

onmission

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



Hope for Ukraine

PLUS:
EURO CONFERENCE 2022
PASSING THE BATON
SHORTFALL



The greatness and goodness of God

In Psalm 86, David reminds us of the wonderful truth that greatness and goodness can both be found in God. What would He be like, if God was great, but He wasn't good? Think about important people with influence and authority, those who can take a decision on the spot, affecting the future of a person or even a country. What happens if that person is not good or does not act in love? Sadly we often see consequences of such people. However, what about those people who are good, full of love, but are without authority and in this sense unable to help you?

David exclaims in verse 10 that God is great and does marvellous deeds. There is nothing too difficult for Him. Isn't it wonderful to know that God is on His throne, has all authority in heaven and on earth and is doing marvellous deeds to fulfil His purposes in our lives?

The Psalmist continues by reminding us that God is also forgiving, good and abounding in love and faithfulness (v 5, 15). We can come to the One who understands our weaknesses and welcomes us into His presence and we will find grace and help in our time of need.

Perfectly good. Perfectly great. Take comfort in the fact that the One who knows you best, loves you the most and cares for you deeply, is also so powerful that He is able to turn any situation around for you today.

Let's praise Him with all our hearts and glorify His Name forever (v.12).



THE





Hope for Ukraine

WAR

stopped the ministry in Ukraine for only a short moment. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian children had to leave their homes to flee for safety. Many of them had to leave everything behind. There is a lot of sadness and uncertainty. The children need hope. The boys and girls of Europe can only find real hope in Jesus Christ.

During the first week of the war, the CEF leadership prepared an action plan to be implemented immediately. The ministry to Ukrainian boys and girls continued inside and outside the war-stricken country. Hope for Ukraine is a project to distribute 5 million *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets throughout Europe to Ukrainian and Russian children, but also to all other children who are also asking the question, "Why is this happening?". The second part of the project is the preparation and delivery of 125,000 Gospel backpacks to children in Ukraine.

It was a special joy to meet some of our Ukrainian team at the European conference. We were able to sing and pray together, and prepared more than 1,000 Gospel

backpacks, which were sent to Ukraine immediately after the conference. At the conference, many were encouraged to continue preparing the backpacks.

Currently, eighteen national offices across Europe are active in preparing the backpacks. Most of the backpacks are transported by car from neighbouring countries to various places in Ukraine. Once there, our co-workers prepare a special program and distribute the Gospel backpacks at the end. It is a great joy to see the smiles on the children's faces when they open their backpacks and see what they have received. But it's an even greater joy to know that the Gospel is clearly presented in the *Do You Wonder Why?* and *Meet the King!* booklets. Our prayer is that the children will take a moment to read the literature after they play with a toy or eat chocolate from the backpack.

We want to emphasise that everyone can do something. That something could be prayer. Prayer is important! During the conference, special bracelets

and seven-day calendars were distributed to encourage children and adults to pray about the situation in Ukraine every day of the week. Now a special lesson, *Prayer for Ukraine* is also being prepared and will be used at many camps across the continent. Some children at the camps will also prepare backpacks for Ukrainian children.

At the beginning of July, 1,270,500 *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets were printed and many have already been distributed. 124,400 backpacks are in various stages of preparation. About 60,000 have been filled and taken to Ukraine.

The remainder are being distributed in neighbouring countries at special Hope Clubs. There are plans to print more *Do You Wonder Why?*

booklets in various languages. Jesus is the only hope for boys and girls. Let's help children get to know Him!



Surrounded by an uncertain world yet as believers we have a certain hope in Christ. For six days CEF workers from across Europe turned their minds away from the world's uncertainties as they arrived in Schwäbisch Gmünd for the 2022 European

locations and language groups. How energising to meet with brothers and sisters and bring our praises and requests to our certain God.

Good nourishment at mealtimes, starting with a hearty breakfast and at every meal an

various speakers; Reese Kauffman, Colin Hylands, Claire Bain, Mel Lacy and Paul Coulter.

Competent children's workers: Claire McNabb and team looking after the children during the main sessions and the good programme the children enjoyed.

CERTAIN HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

conference and rested their minds on that one true certain hope in Christ. "The Lord is my portion... therefore I will hope in him" (Lamentations 3:24).

The conference theme, *Certain Hope in an Uncertain World*, although decided upon months before, fitted perfectly with our present times. God's plan is always perfect and He knew back then what encouragement would be needed now.

So, how was that certain hope strengthened during the conference week?

Beginning every morning with prayer. Prayer in different

opportunity to fellowship with others around the table.

Reaffirming messages from the speakers: Paul Coulter the main speaker teaching from 1 Peter 1:3-3:13 showing how we can be Seeing Hope—realise what we have, Setting Our Hope—preparing our minds, Sharing Our Hope—giving a reason for our hope, and Stirring Our Hope—awaken our minds; Moisés Esteves, main seminar speaker, teaching on "Wrong Thinking, the Biggest Challenge of Ministry"; Mel Lacy, main seminar speaker, teaching on "Raising Kid's for Christ in a Confusing World". There was also an elective seminar on Friday with

Encouraging reports from around the world, across Europe and the departments: Leadership Development, European Partnership Ministries, IT, Multimedia, Education and Junior Youth Challenge. Each day focused on one department and one area of Europe—Eastern, Central and Western Europe. CEF president Reese Kauffman started off the first evening with a report on the work around the world. Keeping with the areas of Europe, each evening after the last session, we enjoyed a "Global Market" of specialties from each of the countries in the European area.

Fellowship, fellowship, and more fellowship! At meals, coffee



breaks, free time, before and after sessions, and in the evenings! Lots of time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

As a CEF family in Christ we could encourage our Ukrainian and Russian brothers and sisters personally face to face and tangibly with the challenge to fill 500 then 1,000 backpacks for children in Ukraine.

Was it a full week? Yes, but oh the joy and spiritual refreshment; re-energised and ready to go out again and *proclaim the certain hope we have in Christ to an uncertain world!*

From top clockwise:
Philip Annett and Lydia Hardesty sharing about Leadership Development; the Hope for Ukraine project; Gerd-Walter Buskies interpreting for Paul Coulter; Angie McKee shares a special song; one of the many "shoppes" during the evening.



CEF European conference was nothing less than a refreshing time and a big family gathering of people in one mission, which is to reach every child in Europe every-day. I thank the Lord for His Word that was preached, worship, and for the wonderful updates from the countries around Europe. It was good to see friends who are serving the Lord and also friends I had not seen for over 11 years.

Alesio Sema, Albania



I am thankful my husband stayed at home with our 3 boys, so I could enjoy and embrace the many encouragements at the conference. I love to be a part of a family in Jesus Christ: sharing our ideas and prayer needs personally again, going to all nations and calling children to follow Him.

Daniela Plevová, Slovakia



The best thing as always was the time spent with people. How special it felt to meet again after the pandemic years and share the latest joys and challenges around the dining table, during a board game or at the shopping trip to buy things for the Ukrainian backpacks!

Taina Päivinen, Finland



CEF EUROPE REACHES **ANOTHER MILESTONE!**

It was the Romans who introduced milestone markers (or obelisks) along the thousands of miles of roads that they built in ancient times. These milestones not only allowed travellers to know how far they had come on their journey and how much further they still needed to go but also marked significant points along the way.

CEF in Europe reached a significant milestone in its journey on the 1st of May 2022 when **Gerd-Walter Buskies** (out-going Regional Director) handed over his leadership role to **Iulian and Anca Mangalagiu**. Approximately 250 members of the European and International CEF family gathered to celebrate this special moment

during the European conference in Germany. It was a wonderful afternoon when we gave God the glory as we could look back and see just how far He has brought us as a mission. We spent time thanking God and honouring those He gave to lead us on the journey so far—especially Gerd-Walter. It was a great privilege and joy to dedicate Iulian and Anca as God's chosen leaders for the next part of the journey for CEF in Europe. Pray that God will allow us to pass many more significant milestones together under their direction and that as a result millions more children in Europe will not only hear the Gospel but be transformed by it. All glory to Him!

From top clockwise:
Linda Corry presenting a special gift to Iulian and Anca; leaders from around the world commissioning through prayer; the official handover.



NEW MATERIALS UNVEILED

Not only is the European Conference a place to study the Word of God, fellowship with others and learn new things—it's also a time where new or updated items are shown. This past conference was no different! While many of the items were shared by specific departments, in just about every case, collaboration between departments made these projects possible.

The **Multimedia** department shared something brand-new—the *Looking unto Jesus Survival Camp* ministry kit which includes a leader's guide, quiet time book for campers, promotional items, decorations, and everything else to help a team put together a camp—whether it's overnight or several hours during the day.

To go with the camp materials, a new five-part Bible lesson, *John the Baptist*, was created.

Even though COVID-19 prevented in-person learning, the **Education** department took advantage of this time to completely re-do several items and create some new and exciting ministry tools.

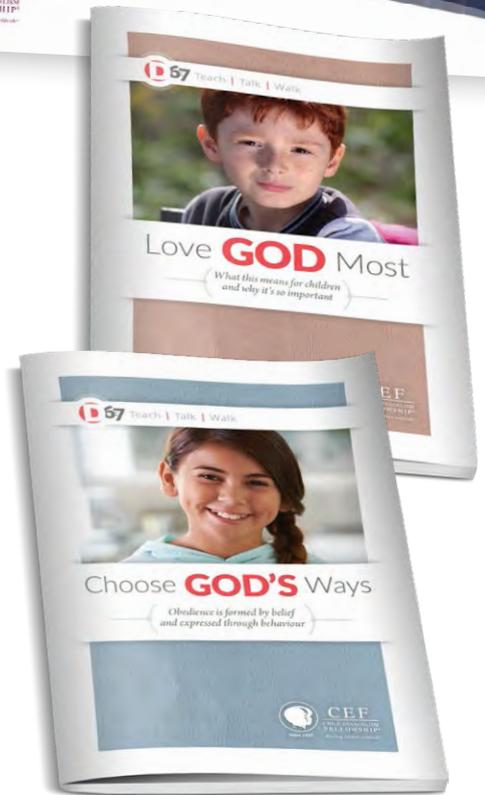
The *Children's Ministry Leadership Course* (CMLC) got a brand-new look, with a unifying

logo, PowerPoint template and design scheme.

Also unveiled was the D6:7 (short for Deut. 6:7) training series, which includes two new study guides—*Love God Most* and *Choose God's Way*. D6:7 is designed to meet the needs of Sunday school teachers, parents, and children's workers by giving access to quality training packed with solid Biblical teaching, practical ideas, and varied activities from the home (self-study), a local church (small-group study) or together with a CEF worker.

Another item presented was *Teach Others Also*, which offers a flexible, "all round" basic training in children's ministry for a local church setting. TOA seminars equip children's workers in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, the elements of a children's programme, teaching a Bible lesson and child study.

It is our prayer that all these materials will be used greatly for furthering God's kingdom!



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?



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onmission

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THE CEF LOGO IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF
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When children are very young, they are already dreaming about what they will be when they grow up? Adults start asking them about this from a young age too. It is important to us all to know this. We want to fulfil our calling and make a difference in the world.

While at school, we would be asked questions about our chosen career, in an attempt to help us find that one job that would be a perfect fit for our personality, calling, achievements and even natural talents.

Finding the perfect "fit" is a dream come true. As believers, we find that God has been preparing us for it, our whole lives. He has a way of preparing us, equipping us and giving the talents and even personality to help us "walk in the good works" that He has prepared for us in advance (Ephesians 2:10).

In CEF, we have been blessed by financial supporters who love to give, are blessed by giving and feel that they are truly fulfilling their calling in life because they give. What a blessing for them, for us and for the children who are reached with the Gospel.

We are so thankful for every gift, large or small, which enables us to continue our work. However, we want to find more people in Europe whose perfect fit, whose calling in life is to give to the shortfall needs of workers. We don't know who those people are but we would love to find them because in finding them, they will be blessed, we will be blessed and more importantly the children of Europe will be blessed.

Is this you? Or do you know someone who would be interested in more information about supporting shortfall? Please contact us at: partners@cefeurope.org