

WINTER 2022

onmission

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



CAMPS

A LIFE-CHANGING WEEK

PLUS:
HOPE FOR UKRAINE UPDATE
LEADERSHIP COURSES
SHORTFALL

“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

ISAIAH 6:8 (ESV)

We learn a lot from the prophet Isaiah about the Lord Jesus Christ and many verses from his prophecies are quoted around Christmas time. He was probably one of the most well off prophets, with a high level of influence and yet nothing influenced *him* more than his meeting with the Lord in Isaiah 6.

A few years ago I heard a sermon at Christmas time when the preacher asked what would we do differently if this was our last Christmas. Since then, every year I remember this same sermon.

Each of us knows that there are children who desperately need to know about the Saviour and why He came. We know that if more churches and volunteers are involved we can reach more children and we know that God can use Christmas Clubs to change lives forever.

Can I encourage you this Christmas to remember back to the day that you first met God, when you understood His calling on your life and you responded to Him. As you remember how He worked in the life of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, wise men and many others, remember that He revealed Himself to you too!

Christmas reminds us that God took the initiative in our lives and He is ready to do that in the lives of many children across Europe. What a wonderful blessing to know that He calls us to be part of what He is doing.

May this Christmas be a time of rededication to the One who called us. May our love for Him grow, our faith in His promises be strong and may our passion to see Him be glorified fill our hearts so that we must go—in His Name and for His sake.

“Here I am, send me!”



“MY BACKPACK DOES NOT HAVE ANY BOOKS IN IT!”

The little girl was so disappointed that her backpack did not have Gospel booklets among the other gifts. It was a mistake, but it showed the desire to learn more about God in this young life.

Over **100,000** backpacks have been filled and distributed to children in Ukraine and across Europe.

Hundreds of thousands of children have received a copy of the Gospel booklet *Do You Wonder Why?*—including this little girl.

Later, at camp she put her trust in the Lord. Praise God for the way that He is speaking to Ukrainian children through the Hope for Ukraine project!

Hope
for
Ukraine



Christmas is

one of the seasons of the year when family members make a special effort to get together. It has also become a special season for the CEF European family as it has united us in the “**Christmas Together**” (CT) initiative which was launched in 2019. Christmas together marked the coming together of CEF teams throughout Europe, together with local churches to share the Good News of the promised Saviour with children who had never heard. The Education and Multimedia departments came together to develop and provide resources that CEF teams could use and share with churches and volunteers.

On Friday, 23 September many CEF workers and volunteers from around Europe were once again together as preparations for Christmas Together 2022/23 were already under way. The location for this special event was Zoom. The number of countries represented was 38. The number of participants, approximately 300. Translation was taking place into 10 different languages. We heard inspiring CT stories and testimonies from workers around Europe. The Multimedia and Education departments presented existing and new CT resources. Our newly appointed president of CEF worldwide, Rev. Jeremiah Cho, shared his vision and burden for CT—a ministry he pioneered first in Sri Lanka and then later throughout the Middle East region. God challenged us through each one who shared to seek new opportunities, knock on doors we’ve never knocked before, establish new partnerships with local churches and other like-minded organisations—all for the purpose to give children who have never heard the Gospel before the possibility to do so—at least once!

The Christmas Party Club (CPC) lessons and resource packs have been translated into 30 European languages. Until now, 9,450 Christmas lessons have been printed. Imagine if these 9,450 lessons were taken and used by 9,450 CEF workers and volunteers throughout Europe and each one reached 50 children at each CPC? What if they each reached 100 children? (I will leave you to do the math.) The potential is enormous! The need for prayer is great. **Will you join us and pray for Christmas Together 2022/23 daily during the months of December and January?** Contact the CEF National Office in your county, find out what’s happening and get involved.



“THE BEST THING I’VE EVER DONE!”

We are grateful to God that from the very beginning of CEF in Serbia in the 1970s until today, we see God who works in the hearts of people, calling them and equipping them for the ministry to children. Through the years of faithful ministry, we have also witnessed this, that God raises faithful servants from the children in Good News Clubs and places them in full-time ministry to children. This effective growing work is from Him alone.

From 2009, CEF Serbia is the owner of a property, a camp in central Serbia in the village of Mrcajevci. From then until now, summer and winter camps are held during the entire school holidays. Children come from all over Serbia as well as from different language groups. Sometimes the percentage of children who come from non-Christian families is very high, even up to 70 percent. That makes us happy and gives us the opportunity to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Although many children who come are from traditional families of the Orthodox religion, they do not know how to pray, and they also do not have or do not read the Bible. Our responsibility is to give them a copy of the Bible, teach

them how to use it and apply it to their life. We also teach them who needs to pray and how to pray. It is our joy that we have the huge support from most of the parents of the children. After camps they give testimonies that their children came home changed and that they are now much better children. They often ask us: How did you do that?

Statements like that of Maya (13) who said “*This camp is the best thing I’ve ever done in my life!*” are a frequent occurrence after our camps to which the children happily return each year.

Besides the evangelisation of children at camps, we provide the opportunity for training for teenagers and, after that, volunteering. The opportunity of serving brings children even closer to God and strengthens their faith. We now see that an entire generation of God’s warriors and servants is growing, and we are happy because of that.

Our entire ministry is supported by a large publishing activity. Since 1993, we publish and print CEF materials for children, teachers, parents, and churches. Our materials are used also in bordering countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. We have projects for printing Bibles, New Testaments,

the Gospel of John, as well as different Gospel booklets for mass distribution.

During the year, we realized a big need for a warehouse where we could store the materials which we produce and then distribute them further. We are immeasurably grateful to the Lord that we had the possibility to start this project in 2021. It looked like with the existing donations that we would complete it. But we didn’t. The war which started and with that the global increase in costs and services

increased the total price of the project. The roof was put on the building and then we had to stop construction. **To**

completely finish the warehouse project we still need 95,000 Euro. Would you pray together with us for this need?

And we testify today that “*For the word of God is alive and active.*” (Hebrews 4:12a) So we want to spread it, so that many lives will be under the influence of God’s active, powerful words.



"In these six days I learned that I need to follow the Lord Jesus because He paid for my sins. We need to confess the bad things which we have done and to accept Him into our hearts. And to pray every day."

Kristina

"I learned about the life of a disciple of the Lord Jesus. I learned how I can tell my testimony. I want to read the Bible more and to pray more."

Stasha

"I rarely go to church, but I really love this camp because I understand what we are learning. I can hardly wait for the next one."

Ludash

"During a *5-Day Club* after the Summer Missionary Course, more than 50 children in total gathered, in 7 groups. I spoke to everyone about *The Wordless Book*. There were children ages 3 to 16 years old. The message was appropriate, clear, and understood by the children. One little girl cried while I spoke about the death of the Lord Jesus."

Lidiya, student SMC



“IT’S TOTALLY WORTH IT!”

CMLC classes
this year in
Germany,
Romania
and Ireland

I can already hear you ask, “If something is totally worth it, I want to know about it! What is it?” The answer is simple—Children’s Ministry Leadership Course—or as we call it, CMLC. Students who completed the first 6-week module of this 12-week intensive training course in the summer told us what made CMLC ‘totally worth it’ for them.

“I was amazed to learn of so many ideas for working with children. I received many tools for evangelising children as well as to help believing children grow spiritually.”

“God was speaking to me throughout the 6 weeks, and I am thankful that I got to know Him better and to grow in my faith.”

“The teachers and the other students have taught me so much and I will always treasure them.”

“CMLC helped me to understand how important children’s ministry is and how God sees kids.”

There are two more ‘totally worth it’ CMLC’s currently taking place in Ireland and Germany (full 12 weeks). Just before Christmas, God willing, both groups of students will graduate. They represent seven European countries where thousands of children still need to hear the Gospel. Countries that need dedicated men and women who have a calling and vision to reach them.

What about you? What are your plans for the summer of 2023? I happen to know of a ‘totally worth it’ CMLC planned in Sibiu, Romania. Get in touch and find out more—you won’t regret it! cefeurope.com/education





SHORTFALL

“I attended Summer Missionary Training Week a few years ago. I hadn’t attended Good News Club® as a child, so I wasn’t familiar with CEF. However I saw that God was working in a special way. I loved attending 5-Day Clubs together with the local workers and my journey with CEF began.

It seemed that if I was willing, God had a place for me to serve. I volunteered at camps, helped with Christmas Together clubs and attended weekly Good News Clubs as a volunteer teacher. I was trained further and better equipped for the ministry by attending a Teaching Children Effectively™ course.

Recently I have been convinced that God wants me to serve Him full-time in CEF.”

What a joy to listen to testimonies like this one! God continues to answer prayer, new workers are joining CEF all across Europe and children are hearing the Gospel!

Some of the new workers do not have their full support—some because of the context they are serving in and some because they are new to the ministry and still trying to raise support. Gifts to the shortfall project are able to help new workers who are not yet 100 percent supported.

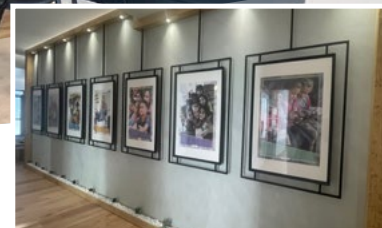
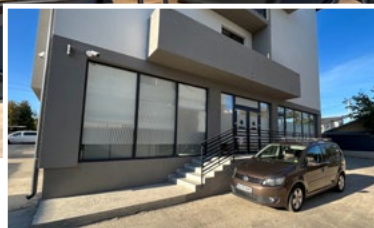
I hadn’t attended Good News Club as a child, so I wasn’t familiar with CEF. However I saw that God was working in a special way.

50% matching gift!

All donations given for the shortfall project will mean 50 percent more support for this project.

For more information about the shortfall project, supporting new workers or giving for CEF Europe, please contact partners@cefeurope.com





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onmission

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Office in Romania

Lațcu Vodă nr. 36B, Valea Adâncă, Iași, 700317, România
Tel: +40 0771 671 424

Office in Switzerland

Lischmatt 2, 4616 Kappel, Switzerland
Tel.: + 41 62 387 30 10

Email: info@cef-europe.com

Website: www.cef-europe.com

USA: CEF, PO Box 348, Warrenton, Missouri 63383

Canada: CEF, PO Box 165, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2G9

Ireland: CEF, 199 Templemore Avenue, Belfast BT5 4FR

Britain: CEF, PO Box 9281, Poole, Dorset. BH14 4FS

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Editorial/layout: Iulian Mangalagiu, Magdalena Piu, Brent Hautle, Tim & Sue Shirey.

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Regional office in Romania

Praise God for the completion of the European Regional Office in Iasi, Romania. We are thankful to God for His provision and care throughout this project too. Even before the office was completed we had opportunities to use the space for the Hope for Ukraine project and will continue to do so. We pray that this office will be a wonderful blessing as a hub for mission trips to Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and beyond as well as for ELAG and other leadership meetings, mini conferences, events for children and teens and as an administration centre for mailing out *onmission* and more. We look forward to giving more details about how God is using this office for the ministry of CEF across Europe in future editions of *onmission*.

Regional News

We say goodbye to **Lydia Hardesty** from the European staff. Lydia served in the Leadership Development Department with Philip and Denise Annett. Thank you Lydia for your ministry to the leaders in Europe and for the blessing you are to many. May God bless Lydia and Darrell as they get married in December and continue to serve Him together.

Praise God for new workers who have joined CEF throughout Europe in the last months. As we pray Luke 10:2, we are thankful to God that He is answering this prayer. **Miguel Sousa** has been appointed as Ministry Coordinator of CEF Portugal, **Irina Barbuta** as Guest Services & Hope for Ukraine coordinator and **Yasmina Chitescu** as financial manager—both of whom are at the European office in Iasi, Romania. We are thankful too for those who have answered God's call on a country level. Let's continue to pray for workers for Europe!