they go and reach other children!

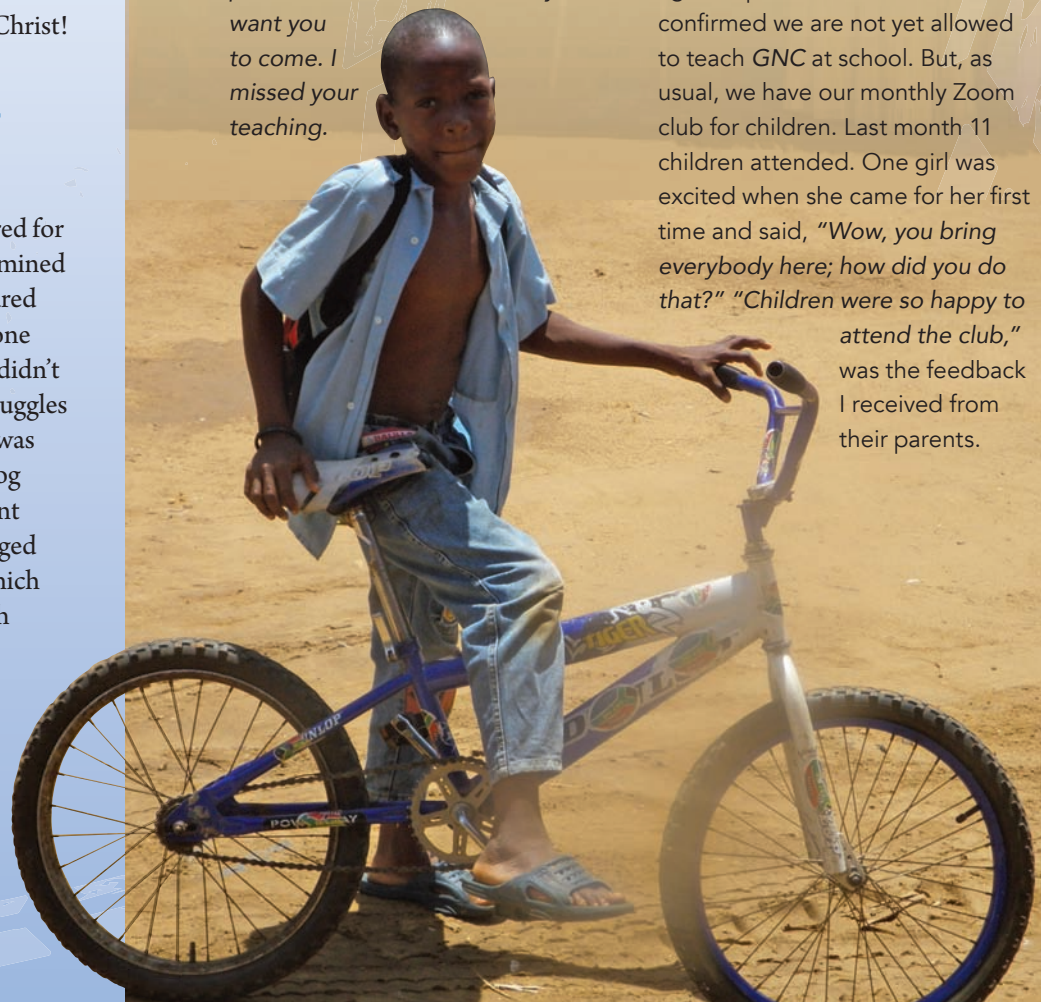
**Name changed*

WHEN WILL YOU COME BACK?

MARIE-MARTHE RASOANANTENAINA, South Africa

I went to the shop, and on my way home, I saw a few boys playing. I didn't recognize them but a little one greeted me and I greeted him as I kept going. Then another boy on his bicycle greeted me and said, *"Hello, aunty! When will you come back to teach us? Will it be possible to come back? I really want you to come. I missed your teaching."*

Remember I love you." That was so sweet. At first, I didn't recognize him because of the mask; then I realized he is one of the boys who is so faithful in my *Good News Club*. I told him I want to come but it is not yet allowed, but I will as soon as it is possible. Once again I spoke to the school and confirmed we are not yet allowed to teach *GNC* at school. But, as usual, we have our monthly Zoom club for children. Last month 11 children attended. One girl was excited when she came for her first time and said, *"Wow, you bring everybody here; how did you do that?"* *"Children were so happy to attend the club,"* was the feedback I received from their parents.



THE TRUE MEANING OF

Christmas

Around the World People Celebrate Christmas
by Telling the Greatest Story Ever Told

Christmas is a great time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and tell children the true meaning of Christmas. Why not do both? You can celebrate Christmas by hosting a Christmas Party Club for children near you. All around the world, people are trained to lead Christmas Party Clubs. These clubs prove to be one of the most effective ways to introduce the Gospel to children. Many children have heard of Christmas — but they have *no idea* about its *true* meaning. And of course, that's what we get to share during these Party Clubs— about Jesus' birth and the reason He came to Earth.

Some who receive this training live in places hostile to the Gospel. Their love for Christ is evident as they put their lives at risk to share about Jesus. Even children who believe in Jesus may face persecution from their own families.





HERE ARE THREE SUCH TESTIMONIES:

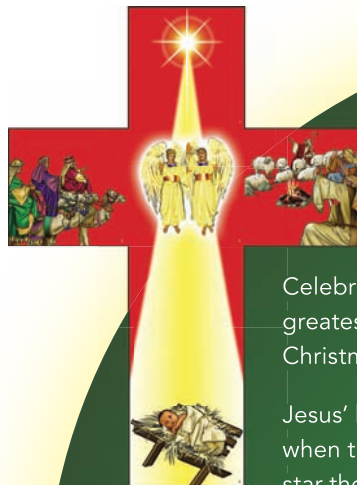
🎄 I had been to parks for several days, but there were no children to share the Gospel with. One day I went to a park again. Before I got there, I drove around the park, worshiping and asking God to use me to find children so I could tell them about Christmas. After some minutes, I parked my car and went to that park. I found three children with their mothers, playing. I went to them and asked if they would like to listen to a great story. They were excited. I invited them to sit on the grass and shared the Gospel and the great joy of who Jesus is and how He was born. The three boys and two mothers accepted Jesus as their Savior! I prayed in my heart, “Thank you Lord, finally three children have come to you!”

As fast as I could, I ran to the car to leave the place for my safety. To my surprise, the car did not start! Since there was no way to leave, I had to stay and find someone to help me fix my car. Despite the risk to my safety, I decided to go back to the park. When I entered the park, I was happy to see six other children playing! Immediately I went and talked to them about the birthday of Jesus. They also accepted Jesus as their Savior. What a blessed day!

It is very risky to tell children about Jesus and go back to the same park in one day to tell more children. I had never done it before. After reaching those six other children, I went back to the car and found someone who could help me. At last, I could leave the area. I praised Almighty God for that beautiful day—for letting my car be broken down so I went back to the park and was able to reach more children.

🎄 An eight-year-old girl from a slum area accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at a Christmas Party Club. She started to attend a nearby church although her parents were against it. They would scold her and even beat her sometimes. But she runs to church even in tears because of her passion to learn about Christ.

🎄 When villagers would not allow a Christmas Party Club to be held in their village, the missionaries gathered with children outside the village. One week later a villager approached one of the missionaries and asked them to hold the same Party Club in the village. This man had been against the club, so the missionary asked what happened to change his mind. He shared that he noticed a great change in the children who had been to the Party Club. When he asked what changed them, the children answered, “Jesus is living in us, and He changed our lives.”



HOST A CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB!

Celebrate Christmas by telling boys and girls the greatest story ever told using the *Light of Life* Christmas Party Kit!

Jesus’ birth was announced by the light of the angels when they came to the shepherds and the light of the star the wise men followed. Truly Jesus is the light of life who came to save us!

CEF Press® offers a variety of seasonal Party Club lessons. **Visit cefpres.com to learn more.**



Masks for Missions

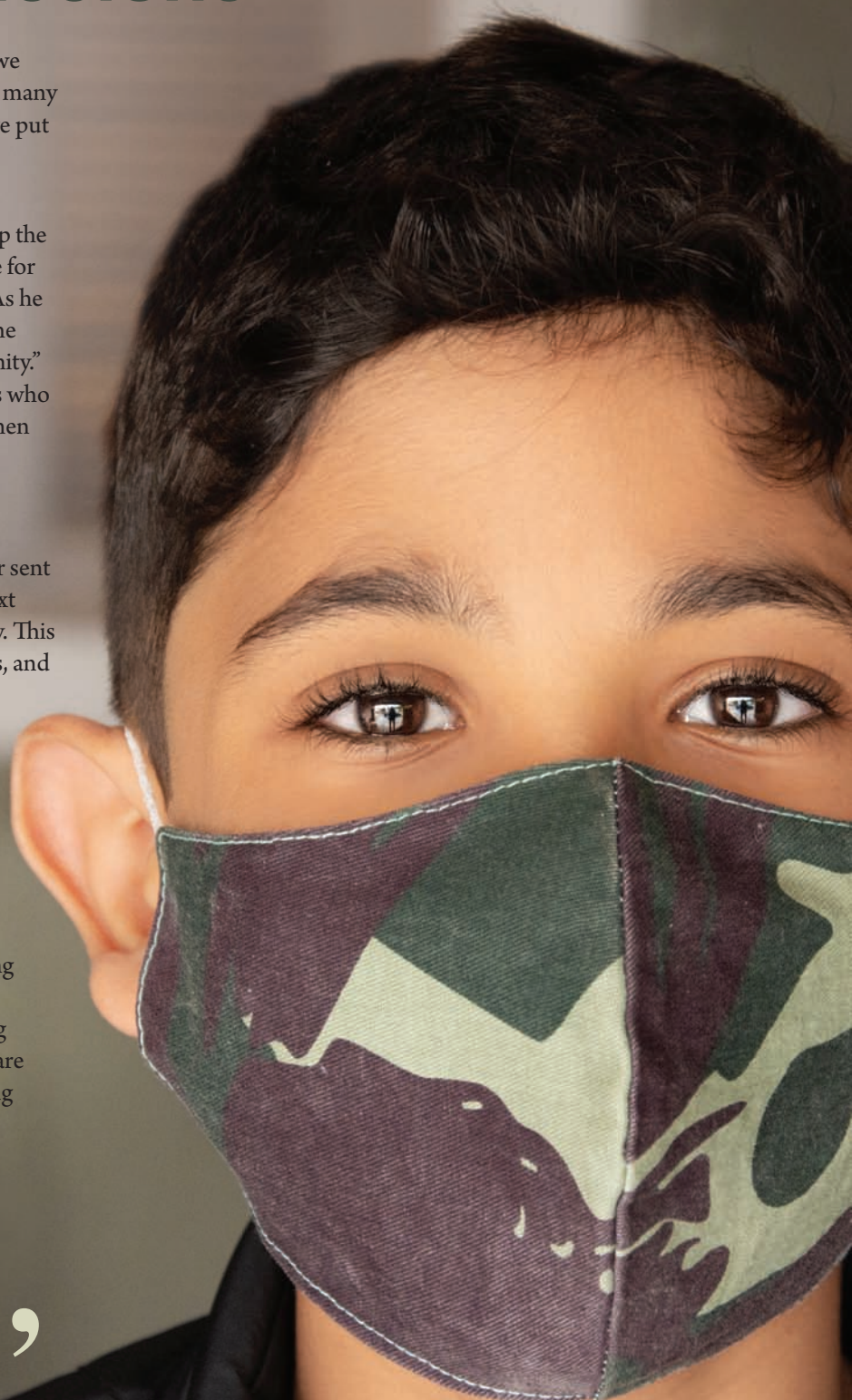
When we think of the COVID precautions—we wash our hands and wear a mask—but how many of us would think about evangelism when we put on our masks?

When the government stopped all travel due to the pandemic, people told the missionary he should stop the ministry for a while, take the opportunity to prepare for the future, or even travel home to Korea for a visit. As he prayed, he said, “God gave me the heart not to see the virus, but the children who are facing a godless eternity.” He had been reading in the Bible about the disciples who were beaten for speaking the name of Jesus. Even when they faced difficult circumstances, they preached no matter what.

So he asked God in prayer, “How can we reach the children during this pandemic?” That night an elder sent him a strange message: “Make masks.” The very next day he met a Christian who owned a sewing factory. This man had just lost a big contract because of the virus, and he had no work for his employees. The missionary asked if the man could make 50,000 masks and wait until later to be paid. The man agreed.

Volunteers were trained to use a small booklet prepared by CEF workers to share the Gospel when they gave out masks. They quickly realized 50,000 masks would not be enough. Altogether 504,467 masks were made; trainings were held in 265 areas; 6,460 were trained, pledging to reach 477,960 children. Over 333,000 children have been reached so far with over 133,000 making decisions to trust Christ as Savior. More trainings are planned! CEF was on mission—the Gospel is going forth—no matter what!

“OVER 333,000 CHILDREN WERE REACHED WITH OVER 133,000 MAKING DECISIONS TO TRUST CHRIST AS SAVIOR.”



GOSPEL GOES OUT

The Gospel is also going forth in Syrian refugee camps in the Middle East. I had the privilege of visiting two of these camps where over 200 children gathered weekly for *Good News Club*. The children sang to our group in Arabic, "My God is so Great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do." Shortly after our visit, Bibles were distributed, and this angered the Muslim leader. He threatened to burn the tents of the two women who had opened their homes for the children. For the safety of the entire camp, the clubs came to an end. When regular *GNC* stopped meeting because of COVID, the *CEF* missionaries recorded their programs. Now the refugee children are watching *GNC* on mobile phones in the very same tents. There is nothing our God cannot do!

TRAVELING GOOD NEWS CLUB

on different street corners

God is working in South Africa despite restrictions. One of our workers decided to reach every child, every street, and every home in her township. She doesn't have a car, so she



got books to give out to the boys and girls. The first day she walked with the books and kids tagged along. She got to the end of the street and held a *GNC* with the kids who followed her. The next day, a neighbor said to her, "Those books are very heavy. Here is an old baby stroller you can use to take the books." That is now what she uses to reach every child. Someone came to her and asked, "Why do you only give books to kids? We (the parents) need some too!"



Trained and equipped nationals are the ideal individuals to minister to children in their countries. They already speak the language, know the culture, and can work where people of other nations are not welcomed.



Since 1972 the *Sponsor-A-National™* program has provided financial assistance to trained nationals who live in areas where it is difficult to raise support. Presently over 1,000 *CEF* national missionaries receive assistance through the *SPAN™* program each month. This enables them to spend more time sharing the Good News about Jesus with the children.



LITTLEST Missionary

CELIA JONES-CONNOR, Anguilla

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). This was God’s word to Jeremiah when God called him into service as a prophet, but please permit me to use these words to speak of little Abigail Campbell.

Abigail’s mother has often shared with me how difficult her pregnancy with Abigail was and of how even when she came to term, the doctor did not expect little Abigail to survive. I believe it is fair to say that God has been with this young girl even in her mother’s womb and has indeed preserved her life for a special purpose.

Eleven years later God raised up our littlest missionary to serve in His ministry.

Sister Ann Marie Campbell, Abigail’s mother, is the national coordinator for CEF of Anguilla. Having been exposed to ministry—and in particular the ministry of CEF—from a very early age, Abigail is no stranger to *Good News Club* and teacher training. She has attended many workshops, seminars, and *Teaching Children Effectively*™ Level 1 courses, even assisting with demonstrations.

Over the years, Abigail has offered to assist with GNC, preschool devotions, and Christmas Across Anguilla. She fully engages in peer evangelism, ably conducts icebreakers, leads songs, role-plays for Bible lessons, and helps in other ways.

Abigail’s desire to share the Gospel of Jesus with younger children and her peers is evident. At a moment’s notice of her class or activity being canceled, she immediately asks to accompany her mother to schools to share in devotions or at GNC.

Abigail’s interest in ministry prompted her to receive training at *Christian Youth In Action*® last summer where she performed remarkably well. She gave a wonderful demonstration of *The Wordless Book* for her required practicum.

Eleven-year-old Abigail asked to take TCE™ Level 1, for which she has been too young. However, having seen her desire, we recently permitted her to register for the next course, even though she does not meet the age criteria. We believe God has been working on her heart and do not want to hinder His work, remembering that Jesus Himself said we must “...Let the little children come to me.”

Please continue to pray for our littlest missionary, that the Lord will indeed use her to preach the Gospel, especially to lost peers, so they will not only come to know Jesus as Savior but will see her good work and glorify her Father in Heaven.



“Abigail’s desire to share the Gospel of Jesus with younger children and her peers is evident.”



**LET THE
LITTLE
CHILDREN
COME TO ME**

– Matthew 19:14

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

"Whatever a child believes by age 13 is in most cases what he will die believing."

– George Barna

The old proverb, "Opportunity knocks but once," encourages people to seize opportunities because that may be the one chance to do something important. Do you like to make the most of every opportunity? Sometimes our time is limited and once an opportunity passes, we don't get it back. That is true in the lives of children. They spend their weekdays in school, play sports and video games, eat and sleep, but how much of their time is spent learning about God? If a child goes to church, he may receive one to two hours of spiritual training a week. Often teachers in our churches are not trained to teach spiritual truths to boys and girls or how to lead a child Christ. Although we have limited opportunities to teach boys and girls about Jesus and how they can come to Him for salvation, we can be purposeful and prepared to make the most of that time.

When several pastors attended a *TCE* training course in Malawi, they were surprised to realize the

importance they should put on leading children to Christ and teaching them God's ways. They confessed they had never led a child to Christ. They said, "We will go back to our Sunday school teachers and tell them how important it is to lead children to Christ and not just play games or feed them."

According to George Barna, "Whatever a child believes by age 13 is in most cases what he will die believing." Our time to instill spiritual truths in the lives of children is limited. They will quickly grow up not caring about the ways of God and face an eternity of separation from Him.

That's why it's important for Christians to be purposeful and prepared to make the most of opportunities God gives. *CEF* offers practical and effective training on how to lead a child to Christ and

We Need to Change

ANDY MEINZINGER, CEF Missionary to Sri Lanka

Teaching Children Effectively is a powerful experience for some trainees. On the first day of a TCE we taught, I asked the students what children's ministry they have been part of. One student proudly stood and said she firmly believes our job as teachers is to teach children to be morally good and never share the Gospel (common Sri Lankan ideology).

She shared, "You will not find Gospel teaching or Jesus in my classes." That way the government is perfectly okay with her reaching thousands of children with the good news of morality.

As the weeks went on you could see the gears turning as she thought over the subjects taught. During the lesson on "The Importance of Conversion," which clearly shows the sad condition of children who do not believe in Jesus, she had tears in her eyes. After class she said, "My classes need to change!" Through taking the course and learning how to present the Gospel, a passion to share the Good News of Jesus was lit inside of her.



Teaching to Transform

Whether you teach Sunday school, children's church, *Good News Club*, or some other children's ministry, *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® provides specialized, practical training to help you evangelize and disciple children.

A variety of seminars and courses are offered through our local offices*, online, or the *Children's Ministries Institute*®.

FREE ONLINE SEMINARS

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*The Gospel:
Prepared for a Child's Heart*

*Wordless Book
Training and Demonstration*

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(Three weeks)

Romans Road for Children

Learn more at cefcmi.com.

*Find a local chapter near you at cefonline.com/location-finder

how to disciple children in the ways of God. Children's Bible lesson curriculum and devotional books produced by *CEF Press* keep children engaged while teaching them important spiritual truths. Learn more to make the most of your opportunities.



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STORY?

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