

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Fall
2022



LOOKING TO GOD on Our Journey Through Life



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY



Looking to God

While looking to God on our journey through life, there will be times of **new beginnings**. We expect lots of changes when we are young like Revival (page 4), but new beginnings can come at any time. As *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® celebrates 85 years of ministry we look forward to the new beginning of our next president. You will learn more about the president and his vision for the ministry in future editions of *Impact* magazine.

As we work together to reach Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day, we recognize...

- our great **need for God**—His provision, His power, and His purpose. God uses the prayers of His people to accomplish great things for Him. Please commit to praying for God's provision, power, and purpose for CEF® ministry worldwide.

- we are **never alone**. Not only do we have the promise of God's presence, but we also have the fellowship, support, and prayers of the CEF family. Let us keep walking together until the day we stand before our Lord, accomplishing the Great Commission He entrusted to us.
- in our uncertain world, **now is the time** to do all we can. I trust we will come together to wholeheartedly labor to reach children for Christ and disciple them.

Let's look for God's provision, power, and purpose in the **next challenge** on our journey. Will you pray earnestly for God to supply more laborers for the harvest, so we can pursue every opportunity God provides?

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.**

– Proverbs 3:5-6



Please Pray

- 1 God will give wisdom, direction, and unity to the leadership of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*.
- 2 God's provision, power, and purpose upon *CEF* ministry worldwide so children can hear the Gospel.
- 3 Those attending *Children's Ministries Institute*® will be well prepared to reach children for Christ.
- 4 More churches will partner with *CEF* and share the true meaning of Christmas with kids at Christmas Party Clubs.



BRINGING THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS TO CHILDREN EVERYWHERE

HOST A

CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB!



Reach the boys and girls in your community. Contact us today!
Visit chapters.cefonline.com.

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REVIVAL

MARK SHAW

Revival Bethell is the type of person who has so much inner joy that it cannot help but be expressed in his words and work. But you wouldn't think he'd have that disposition if you heard his story.

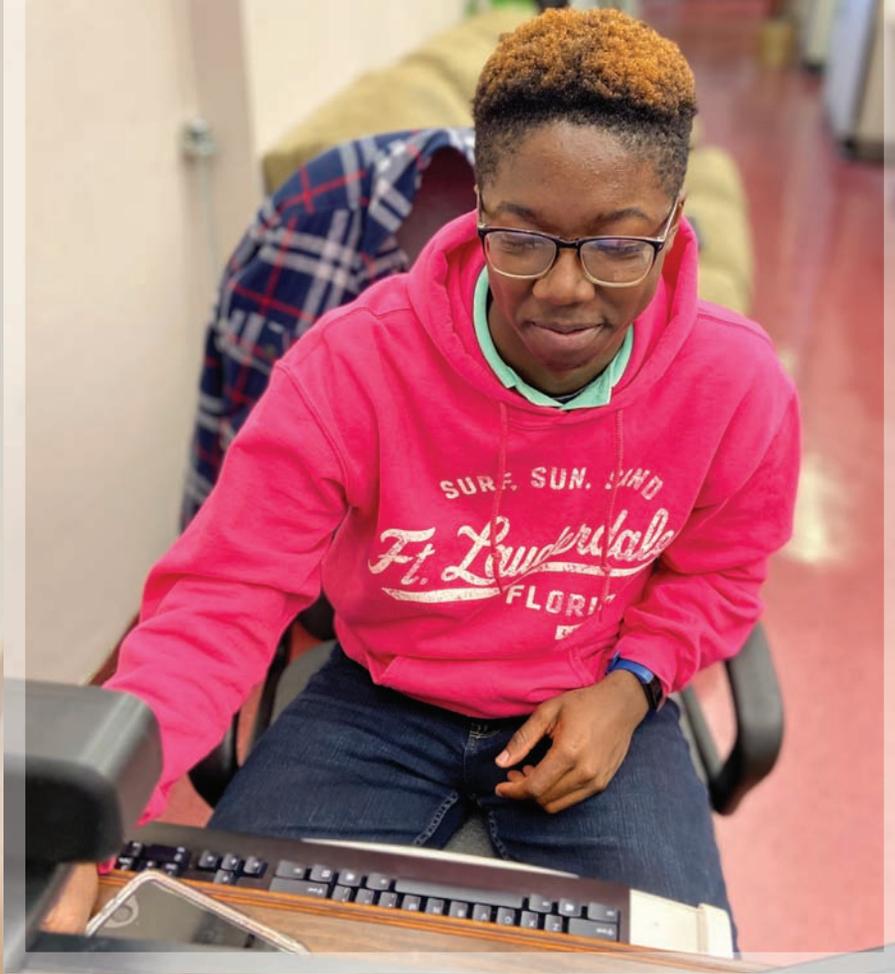
For much of his young life, Revival had to live out of a suitcase because his family bounced around from living in other people's homes to living in their car. His dad — who had a variety of jobs as a graphic designer and as a pastor in Nassau, Bahamas — passed away when Revival was eight. It wasn't until 2019 when he, his mom, and his two siblings relocated to a more affordable island in the Bahamas that their financial hardships came to an end.

“Cat Island is really, really serene and peaceful,” Revival said. “So, it's just really cool seeing God's provision through everything.”

“I try my best to find joy in everything.”



CAT ISLAND,
BAHAMAS



Revival grew up going to CEF teacher training, seminars, and *Christian Youth In Action*® meetings with his mother, who has been in CEF since 2001. So, it was natural for him to start teaching in *Good News Club*® and *5-Day Club*® when he was a preteen. He also became one of the pioneers for CYIA™ in the Bahamas and started a weekly prayer line for teenagers during COVID.

Beltane Harrigan, the regional director for the North America/Caribbean Region, saw Revival's prayer line grow and asked him to get training at International Headquarters.

After finishing his yearlong internship with the Information Technology department, Revival now attends the *Children's Ministries Institute*. He plans to be the digital ministries coordinator for the Caribbean region. Not only will he help people with IT issues, but he will also make sure everyone in CEF in the Caribbean is connected as much as possible.

"The goal is to be able to create a virtual server so that whenever people have to save their files, they can be saved in this one cloud," Revival said, "Because right now in the Caribbean, they have a lot of paper files and with hurricanes, fires, and power outages we have across the Caribbean a lot of those documents are lost."

Revival has many other plans too: train people to be Zoom literate, implement videos and apps that can be translated, develop a team that can translate the different creole/pidgin languages, and form an IT team that can travel to all 27 countries in the region.

"I try my best to find joy in everything. There were times when I didn't understand things that were told to me, especially when it came to IT stuff," Revival said. "One of my favorite Scriptures is Nehemiah 8:10, 'The joy of the Lord is your strength.' That's what helped me keep going."



While interning at CEF International Headquarters, Revival taught at a local GNC™ and helped with the area's first *Go & Tell!* club that teaches children how to share the Good News of Jesus using *Wordless Book* colors.

Revival shared, "Getting the opportunity to teach in *Go & Tell!* was awesome. I was the only male, and knowing those boys looked up to me was a lot of pressure. Watching one boy work hard to make sure he was doing it as best as possible – including all the Scriptures, memorizing the links, and having faith to believe God will send somebody he can share the Gospel with – was definitely encouraging."



"I have never been in a community that was so open to the Gospel and the love of Christ and had such a willingness to talk and pray with complete strangers."



UVALDE STRONG

Uvalde Strong signs could be seen throughout Texas. The tragic shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, devastated this small community and shook the nation. Although people may never understand the depths of grief and shock of such tragedy, many relate to the horror of losing children at such a young age. There's an understanding that the people of Uvalde will need a strength that's beyond themselves to heal and move on.



"We were shocked and heartbroken as we watched the news unfold about the shooting ... [and] began to beg God for His mercy on the people of Uvalde, asking Him how we could help in this terrible situation," shared Fred Pry, assistant vice president of USA Ministries. Within 24 hours, Fred and his wife, Dawn, were on the road from *Child Evangelism Fellowship* International Headquarters in Warrenton, Missouri, with 20,000 pieces of literature, mostly English and Spanish *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets. They arrived in San Antonio, Texas, on Thursday and joined MiMi

Sellers, *CEF* state director for East Texas; Jennifer Edgington, *CEF* local coordinator who serves Austin and Houston; and Matt Gruber from San Antonio. Friday morning, as this team prayed together before heading to Uvalde, they felt led to go to churches first. They sensed God's direction through the day, many times arriving at a church as the pastor was either coming or going.

"Pastors needed to talk. No one was asking how they were doing," reflected Pry. The team listened as pastors poured out their hearts; at times their stories were graphic. They ministered to the victims and their families at the hospital, and it was their job to inform families of loss. Pastors were focused on meeting the needs of the community, providing comfort, counseling, funeral plans—all while suffering their own trauma. The team prayed with them and gave them *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets to hand out to those they serve.

Seventeen volunteers joined them on Saturday, many who spoke Spanish. They walked through the community, talking and praying with people they met. Although it was 99 degrees, people were out all over the city, grieving together. "I have



never been in a community that was so open to the Gospel and the love of Christ and had such a willingness to talk and pray with complete strangers," commented Dawn Pry. Some who were related to the young victims expressed their brokenness. Others knew the shooter and expressed concern for

his family. Some saw the *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets and asked for copies to distribute where they worked, at the school, library, and even restaurants.

Lolita, a Spanish-speaking volunteer from Houston, almost didn't go to Uvalde. But at the last minute, she joined the team and went to the school to hand out *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets. Hundreds of people gathered there to give flowers. In the evening, one of the volunteers pointed out a girl who had crawled out a window of the school to escape. She had not come out of her house since the tragedy. She stood expressionless with her mother, sister, aunt, and cousin. Lolita knew she had to tell her about Jesus. The women were receptive of Lolita and genuinely interested in knowing Jesus. As Lolita shared God's promises from Hebrews 13:5-6 that "God will never leave me," and "The Lord is my helper," the girl's countenance changed. Lolita realized, "God had this appointment, this meeting with this family so they could know Jesus as Savior and I was the one He sent to lead them to the Lord."

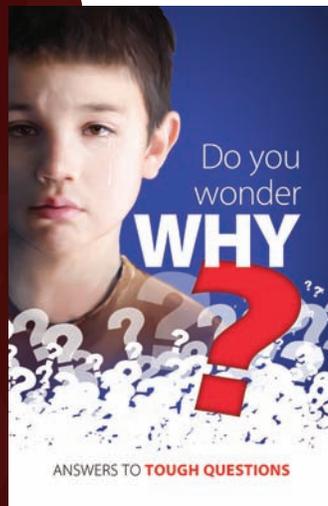
Having lived through the shooting in Santa Fe, Texas, almost three years to the day prior, MiMi Sellers wanted to comfort the hurting community. "I don't know if there are words to express how it feels to be among a community that is struggling like that. There are not enough words in the dictionary to explain it," shared Sellers. She did not want to go home that Saturday evening. The need in Uvalde was great and the hearts of many people were open to hear about God. Volunteers brought encouragement for a few days, but MiMi sensed the burden for a full-time worker who could provide emotional and spiritual support to the people at this time—someone to become part of the community, organize ministry, and train volunteers. She began praying for God to provide someone.

While preparing to go to Uvalde for three days and then on to California, Angela Carrillo realized God had other plans. Relief washed over MiMi when Angela called to tell her God wanted her to go to Uvalde and stay till the end of the year. Angela has worked in the ministry of CEF for over

why?

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. The booklet has been translated into 54 languages and well over 12 million copies have been distributed around the world. Most recently, 5 million were distributed in Ukraine and bordering countries.

Visit 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.



22 years. She's a *Children's Ministries Institute* graduate with leadership experience and has led training courses in English and Spanish. Within 24 hours God had provided for half of Angela's living expenses through the end of the year.

Angela shared, "On Friday, June 3, I began my journey to Uvalde. Upon entering this large but small community, I could feel the sadness, pain, and hurt this community is feeling. I knew at that moment, this is where I belong, where the Lord led me to, and where I will serve with a servant's heart."

Angela has become part of the community, made friends, and reached out to churches as they pick up the pieces and try to regroup. Many schoolteachers who also teach children's Sunday school, need time to heal and be ministered to. So Angela stepped in to help. She recruited volunteers from Houston to teach Party Clubs in day care and community centers and organized teams to teach 5-Day Clubs throughout the community. Early on, Angela had five people from Uvalde who wanted to help with *5-Day Club* ministry. When people are ready, she'll provide training for them to effectively teach boys and girls about Jesus.

Finding a place to live through the end of the year was a challenge for Angela. But when 93-year-



old Catherine heard about Angela's need, she was excited to offer her a place to stay. For six months, Catherine had been asking God to send someone to help her have a *Good News Club*. She once hosted a club in her home but had to stop because at 93, she needed help. Now, plans are underway for GNC to be held this fall in Catherine's home with the help of volunteers from her church.

It may be hard to understand the depth of shock and grief people experience after tragedies such as in Uvalde. We wonder how such sadness can ever know joy again. Yet out of tragedy a strength can rise from beyond oneself—the strength of God comforting, healing, and loving through others. May Uvalde Strong not just be a desire for the people of Uvalde to have the strength to move on, but the reality of a community bonded together in the love of God.



"I don't know if there are words to express how it feels to be amongst a community that is struggling like that."

LATEST UVALDE UPDATE

120 
children reached in
6 Party Clubs

8 
attended training



**JULY 22: FIRST GNC
AT UVALDE LIBRARY**

125 
children reached in
2 Good News Clubs

7 
professed faith in Jesus



HOPE for UKRAINE Continues

War leaves its scars on the land and people. Once beautiful cities have been turned to rubble, factories are open shells of buildings, and the land is littered with craters and demolished trucks and tanks. People search for food, water, and a safe place to sleep. Although thousands have fled Ukraine, many remain. Death, destruction, and uncertainty from day to day bring despair.

Bogdan Bassara, international multimedia director for CEF, has traveled into Ukraine many times. After one of his trips in May he wrote, "Words or even pictures cannot express what has happened in Borodianka,



Irpin, Bucha, and Hostomil and continues to happen elsewhere in Ukraine."

As volunteers from Moldova prepared to deliver Gospel backpacks to Odessa, Ukraine, they wondered if they would make it. The day before their trip seven bombs fell in the neighboring town and the day before that Odessa had been bombed.

But God protected and provided. The Ukrainian Christians were thankful to have Gospel backpacks to give to children at camp. They knew the backpacks would bring much joy to the children and the Good News of Jesus.

Although war adds challenges to ministry, God's work has not stopped! Bogdan's

Facebook posts show

the networking done among various countries and their commitment to continue to provide Hope for Ukraine!

MARCH 26: 500 Gospel packs sent from Romania to Ukraine

APRIL 4: Thank you for the Gospel backpacks that many of you prepared in Poland. Tuesday I'm going to deliver 670 to Ukraine! Another transport coming soon. Please pray for CEF Easter Clubs in Ukraine which despite the war continue to go on. Glory to our Lord God!

APRIL 23: Christ is risen! Today Katowice, tomorrow Warsaw! Backpacks with the Gospel for guests from Ukraine in Poland.

Hope for Ukraine Update

as of June 29, 2022

1,633,000

Do You Wonder Why? booklets have been printed and many already distributed.



124,400

Backpacks, pens, and *Meet the King!* booklets have been purchased.



Approximately 92,000 Gospel backpacks have been filled and taken into Ukraine. Others are distributed in the neighboring countries in special "hope clubs." Plans are underway to print more *Do You Wonder Why?* booklets in Russian.



MAY 5: From Poland, Netherlands, and CEF European Conference, 900 backpacks were transported to Ukraine. Thank the Lord for the provision of a 2008 Mercedes Vito van from brothers in the Netherlands. This will help us to move the backpacks faster. To God be the Glory!

MAY 27: What a joy it was to take Gospel backpacks yesterday to Ukraine together with my dad, ... Please pray for us as we go with another load to Irpin on Sunday. And pray especially for dear Ukrainian children who read the Gospel received through these Gospel Packs!

JUNE 1: Backpacks with the Gospel distributed to Ukrainian children near Warsaw on Children's Day!

JUNE 7: Friday, June 10 at 5:30 pm - I invite you to prepare Gospel backpacks in Piask (Poland)... Leaving for Ukraine on Saturday. See you later! (Included response from Slovakia: Our church did 250 packs yesterday. Thank you for the printed Gospel tracts!)

JULY 1: The car is loaded. I have the honor to go on Saturday to Zhytomir,

Ukraine, with the Gospel backpacks prepared in the Netherlands, Slovakia, and at the children's Gospel camp in Poland.

JULY 7: I was not planning another trip to Ukraine this week. But my car is again full of Gospel backpacks so I will go on Friday. (Volunteers from different cities in Poland continue to prepare Gospel backpacks.) Earlier this week I talked to my co-worker in Ukraine, and she said that on Monday they had a meeting and prayed for the new backpacks to arrive as they need them urgently. God is great and in control of everything.



OTHER SUMMER MINISTRIES

IULIAN MANGALAGIU, Regional Director of Europe



Children at camps in Latvia, Poland, and Slovakia prepared Gospel backpacks and prayed for the children in Ukraine. During children's camp in Estonia in mid-June, one boy from Ukraine, Tymofii, shared, "The most exciting part in the camp has been the graduation from God's Special Agents course. I received a certificate and bracelet, and I am ready to witness to my friends from Ukraine." The next week 80 Ukrainian children attended camp.

JUNE 29: Four cars travelled from Romania to Ukraine with **6,690 Gospel backpacks** and **14,000 Do You Wonder Why? booklets**.

JULY 15: **4,000 backpacks** were delivered to Ukraine.

God has raised up prayer warriors and missionaries around Europe, many serving together because of what is happening in Ukraine. CEF Ukrainian missionaries continue to reach boys and girls for Jesus, although they suffer hardship and loss. War may leave scars, but God continues to give hope.



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.



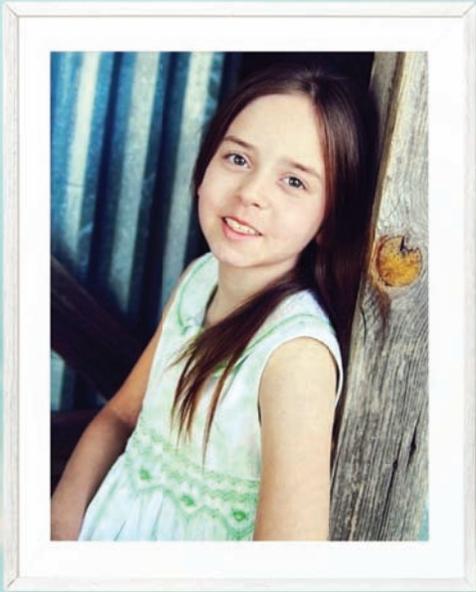
Since 1972 the Sponsor-A-National™ program has provided financial assistance to trained nationals who live in areas where it is difficult to raise support. Presently over 1,100 CEF national missionaries* receive assistance through the SPAN™ program each month. This enables them to spend more time sharing the Good News about Jesus with the children.

*This includes our Ukrainian missionaries.

Savannah Rose

TABBETHA HUX, Good News Club Mom, South Carolina

My daughter, Savannah Rose, was a loving, caring, and friendly child, always willing to help and include others. She loved spending time with her brother and sister. When they played school, Savannah was the teacher and Brice and Ryleigh her students. She had a great imagination.



In June 2010, we moved and Savannah had to start third grade in a new school. One day she came home with a permission

slip to join the local *Good News Club*. Soon she was attending club at a local Baptist church. Savannah's love for Jesus grew. She often took her Bible to school and read it after she was done with her assigned reading.

In March 2011, Savannah jumped into the car after *Good News Club* with exciting news--she had talked with Mrs. Sharon and received Jesus as Savior! I cried tears of joy for her. We met with our pastor, and Savannah was baptized on Palm

Sunday. Little did we know God's perfect plan was playing out.

After Savannah finished vacation Bible school at church on Friday, June 17, we headed to Columbia to enjoy Father's Day weekend as a family. We had fun at a splash pad for a few hours on Sunday, said good-bye to my father-in-law, and then started traveling home. While driving on the highway, our tire blew. My husband, Jonathan, tried to keep control of the car, but it spun out of control and flipped several times before landing tires up.

I was the first one out of the car after it stopped. People stopped to help get everyone out of the car and call the ambulance. Both Brice and Ryleigh came out with no scratches or bruises. Jonathan suffered a concussion and ended up having shoulder surgery. But as soon as I saw Savannah, I knew something was wrong.

She was flown by helicopter to a local hospital where she suffered severe head trauma from the wreck. Nine-year-old Savannah passed away so suddenly. But we are grateful for those who taught her about Jesus at *Good News Club*.

...
LITTLE DID WE
KNOW GOD'S
PERFECT
PLAN WAS
PLAYING OUT.
...

YOUR CEF RESOURCES:

Your nearest local CEF chapter:

chapters.cefonline.com for training, children's ministry resources, and ministry opportunities

Children's ministry resources:

cefpres.com | cefonline.com/resources | unite.cefonline.com

Training: cefcmi.com for campus and online training

Ministry Information: cefonline.com

A Change in Anna

MATTHEW WADE, Local Director of CEF Manasota, Florida

When Anna* began attending *Good News Club*, almost instantly, it became evident God was working in her life. For several weeks she asked questions at club and soaked up all the answers like a sponge. It did not take long for God's Word to take root in Anna's heart, and about a month after club began, she accepted Jesus as her Savior.

Although Anna keeps busy—drawing, dancing, knitting, crocheting, designing Barbie clothes, braiding hair, and learning to play the piano—there is one habit she learned from *Good News Club* that has helped her grow closer to the Lord. Anna learned how to have a daily Quiet Time. She once said, "*Good News Club* helped me understand the Word of God and Jesus. I have learned a lot!"

Anna's mother expressed her gratitude for *Good News Club*: "Anything that helps my child understand the Bible and God more, I am all for it!"

*name changed



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.

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*.

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Mark your calendar!

CEF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 8-12, 2023

Ridgecrest Conference Center
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Enjoy the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains and a time of refreshment and renewal!

Ministry to Migrant Caravans in Mexico



Jesus is the answer to the hopelessness of these people.

As the number of migrant caravans traveling through Mexico to the U.S. reaches double digits, *CEF* workers in Mexico have mobilized to reach this mission field of thousands of people walking through their country.

CEF national director of Mexico, Enrique Serralta, plans to reach caravans by activating *CEF* workers along the route and at both the southern and northern borders. The name of the project is *Por el Niño Migrante y de la Frontera* (For the Migrant and Border Child).

The pilot project started in the Mexican state of Chiapas that borders Guatemala. Eight years ago, Enrique and his wife, Mayté, provided extensive training to local churches with the goal of reaching out to local families. Now those trained workers are focused on reaching migrant children.



Ten-year-old Sebastian, from Chiapas, listened as the Gospel was presented to a group of around 30 migrant children. After responding to the invitation to receive Jesus as Savior, he told the *CEF* worker he wanted to help evangelize migrant children coming through his town. He saw that Jesus is the answer to the hopelessness of these people.

By day, churches take food to people and invite them to listen to presentations using the booklet, *Do You Wonder Why?* This Gospel-centered trauma

healing booklet addresses the hard questions of why bad things happen in the world. It helps people identify their fear and questions about life, explains how sin came into the world, and shares the only remedy is trusting Jesus Christ as Savior. During the presentations, children are invited to attend a *Good News Club* held specific times at the town plaza.

By night, women and children are invited to sleep in churches as well as on the ground in town plazas for their safety. With such a large crowd, thousands more sleep outside the town. *CEF* workers take water, bandages, and socks to clean the feet of children who have suffered greatly on the long journey. They hear stories of traveling through forests or mountains and lives lost due to sickness, being swept away in rivers, malnutrition, and dehydration. They also hear about violent assaults of every kind including countless stories of children dying and women who cannot save their own children because of being attacked themselves.

As the pilot program found success in the south, Enrique desired to see these same people followed up in the north. So, he has been on a long and difficult trip visiting the *CEF* workers and pastors along the northern border of Mexico.

Eleven-year-old Anthony was a migrant child sitting with his mother and siblings while Enrique and Mayté passed by one evening. Mayté shared the Gospel using *The Wordless Book*. As she described heaven, the boy's eyes sparkled, and he asked if heaven is like the U.S. She told him, "Better, it is perfect." When she explained sin, and asked him for examples, he told of terrible things he had seen on their journey. Anthony received Jesus as Savior, and then Mayté explained God's promise in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Faith welled up in Anthony as he closed his hands, raised them in triumph and exclaimed, "Yes! He will never leave me!"

IN THIS ISSUE:



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