

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

# IMPACT

Spring  
2022

**STORIES FROM**  
AROUND  
THE GLOBE



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD  
EVERY NATION  
EVERY DAY

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



## How can I help CEF reach more children for Christ?

That's the question I've asked myself since I began in this ministry decades ago. When I first became president of CEF in 1989, we reached nearly two million children annually. That number skyrocketed to over 25 million in 2019—the year before COVID spread around the world. It takes an army of child evangelists to reach so many children. Our founder, Mr. Overholzer, prayed over his globe for God to raise up such an army. As God told us in Luke 10:2—we've also continued to pray that He would send more workers. And He has!

CEF has a staff of close to 3,500 with 96 percent who are nationals. In addition, hundreds of thousands of volunteers work with CEF staff to share the Gospel with children around the world. Many more pray and give. When I look at so many people from diverse cultures working together to reach the boys and girls of the world for Christ, I know it is God who is doing this work.

One of my greatest joys has been getting to know the CEF family and hearing their stories of God's wondrous

works. In this edition of *Impact* magazine, you'll find stories from around the globe. Children are coming to Jesus, impacting their parents, and witnessing to their friends.

We've been busy carrying out the last command of our Lord Jesus to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). I have seen firsthand how our local missionaries lead children to Christ and teach them God's Word. Children are the most fruitful mission field, with most Christians coming to Christ before age 15.

It has been an honor and a privilege for my wife, Linda, and me to serve with CEF. The greatest impact for building the Kingdom of God is to invest in sharing the Good News of Jesus with children. Whether you pray, give, or go, may we work together for the glory of God.

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman



The purpose of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.

CEF® has active ministry in every region of the world. Several countries within each region have such strength and maturity that they have sent cross-cultural missionaries from their country to work with CEF in another country.





# Please Pray

1 Children around the world who have never heard about Jesus will hear the truth about Him.

2 The Lord of the harvest will send more teachers in every area of the world to reach children.

3 Christian children will boldly share the Good News of Jesus.

4 More children will attend *Good News Club*® and other CEF® ministries.



TELL YOUR KIDS,  
GRANDKIDS, THEIR  
FRIENDS, AND ALL  
THE OTHER KIDS YOU  
KNOW, ABOUT...



**UNITE.CEFONLINE.COM**

**U-Nite TV™** shares God's Word in a fun way to help kids apply biblical truth to life. This free, Christian platform is safe, unlike YouTube, so you don't have to worry about what they'll see.

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- 👤 **Testimonies** that encourage love for God's Word and God's mission

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# LATIN AMERICA



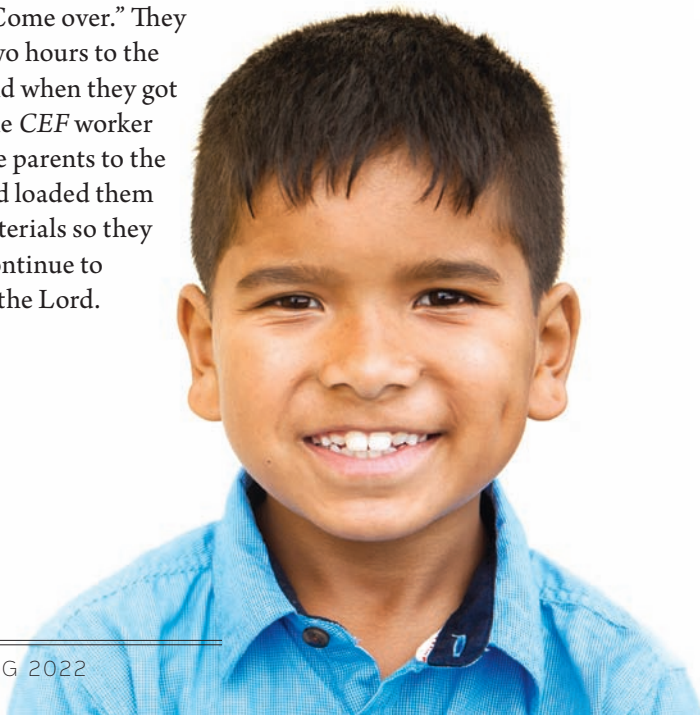
**“I could tell you other stories of grandmothers who said, ‘I learned more reading this *Wonder Devotional Book* with my grandchildren than I learn in church listening to the sermon.’”**

– Abner Pineda, Regional Director

## Because They Read It to Their Children

ABNER PINEDA, Regional Director

A few months ago we distributed *The 60-Day Wonder Devotional Book* in Mexico. Although some parents weren’t Christians, they read the devotional every day to their children who didn’t read very well. When they finished the book, they called the number for our CEF office in Mexico that was on the cover and said, “We’d like to get more of this material because we’ve been doing this for two months with our children here at home.” Our CEF worker told them, “Come over.” They drove two hours to the office and when they got there, the CEF worker led those parents to the Lord and loaded them with materials so they could continue to grow in the Lord.



### **Every Day with God**

Six 30-day devotional book series for early readers.



### **Wonder Devotional Book**

Six 60-day devotional book series.

Each book includes devotionals, prayer starters, memory verses, and activities designed to provide children with a daily devotional tool. Children will learn about the character of God and how they can live a life pleasing to Him!

Visit [cefpres.com](http://cefpres.com) to learn more about Christian evangelistic and growth materials for children.

**Help children spend time in God’s Word**

**EVERY DAY!**





# New Laptops for Gypsy Camps

STEFANOS BOTONIS, National Director, CEF of Greece

Our co-worker, Mike Petkof, used to teach children in 7 to 10 Gypsy camps a month. When COVID restrictions kept Mike from visiting the Gypsy camps, he decided to raise money to buy laptops. He uploaded our 40-plus Bible videos and gave a Gypsy believer in each camp a laptop to show the videos to the children. This made it possible for boys and girls with no internet access to enjoy CEF video Bible lessons.

## WHEN I GROW UP...

Alex lives with two sisters and his aunt. His father died a few years ago of a serious illness and the family was left without wages. They live in a one-room apartment and sleep on the floor. It is very cold in the winter because there is no heating. At *Good News Club*, the children were asked, "Who would you like to be when you grow up?" Alex answered, "I want to be the pastor in the district."



**"I told my mom not to buy me a Christmas present this year because I want this money to go to missions and be used to reach children. I didn't know about Jesus, but I heard about him in a *Good News Club*. There are so many who never heard this Good News and I want my money to help more children hear what I heard."**

— Girl from  
*Good News Club*

# EUROPE



**"At a conference, someone said to one of our workers, 'I had a desire to evangelize children and tell the Good News of Christmas to them, but I didn't have materials to do so. I heard about you, and now after seeing all the great materials you have, I have no excuse not to preach the Gospel to children.'"**

— Iulian Mangalagiu,  
Assistant Regional Director

## GRANDMA'S COMMITMENT

A grandmother in Macedonia gathered her three grandchildren and shared the Christmas lesson with them. She rejoiced in their response and asked someone from CEF to teach in her home. She promised to gather more children from the neighborhood.

# THE MIDDLE EAST

## Children Reaching Children

Sai\* attended special training for children to learn how to share the Gospel with their friends. He went back home to where there were no churches and gathered 27 children together. After he shared the Gospel using *The Wordless Book* as he was taught, all of them accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Sai broke his piggy bank to buy cookies for the children. Then he called his pastor and told him, “Pastor, please come and help. My friends in the village are gathering here. They accepted the Lord Jesus Christ.”



\*Name changed

When the pastor arrived, he was amazed to see the children had assurance of salvation. He told a CEF missionary who then started a *Good News Club* in that village. Another *Good News Club* also started in a nearby village.

## HE WANTED TO MEET THE KING!

A few months ago, a truck with Boxes of Books arrived at one of our offices. And among the boxes there were teachers' guides and flashcards as well as a few boxes of *Meet the King!* The delivery person, a young boy, wanted to see what it was, so he stole one of the *Meet the King!* booklets. As he read it, he got to know Jesus Christ. And then he felt, “Oh, it's wrong that I stole this booklet. I need to go back and give it to the CEF people.” When he returned it, he shared what happened with his life and trusted in Jesus Christ.



**“The voices of children are calling. The children near and far, rich and poor have only one way to be saved. We are ready to go wherever God wants us to go and preach the Gospel. It is the responsibility that our Lord Jesus has entrusted to you and me.”**

– Brother Jeremiah,  
Regional Director



## **MEET THE KING!**

Rudra's\* family was discouraged. Their economic situation filled them with despair. Life was so hard his parents decided to commit suicide with all his family members. While Rudra was walking on the street, someone handed him *Meet the King!*—a Gospel booklet in one of the languages of India. He read it and then shared it with his siblings. Eventually he gave it to his parents. As his father read it, he realized, "This God is the real true God. We must believe in Jesus Christ." They decided not to commit suicide and instead went to church. Rudra's father said to the pastor, "I read this book. Is it true?" The pastor explained more about the Gospel and the whole family believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.



**"After we started praying Luke 10:2, God opened many doors to train more workers. Last year we trained more than 100,000 volunteers and 72 full-time workers. This year, we hope to have more than 80 new workers."**

— Brother Jeremiah, Regional Director

# SPAN™

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 1,100 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.





# WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

## The Most Powerful God

ALEX TWUM, Regional Director

**T**he country of Benin, where Voodoo originated and continues to be prominent, saw a dramatic turn of events.

In the village of Sokou in the district of Saketé, the villagers saw *Child Evangelism Fellowship* missionaries enter the village with the Gospel for children. There is no Christian witness in this place, only idol worship.

The villagers started casting spells and cursed the missionaries for bringing a strange God to them. They hated this new God called Jesus and wanted the child evangelists to leave them as a result of the spells and curses put on them. After a while, nothing happened to the *CEF* workers which made the villagers wonder, for they trusted their powers.

The villagers approached the child evangelists to inquire as to the source of their power, which withstood their gods. Their response: JESUS. The villagers confessed, "You have the most powerful God and we need Him here."

Now a church has started in the village of Sokou. The children in the area are being reached with the Gospel unhindered.

Thanks be to God for His protection to open a whole new area to the Gospel.



**"When I first came to *CEF*, I wasn't confident because I didn't know what to do. But after I was trained, I could teach with confidence."**

—Alex Twum,  
Regional Director





## A Changed Life

FRIK VAN RENSBURG, Regional Director

A lady called me a few weeks ago. She didn't know me, but someone told her that she must call me because her elementary-aged daughter had behavior problems. I went to talk with this mother.

When the daughter came home from school, I shared the message of salvation using the Gospel Flipper-Flapper™. The whole family listened, and all received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

I didn't think I would see them again. But the next Sunday, I went to church more than an hour early. I was amazed to see this girl waiting with a small boy. They ran to me and hugged me. Since then, they have faithfully attended church.

The girl's parents and grandparents have not come yet. She asked me, "Can you invite my mother to church?"



SOUTHERN AFRICA  
& INDIAN OCEAN



**"It's through love—loving like you've never loved before. It's not for yourself, it's for the glory of God. I see that love in every CEF worker."**

– Frik van Rensburg, Regional Director

# EAST & CENTRAL AFRICA

## Church Was Not Allowed

AHMED\*, Burundi

I come from an interesting family. My mother knows God, but my dad is a Muslim. Since we were little, I remember my dad allowed my mom to go to church and teach children away from our home. One of my dad's family rules was that we were NOT to go to church. My mother was told she could go to church but not take any of us children with her. There was very little opportunity for us to come to faith because my mom was not even allowed to read the Bible with us at home.

One day, I tagged along with my mom when she taught *Good News Club*. I continued going to GNC™ with her but did not go to church out of obedience to my dad.

One day as my mom taught the Bible lesson at GNC, I realized I was a sinner. That day I put my faith in Christ and became a believer. I was 12 at the time and chose not to tell my dad about this decision. I continued going to GNC and grew to know God better.

When I was 13, my mom asked my dad if I could go to a training for teenagers to learn how to be well mannered and mentor children. Dad agreed. I'm sure he didn't realize it was a Christian gathering and that through *Christian Youth In Action®* I would learn more about God and grow in my faith.

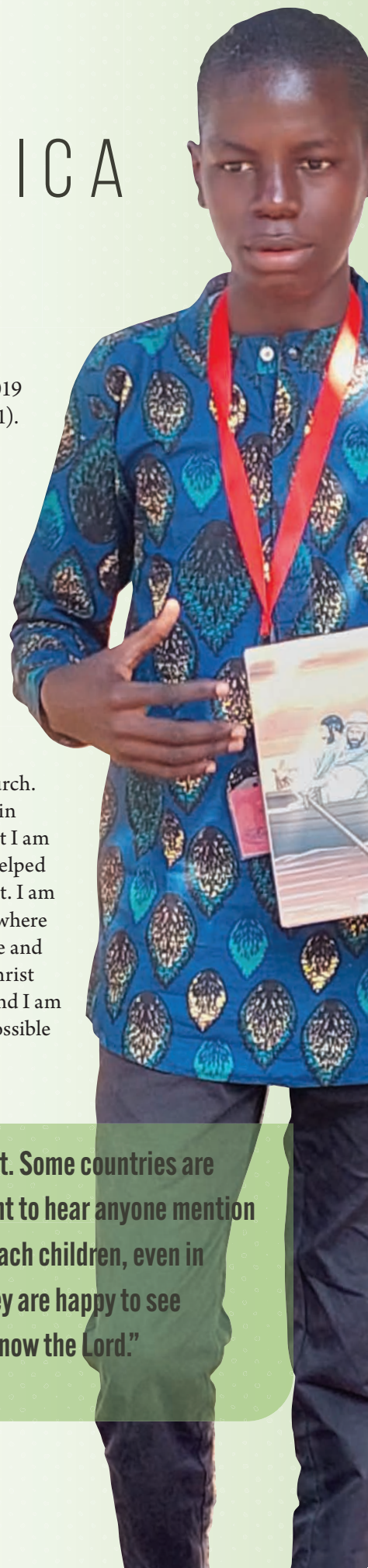
I attended CYIA™ in 2019 and again this year (2021). Now I teach children in *5-Day Club®* and GNC with other teens. It is encouraging to see children learn about God.

My desire is to see boys and girls receive Jesus as Savior. I am sure there are many young people like me who do not have an opportunity to go to church. I still don't go to church in obedience to my dad, but I am thankful for GNC that helped me put my faith in Christ. I am also thankful for CYIA where I met other young people and grew in my walk with Christ and skills in teaching. And I am grateful CEF makes it possible



**"The missionaries in Africa sacrifice a lot. Some countries are Muslim and the people there do not want to hear anyone mention Jesus. People sacrifice a lot and still reach children, even in places with underground churches. They are happy to see children in those countries coming to know the Lord."**

- Joseph Kavuli, Regional Director





"I am sure there are many young people like me who do not have an opportunity to go to church."

— Ahmed\*

for all kinds of people to know God even without going to church. I am also thankful to my mother who prayed for me and led me to Christ.

This week, I've been teaching two 5-Day Clubs and reached over 67 children.

\*Name changed

JOIN US IN PRAYING GOD'S OWN  
PRAYER REQUEST—  
**LUKE 10:2**



AND HE (JESUS) SAID TO THEM, "THE HARVEST IS  
PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. THEREFORE  
PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO  
SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST."



children's ministries  
**INSTITUTE**

*Children's Ministries Institute*® offers one of the most innovative, practical training programs available for leaders in children's ministry. This 12-week diploma program can be taken in one- or two-week modules. Students receive training in direct ministry to children, teacher training and ministry organization, and leadership. Academic credit may be available through various colleges and CEUs can be granted through ASCI.

Under the direction of the education department, Institutes are held on every continent except Antarctica! Regional education directors oversee Institutes in their region and help ensure that international standards are maintained for the quality and integrity of our training programs. *CMI*® also offers classes online through the *CMI Online*™ program.

Young people who have an interest in children's ministry and have served two summers in *Christian Youth In Action*® may qualify for a discount to attend *CMI*.

**Learn more at [cefcmi.com](http://cefcmi.com).**

# ASIA PACIFIC

## I Want to Go Home

DAVID RA, Regional Director

An elderly woman from Fiji faithfully attended trainings. She became a devoted teacher who hosted *Good News Club* in her home. Her most regular attendees were her grandchildren.

Grandson Sam accepted Christ as Savior in the *Good News Club*. One day his Sunday school teacher asked the class, "How can you go to heaven?" Sam answered with a strong conviction, "By believing in Jesus!" The teacher was impressed and asked Sam where he learned that. Sam answered, "In *Good News Club*."

Sam became seriously ill and was diagnosed with Leukemia. In the hospital the doctor tried everything to heal him, but without success. The time came when they were certain Sam would die in a few days. In a weak voice Sam told his father, "Daddy, I want to go home." So, his father got permission from the hospital to take Sam home. When they arrived home Sam said, "Daddy, I want to go home." His dad was surprised and thought Sam did not have a clear mind because of his illness. He said, "Sam, you are home." Sam replied, "Daddy, I want to go to my real home, to heaven." Then Sam died.

For many years Sam's grandmother had tried to share the Gospel with her son (Sam's dad), but he refused to listen. After Sam's funeral, his father decided the whole family should attend church.



**"CEF national workers are very important to us. Many times, they can go places where most foreigners cannot go. For example, I talked with a national who shared that he could take the Gospel into a strong Islamic area. I was very impressed and asked, 'How can you do that?' He said, 'I was born there, and I grew up there. Some of my Islamic neighbors are my friends, so they don't care.' When we teach nationals and equip them, they can go anywhere to reach boys and girls."**

- David Ra, Regional Director





# Christmas in the Caribbean

BELTANE HARRIGAN, Regional Director

It has been difficult to conduct consistent ministry on Nevis, a small Caribbean island nation less than 40 square miles and a population of 10,000. But many have been praying the children will learn about Jesus. Last November over 30 children attended a Christmas Party Club and heard the true Christmas story.

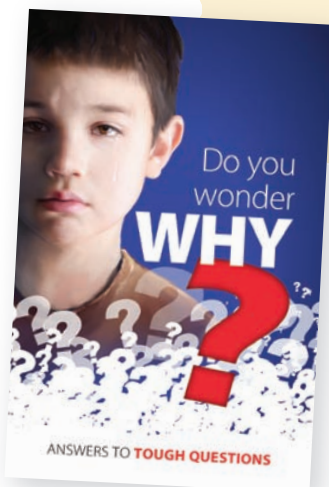
On the neighboring island of St. Kitts, Christmas Party Clubs were held in schools. At one school where CEF staff teach morning devotions, 145 attended the *Light of Life* Christmas Party Club and 10 received Jesus as Savior. Another Party Club was held for 45 students at a school where CEF had been denied access. The 12 students at another Party Club all responded to receive Jesus as Savior.



## NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

### WHEN YOU WONDER WHY

On August 14, 2021, Haiti experienced a major earthquake that caused widespread damage, killed over 2,000 people, and injured over 12,000. *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets were distributed to help answer tough questions in the midst of tragedy. In response, children have been calling CEF workers regarding salvation.



### DEALING WITH TRAGEDY

In response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, *Do You Wonder Why?* was created to help children deal with tough questions they ask in the midst of tragedy. Millions of copies have been distributed in the wake of tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, school shootings, and other tragedies.

Visit [cefonline.com/doyouwonderwhy](https://cefonline.com/doyouwonderwhy) to read a digital copy (available in 16 different languages) or view a *Do You Wonder Why?* video. These booklets can be purchased through **CEFPRESS.com** and are available in English and Spanish.





# GOSPEL

The most important thing parents can do for their children is help them come to Christ early in life. And the best way to do that is to live out the Gospel and demonstrate how a relationship with God works in everyday life. The parent/father/child relationship is the pattern God chose for our relationship with Him. A good model of this relationship in the home will bring a child closer to understanding God.

**The Gospel message itself involves four essential concepts:**

- God the Father and His love for us
- Sin which separates us from God
- Jesus who is the only way to be reconciled to God
- Our response to His love.

These concepts can be demonstrated to infants, toddlers, children, adolescents, and into adulthood.

When you hold children close and speak tender words of comfort, you lay the foundation for them to accept the truth that God knows them and loves them personally. Tell them, “My precious child, your Father God knows



# PARENTING

LYDIA KAISER, Corporate Communications Specialist, CEF International Headquarters

you and loves you. In fact, He knows you even better than I do, and loves you even more than I do.”

Each time you patiently remind children, “That was wrong and these are the consequences,” you demonstrate a standard by which all behavior is judged as right or wrong. That standard of course is God’s Word and His character. Loving, biblical discipline paves the way for the truths that “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23) and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Without the awareness of personal sin and its punishment, children will never see their need for a Savior.

When we love children unconditionally, we demonstrate the truth of God’s unconditional love described in Romans 5:8, “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” After disciplining a child, ask, “Do I love you more when you’re good or when you’re bad?” Over time, he should learn to answer, “You love me the same.”

But you might think, *I’m not that perfect*. Tell children that. Don’t be afraid to admit your faults and ask for forgiveness. Point out that God’s love is greater; His wisdom and discipline are perfect.

When you love someone, you want what’s best for them and for them to have a good life and not get hurt. Reminding children of this will help them understand why they can trust and obey you. Let them know, “If you trust and obey me, you will be saved from lots of bad things.” Ultimately, point them to why they can trust and obey God. He is the one who loves them with a perfect love, knows what’s best for them, and has the power to help them. God made the way for their sins to be forgiven through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The Gospel shows us how to deal with our sin in a healthy way—healthy for us, healthy for others, and healthy for our relationship with God.

Teaching the Gospel in your home, both verbally and more importantly, with demonstration, will most likely cause your children to accept Christ at an early age and understand how a relationship works with God, their Heavenly Father. Walking in good relationship with God can become a way of life before they leave your home, equipping them in the very best way possible for life ahead.

*Read the full article at [cefonline.com](http://cefonline.com). Listen to similar articles on Teach Kids! Podcast.*

♥ When we love children unconditionally, we demonstrate the truth of God’s unconditional love...

## YOUR CEF RESOURCES:

**Your nearest local CEF chapter:**  
[chapters.cefonline.com](http://chapters.cefonline.com)

**Resources for teaching children:**  
Your local chapter  
[CEFPRESS.com](http://CEFPRESS.com)  
[Unite.cefonline.com](http://Unite.cefonline.com)

**Resources for teacher training:**  
Your local chapter  
[CEFCMI.com](http://CEFCMI.com) for campus and online training

**Ministry Information**  
[cefonline.com](http://cefonline.com)

## TEACH KIDS! PODCAST

Teach Kids! is a short, powerful “HOW TO” for parents and children’s ministry workers. Practical topics equip you with aspects of gospel parenting, evangelism, and discipleship to help you teach the kids in your life, whether they are your own or those you minister to.



🎧 **Teach Kids! airs on 767 radio stations, and we're excited to offer it as a podcast so you can listen at any time and review.**

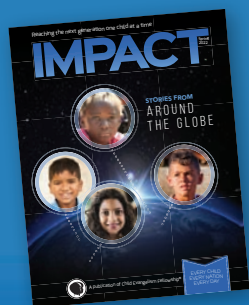
Find it on major podcast platforms by searching for “Teach Kids.”

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