

SPRING 2023

onmission

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



Christmas Together

PLUS:
BEREG CAMP CENTRE
HOPE FOR UKRAINE UPDATE
SHORTFALL

“I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.”

ACTS 26:19 (ESV)

I love to read and recently have been blessed by reading books by Sam Doherty, the former European Director of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*®. He writes from a wealth of experience in walking with God and living a life that is dedicated to Him.

In one of his books called *Obedience to the Heavenly Vision* we are reminded that:

- God wants us to see Himself and His sovereignty.
- God wants us to see the children and their needs.
- God wants us to see the Gospel and its power.
- God wants us to see ourselves and our responsibility.

Why not take time today to pray for vision as you think about the points above. May we each have a greater vision of God and who He is and then in His strength do all that we can for the sake of the children around us knowing that the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation.

Can I encourage you to take up one of the books written by Sam Doherty today and ask God to speak to your heart as you read it. I pray that each one of us will be able to say,

“I was obedient to the heavenly vision!”



Christmas Together IN A BOMB SHELTER

Ukraine

Praise the Lord the evangelistic outreach at the school went well! The sirens sounded, but we were happy to meet in the bomb shelter and teach the lessons—the power was not even cut off! We had four lessons; 74 children and 44 parents came. Everyone listened attentively—there was no show of outrage, and no one left the meeting.

A first-grade girl heard that sin separates us from God. We explained that we need to turn away from sin and turn to God. Before she heard how to do it, the girl stood up and asked in a loud voice: “Which way should we turn? Left, or right? I want to be with God.”

I love these meetings with children, I see the importance of the truths of God’s Word.

France

A school invited CEF to hold a Christmas Club. The pupils discovered Christmas is more than bright decorations and presents—Jesus came to save them from sin. Some of the children who are usually disruptive, were attentive and curious to learn more. The headmaster could not believe how well they listened and was surprised at the quality of teaching. The children were from various religious backgrounds or atheists—some never heard the message of the Gospel. Pray the seed will sprout and bring salvation, healing and deliverance in Jesus Christ.

Ireland

After sharing the Christmas lesson in the church service, a mother came to John and said her son wanted to know more about trusting in Jesus. The boy is from

a Christian home, but John spoke to him and told him that though he was taught by his parents and knew lots about God, he needed a personal relationship with God. John encouraged him to talk to his parents, to think about what he heard and to come speak to him again at church. During that week the mother texted to say her son was impacted by what John shared. Something ‘clicked’ and seemed important to him. John asked him at a future service, and he said he had trusted in Jesus.

Bulgaria

At the start of December, Andrei and Ani presented the new Christmas material to teachers from Pleven and the surrounding area. The challenge was to organise a children’s festival in their church inviting twice as many children. They held 22 Christmas Clubs reaching 530 children. One teacher shared: “Over a month passed since I told the Christmas story to a poor family, a single mother with six children, in my village. They were deeply touched and they all wanted to give their lives to Jesus. Since then, they sing the song ‘Emmanuel, child of God...’” They were also given warm clothes and shoes—experiencing God’s love in practice.

Peter and Radka shared: “After the Christmas Club we started a Club in Marinka. Two of the girls were so happy to come. They shared that they told their father: ‘You could spank us, but we will

still go to the Club’. When the Holy Spirit works, he gives such a hunger that children are ready to suffer for their faith.”

North Macedonia

There was a child who came to Bible Clubs with his older brother and their relatives. They were regulars at summer camps but when they became teenagers they stopped coming to Clubs and we lost contact. Ten years later a different story. At Christmas, one of them, a famous hairdresser, opened his home so we could all come together along with their children—ten parents even came. We shared the lesson Emmanuel God with us. Our hearts melted looking at them all. Now we plan to start the regular preschool Club this spring.

Slovenia

We talked about the birth of Jesus with three families. The conversation was about God’s plan for man. Suddenly they realized that in 15 minutes they needed to catch their train. Someone among them said: “No problem, another will come. Let’s listen to the story of why Jesus was born.”

They stayed for an hour and happily heard that God had given mankind the greatest gift. We distributed 250 Bibles and leaflets that talk about the most beautiful Christmas.



CAMP MINISTRY





WELCOME TO

BEREG CAMP!

The children's excitement can be seen as they first arrive at Bereg Camp—their new home for the next several days: "What will the coming days be like?" The first time-campers especially look a little scared and it may take a day or two before they warm up and the biting homesickness leaves them. Eventually, all the devotion times in dorms, Bible teaching, missionary stories, gospel songs, fellowship, games, fresh food and—of course, new friends—will turn their fear into the feeling: "I don't want to go home!"

Bereg Camp, in Western Ukraine, is situated on a hillside surrounded by forests and agriculture. It has become a wonderful place—like an oasis for the soul—to get to know the Lord and to escape from the burdens of everyday life. The facility can host up to 80 children plus teachers and helpers.

The summer season is packed with children's or teen camps. Most of the young guests are attendees of a Good News Club® or a Junior Youth Challenge (JYC™) from the surrounding area as six full-time CEF workers and many volunteers serve nearby. During the rest of the year, many church retreats or teen groups are held—some coming from distant parts of Ukraine.

The Bereg Camp directors, Sándor and Klára, came to the camp in 2008 just as the first dorms were finished. They faithfully serve in managing the facility. Gáspár, a single brother, helps with the property maintenance, and the latest addition to the team is a couple with three children—the wife is the daughter of the camp directors. They volunteered as camp directors this past year since brother Sándor suffered a serious accident and then were suggested as full-time staff.

From the beginning of the Bereg Camp ministry, we planned and prayed for the next steps of the construction project. This includes building a house with a large four-season meeting hall, a dining hall and a kitchen that meets all official requirements. This would allow us to refurbish the present dining hall into a multi-purpose room. An architect

completed a blueprint for the new building. We are praying, however, for the end of the war to apply for the construction approval. We also envision building a gym and a small indoor swimming pool to finish the major projects.

Under the present circumstances, it is hard to estimate the financial need. What we do know, is our Heavenly Father, who always has been the Great Provider, will speak to the hearts of His people and will give what we need to accomplish the project.

Are you willing to pray with us

for the salvation of many boys and girls in Ukraine, for safety and God's provision? We appreciate your ministry of prayer for us. We hope and pray that the excitement of boys and girls attending a Bible camp and getting to know God's way will not cease for any reason.

Funds for the project can be sent to your national CEF office, designate for "Bereg Camp project".

For further information contact Sebastian Edelmann, Project Manager, by email sebastian.edelmann@cefeurope.org or phone +36 20 775 9310.





Q&A WITH IGOR AND VIKTORIA DRAGUNOVY

AREA DIRECTORS FOR CEF IN EASTERN EUROPE

As it is now one year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, how have you seen God at work in the ministry of CEF?

Thank you for your prayers and support for our staff and ministry during these trying times. Each day brings new challenges for us. The year has passed, and we see that though some of the team has gone abroad and seven people have left the ministry, all together, we reached about the same number of children as we did before the war. Tens of thousands of displaced children from dangerous areas have been reached and more literature was handed out than ever before. God cared and provided for us, especially in this difficult year. Therefore, there is no doubt that He is faithful in His promise to be with us until the end of the age (Matt. 28:20).

Can you give an example of a "surprise" blessing—something you never thought possible, but God did it anyway?

If we think about unexpected blessings, it refers to the special work of God in many of the workers who stayed and continued in ministry even when there are rocket attacks. Therefore, *"He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God."* Psalm 20:6-7 NASB. We didn't expect to see so much courage and hard work in so many of our employees, despite the tremendous stress, strain, lack of heat, light, and communication.

Can you give us one or two prayer requests?

We praise the Lord the ministry continues in all countries in Eastern Europe to a greater or lesser degree. Because laws change all the time, demands on organisations change as well. We ask for prayer that we will work according to the law, be accurate, and exercise our rights and responsibilities according to God's plans for us. Pray too for God's help in the difficult circumstances in Ukraine.

Hope
for
Ukraine



WANT TO HELP?

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SHORTFALL

AND ANDREW BROUGHT HIS BROTHER

JOHN 1:42

It always amazes me when reading Biblical narrative, how with just a few words, a wonderful story is explained. We learn a lot about Andrew in six words. **He brought his brother.** Andrew's personal experience meant that he wanted his brother to be involved too—and he brought him. A few chapters later, Andrew is bringing someone else. He finds that a young boy has lunch that may be worth sharing and he brings the information to the Lord Jesus.

If it hadn't been for Andrew—would Peter have been a disciple? Or would the 5,000 have been fed? Maybe that's a question for another time! However, what great joy for those like Andrew to see that their contribution makes a difference!

We need Andrews for the shortfall project in Europe. Do you know someone that you can tell about worker support in Europe? Can you be an "Andrew"

for the 300 workers in Europe who currently need support?

We are praying that in 2023, God will provide new ministry partners who will stand with us in supporting workers who desperately need support so that they can carry out their ministry. And we need some Andrews to bring them!

Please contact us at info@partners.cefeurope.org for more information

REGIONAL NEWS

New National Director

Praise God for providing a new National Director for the Republic of Moldova. Teo Ene was appointed on the 17th November 2022. We are thankful to God for Teo. Pray for him as he settles into this new role and pray for the National Directors across Europe as they guide their team of workers.

Update from Philip Annett

We continue praying for Philip Annett, Department Director of Leadership Development, and his family as he recovers from the stroke he had



in October. The following is an update from Philip.

"In Isaiah 28:21 we are reminded that the Lord is always working for our good and His glory, but sometimes His deeds will be strange and alien to us. Recently this has been our family experience. I suffered a stroke on 22 October and was unable to speak or respond to instructions.

We praise God for the emergency help in the form of clot buster medication and then a procedure removing the clot. I am very grateful to everyone who has been praying for me during my illness. I am praising God for the amazing

things He has done for me. At the beginning of January I graduated from speech therapy classes and I can now communicate well with people through chats, messages and emails! I am physically doing well and working each day to keep up a good exercise program. I would value your prayers that I would progress well in the emotional side of my recovery. The mental battle is tough, but pray that we would know God's presence and power in our lives. We are confident of the promise in Philippians 1:6 "he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ". We look forward to returning to ministry again when the recovery is complete.

INTERESTING, VALUABLE, INFORMATIVE, ENCOURAGING, INCREDIBLE!



Who said these words? What were they describing? Would you like to know? Well, during the 16th – 20th of January 2023, 13 students representing 10 European countries took part in the first **Candidate Orientation Training (COT)** course—online. At the end of the course, we asked them to try and sum up the week we had spent together using only one word. Now that the mystery is solved and you have answers to the questions above, let me tell you more about the COT course and why we organised it.

In recent years we have had a growing number of countries in Europe where active CEF volunteers had moved into the category of candidates in training and become potential new fulltime workers. As they had not yet taken the 12-week Children's Ministry Leadership Course, the COT course was designed to give these potential new workers a "bigger picture" of CEF so that they could have a deeper and clearer understanding of how CEF functions as a mission organisation. Topics that were covered during the week included: the vision, purpose, and goals of CEF; The CEF worker; Prayer and the CEF worker; Finances and the CEF worker; CEF and the local church; Literature ministry; Training ministry; Reaching children through ... (six different methods of child evangelism were presented). In total there were 18 classes, two Q&A sessions, five devotionals on "Being Obedient to the Heavenly Vision"—all taught by 18 teachers who shared from their hearts, ministry, and experience.

The testimony of one student sums up what our prayer and desire is as we plan to continue organising COT courses, "This course met all my expectations. It was so nice to get all these pieces of the CEF picture at the beginning of my new ministry. It was inspirational and made it even more attractive for me to sign up for the CMLC!"

Pray with us that God will use the COT course to help many active volunteers and candidates in training to take the next step as they seek to serve and follow Him!



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