

SHARING THE VISION

OF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

2021 WINTER

When, Where, How?

March 2020 - and all over our country children's clubs, some of them big, thriving ones with enthusiastic, committed leadership teams, came to a sudden stop! For the last eighteen months any communication has had to be electronic and at a distance; the thoroughly Biblical practice of being together in a Christian meeting has had to be on hold. Why? We believe that God is in charge, so what was in His Mind when He allowed the pandemic, and what lesson does He want us to learn from what has happened?

God has allowed plagues to fall on His people before, and then removed them at His Command (eg. 2 Samuel 24:15); there was then, and still is today, a purpose in all that He does. No doubt different Christians will find that God teaches them different things from the terrible experience we have all been

through, but here is one thing God has been saying to me: "I am the True Vine and My Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (John 15:1-2). Being completely honest, some of the Christian activities in which I used

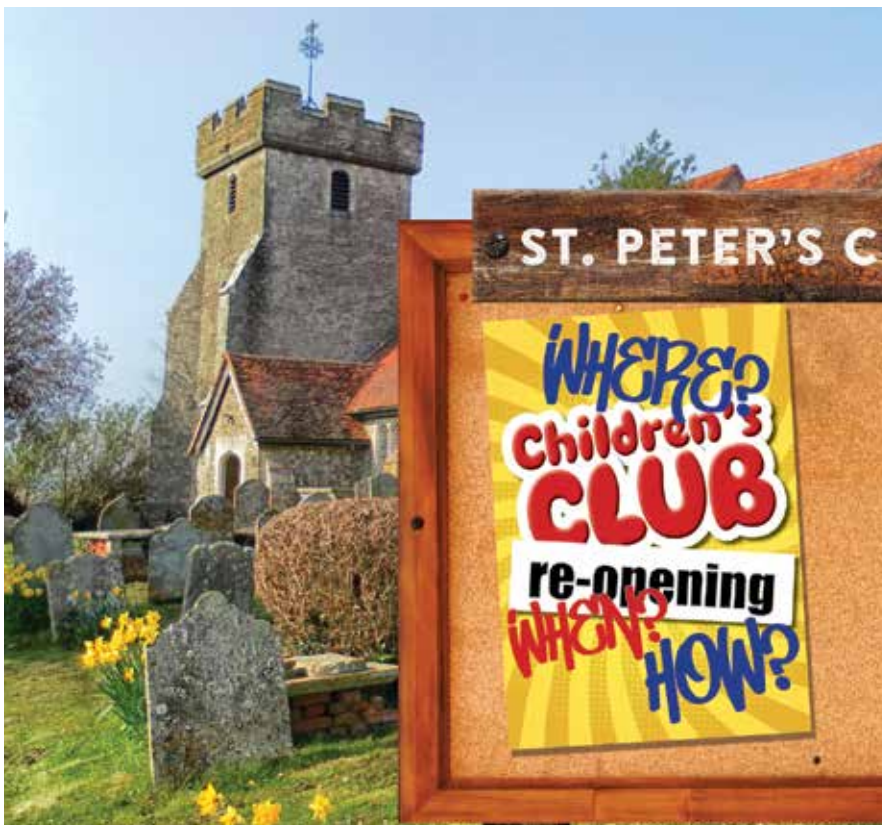
to be involved may have been continuing because I enjoyed them, because the church had always run them, or because change can be a painful, controversial process. Might God be using the lockdown and social distancing to 'cut off' some activities that are no longer as fruitful as they once were? And might the wholesale 'pruning' of churches' children's work that we have suffered be so that the new works that replace them are more fit for God's Own Purposes?

I feel greatly encouraged that God has not told us that He plans to uproot the vine of children's work, nor to chop it down or set fire to it, but instead to prune it for a purpose: "So that it will be even more fruitful." As, around our country, Good News Clubs begin to resume, and we all begin to feel our way towards the 'new normal', here are some questions we could and should be prayerfully asking ourselves:

1. Looking back to before the pandemic, can I think of anything about my children's work then that might have led God to want to close it down?
2. During the lockdown and enforced closure of activities, in what ways has God been ministering to my own spiritual life?
3. As things now begin to open up again, how might God want us to run things differently so as to serve Him more fruitfully into the future?
4. How might our prayer life be permanently changed as a result of what we have all been through?

Let's all look forward in faith to a time of blessing, when a 'pruned' church and 'pruned' children's work becomes even more fruitful in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ!

WILLIAM RANDALL, member
of the National Committee



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

A MISSION WITH GOD'S VISION FOR CHILDREN

www.cefbritain.org



UPDATE

A Leap of Faith by Corinna & Priya

Coming from the gem of the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, we embarked unknowingly on an unexpected journey. We grew up in a small suburban town called La Romaine where God called us from Hinduism into a relationship with Him. Priya and I were at tender ages, myself at 13 and Priya at 9, when our family was invited to Church by our friend at a time when our family was splitting apart. We all attended Vacation Bible School at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, where we both accepted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. After accepting Jesus Christ into our lives we found solace and peace in the midst of our struggle through poverty, abuse and separation.



■ At Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, we were both committed to serving the Lord Jesus because of the joy and hope He brought into our lives. As teenagers we faced many tough times but we always

■ A new start always gives us many different kinds of feeling; delight, nervous, throb, thankful, happy, apprehensive, challenging, expecting, etc.

Whatever feelings we may feel, a new start in the Lord is always exciting.

Eun Sook has started helping a new church to develop its Sunday School through regular Teacher Training in Sutton in South West London from October.

The Rosehill Full Gospel Church is church planting for all nations. There are already many different people groups in it; English, Indian, African, Philipino, people from Kazakhstan, Korean, Chinese, and Polish.

knew that the Lord Jesus was at our side helping us through. Over the years we both served in the choir, youth group, worship team, V.B.S. and evangelism ministry. We had many plans for our future to obtain a

The church has enthusiasm to share the Gospel and has a big heart for the next generation.

Please pray for this church to be used by God in order to enlarge His Kingdom among people, children and young people in particular.

Please pray also for Eun Sook to equip their teachers thoroughly as children's leaders by the help of the Holy Spirit and His power.

Thanks

God bless

EUN SOOK West London

secular career and become independent, however, God had different plans.

In 2019 my sister and I visited our mom in England, where we met Pastor Roy and his wife Mrs. Beryl Young. This godly couple counselled and encouraged us through our family's separation. They invited us to Garston Community Church at Watford where we were allowed to volunteer in the Worship Team, Children's and Outreach Ministry. Fortunately, our visit coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic which afforded us an extension on our visa. Thus, it was an opportune time for us to explore different career opportunities around the world. Nonetheless, we were challenged to live in the UK unemployed which led us to cry out to the Lord for provisions. To our great surprise, this has been the most prosperous time of our lives since God provided for our needs above measure. This experience truly deepened our faith and changed our perspective of life.

In April 2020, our friend Pastor Beltane Harrigan, introduced us to CEF. After much

"Our experience with the Lord Jesus Christ has been fulfilling over the past 17 years."

prayer and deliberation, we decided to apply as volunteers. As we delved into the purpose and vision of CEF our hearts were burdened with the passion of reaching boys and girls for Jesus Christ. Upon an interview with CEF, they granted Priya a sponsorship as a CEF worker in the UK. This opened the doors for both of us to attend TCE1 and CMLC online. During the past months we have been afforded quite a few opportunities to serve in Children's Ministry here at Garston Church. Over the Summer 2021 we conducted our very first Fun Day with the children. This was a huge success. In the coming year, we have plans to complete our second half of the CMLC course in Northern Ireland.

Our experience with the Lord Jesus Christ has been fulfilling over the past 17 years. We have found confidence and hope being closer to our Creator in a world that is confused about their identity. Our burden is to help this younger generation find their identity and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. Only Jesus will give them true peace and hope in a chaotic world and we are willing to be used by God for this mission.

CORINNA & PRIYA LALBACHAN
Watford

■ 'We are so glad you are open! It's good to be back! We missed you!' These were all comments from toddler group parents when we restarted the group in September. And it has been good to be back; not just at toddler groups but back at Summer Clubs and Good News Clubs (GNC). Since restrictions lifted, we have been in Woodford, South Woodford, Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstow, and Tottenham either running BibleZone Build Clubs, Good News Clubs or Toddler Groups. On Mondays we are in the hall at a local estate and although we miss the older children who are now in their second year at High School, we have a good number each week and have been pleased to see new children join. On Fridays we are in Leytonstone and are really enjoying the club there that we run with the local church. One Friday evening we followed the Leytonstone Club with another GNC in Walthamstow. A busy evening but well worth the rush between the two venues. On Tuesdays Rachel helps at a Toddler Group in Leyton and on Thursdays we are both at our home church Toddler Group. During October half term we will be back in Tottenham (BibleZone Build) and then in Woodford running a Holiday Bible Club with our home church. We have also been able to meet with the CEF Local Committee in person. We haven't said goodbye to Zoom meetings altogether! On Monday evenings we have been running the Equip Teacher Training Course. During



the pandemic, the ministry that stayed exactly the same was Bibletime. This Bible correspondence course continued without interruption (even when the postal service was struggling). We also carried on updating Lettheirlightshine.com and have recently put together a series of storytelling tips- take a look! It has been good to be back meeting people again and telling Bible Lessons, playing games and making crafts with children.

STEVE AND RACHEL BALL
CEF East London

Scotland

■ Neither of us expected to be able to do in person clubs this autumn. We knew covid restrictions were still in place in many areas, and we were also

aware of being new to Scotland with just having moved over in June. Yet the Lord had other plans! We are so grateful to be a part of 3 in person children's clubs here in the central belt. The children are so attentive, and it has been a great encouragement to our hearts to partner with the local believers and churches who run these clubs. We look forward to all the Lord has in the months ahead!

**SIMON AND HANNAH
SNODGRASS**



Emerging From Lockdown

■ After a third lockdown, it was wonderful to be allowed to meet again in person in April 2021, as long as meetings were held outside. Thankfully my local chapel has a garden and small orchard, where the gospel could be shared - the only factor to consider was the Welsh weather! As well as praying for the ministry, praying for clear weather became an important prayer request. Praise God this prayer was faithfully answered; every Friday between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. we had warm sunshine. Many parents would comment after picking up their children that it was like a different climate over our little garden compared to the surrounding villages, and one child replied, "God answered our prayers and is smiling."



When the easing of Covid restrictions in Wales, we can now meet indoors if necessary. It is so good to meet in person. We can now carry out all activities we did previously, albeit in a more considered way. We are all now used to regularly hand-sanitising and wearing masks to sing. Each child has their own pencil case, to avoid sharing equipment and every effort is made to ensure food is prepared and served following strict guidelines.

Meeting in person is such a joy, a blessing I no longer take for granted. I can now respond to the children's needs, building personal relationships, which was challenging in Zoom meetings. When sharing Bible stories, it is wonderful to hear responses and the interaction between the boys and girls.

MEGAN STONE
South Wales



CityKids Ghent (Belgium)

Feverish the woman swept and swept ... the whole house! She had lit a lamp for more sight, maybe she coughed because of the raising dust, but she ignored that and kept on sweeping. Finally she found her precious coin! Her eyes widened in surprise and she beamed! She surely could dance for joy!

I feel like that woman but still sweeping and searching!

Certainly, as CEF team we searched this summer for children in Ghent to tell them the gospel. We did find them during an enjoyable 'CityKids Ghent!' The real thing – if they've been found by God, like the coin – we didn't hear.

But more than that, we searched for believers in Ghent, for 'sweepers to find precious 'coins'! Sadly, nobody from Ghent joined us during these days of open air clubs.

Do these believers need more time and attention? I decided to stay half of the time in Ghent. A very hospitable couple is hosting me, at least till the end of December 2021.



First: I make appointments with church leaders. I tell them who CEF is and ask for attention to reaching children outside their church to increase prayer for them.

Second: I (try to) give presentations about 'Child Evangelism in Ghent', to let the believers think about the spiritual need and urgency among these children. I call the believers to prayer for the children.

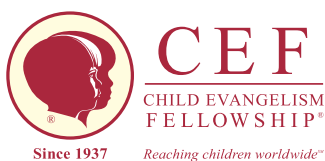
Third: I offer material and training to children workers, encouraging them to prepare once and to teach twice: inside once and then outside the church!

Fourth: I ask will somebody consider a Christmas club for children outside the church? I offer to come along and help!

Every Sunday I'm in a different church. 'Sweeping and searching' for people the Lord might have prepared already to get involved.

Will there be children workers in the coming Summer from Ghent itself to reach children during the CityKids Ghent?

MARCO BAAN (Director
CEF Netherlands)



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"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

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