

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Winter
2023

WONDERS OF GOD



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you considered the wonders of God? Maybe you think about the wonders of Christmas this time of year. What excites me most is the wonder of God's work to bring lost sinners into a relationship with Himself. God continues to show His love and grace by making Himself known in ways that would never happen without His intervention.

As we prepared to tell the true meaning of Christmas to 10 million children this Christmas season, the Lord provided the enormous funding through the hands of precious ministry partners in the United States, Korea, and other countries. Christmas Party Club materials were translated into many languages and 300,000 copies of visualized lessons were printed and delivered through 15,000 Party Club training seminars to evangelists in most countries around the world. We are hearing news of a fruitful harvest this Christmas season.

In this edition of Impact, you'll read testimonies that will make you wonder at how God—

- Impacts hearts through His Word.
- Brings us together to make a difference.
- Changes lives through loving service.
- Provides in the midst of instability.
- Accomplishes His purposes through us.
- Teaches us to be better witnesses.

I am grateful for you, your prayers, and your financial support. God uses your partnership in powerful ways.

Our goal for 2024 is to recruit over 450 new full-time staff around the world and strive to reach over 30 million children. We hope you will serve shoulder to shoulder with us so we can do our utmost to reach Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day.

I pray the Lord's grace will reveal fresh wonders of our God to you in the new year.

A servant of the Gospel,



Rev. Jeremiah Cho

You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples."

—Psalm 77:14

Impact is published quarterly by
Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.,
PO Box 348, Warrenton MO 63383
800.748.7710

Contributors:
Editor Debra Hane
Assitant Editor Jeremy J. Lloyd
Design Tristen Stogsdill

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Please Pray

- 1 Children will develop a love for God's Word and spend time in it every day.
- 2 More churches will partner with *Child Evangelism Fellowship®* and sponsor after-school Good News Clubs.
- 3 Children's lives will be changed through attending *Good News Club®* and other *CEF®* ministries.
- 4 God would provide opportunities to reach those who have not yet heard about Him.
- 5 The Lord of the harvest will send more laborers to every area of the world to reach children.
- 6 *CEF* training will prepare effective children's workers.



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Teach children the WONDER OF GOD



The 60 Day Wonder Devotional Book™ Series of Six

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 to learn more about Christian evangelistic and growth materials for children.

Help children spend
time in God's Word
EVERY DAY!



THE WONDERS OF WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

EVA, BURUNDI

WHAT IS WONDER?

Have you ever experienced wonder—that feeling of awe or amazement caused by something you've seen?

I have experienced wonder as I observed children in Burundi grow in their appreciation of God using *The Wonder Devotional Books* this year, or "Igitabu gitangaje" as we call it in Kirundi (national language of Burundi).

THE WONDER OF REALIZING GOD CAN SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY

"How do I know for sure God is speaking to me?" nine-year-old Salome asked after reading a *Wonder Devotional Book* for the first time.

"Well Salome, you just spent time having devotions," I responded. "Is there anything in particular you felt God was trying to tell you?"

She replied, "I felt God

telling me I am special to Him. He took time to create me, so I am special to Him. I just wanted to be sure it is God speaking to me."

Salome's follow-up questions were even more interesting.

- Does God say the same thing to each of us when we read the same verse in the Bible?
- Will God speak to me the same way if I have devotions every day?
- Will God always say something new?

Her joy of discovering God's voice for the first time was profound.

Later I shared our conversation with Salome's mom. She was in awe and said, "Of all my children, Salome has always been least interested in the things of God. Maybe my telling her about God is not enough. Maybe her spending time with God is the answer."

What a wonder!

THE WONDER OF REALIZING GOD THINKS ABOUT YOU

Since 2018, Anastase reaches about 1,200 children each week through school ministry in Gika Fundamental School, Ngozi. One week he shared a *Wonder Devotional Book* with the children to teach them how to have a quiet time. Weeks after the children started using the devotional book,





13-year-old Zawadi approached Anastase with a question. Anastase knew her. She had received Jesus as Savior not long before, and she told him how elated she was because she had shared the Gospel with her parents and sister, and they too had received Christ. She asked Anastase, "Does God think about every child?" This question came about after studying *Wonder Devotional Book* 16, lesson 1, Choices. The memory verse was Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD..."

This may seem like a simple question, but having known Zawadi's Muslim background, Anastase knew it wasn't.

Zawadi had shared with Anastase that her father has five wives and eleven children. So Anastase understood this is a child whose father may not have given her any attention. She was amazed to know God

knows her personally and has good thoughts about her.

"How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:17.

The next month, Zawadi became increasingly interested in the things of God. She attended *5-Day Club*®, where she learned about missionary Mary Slessor. On the last day of club, children were challenged to dedicate their lives to Jesus. Zawadi responded and shared with Anastase that she wanted to become a missionary. She wanted to join *Christian Youth In Action*® so she could learn to share the Gospel with others.

What a wonder!



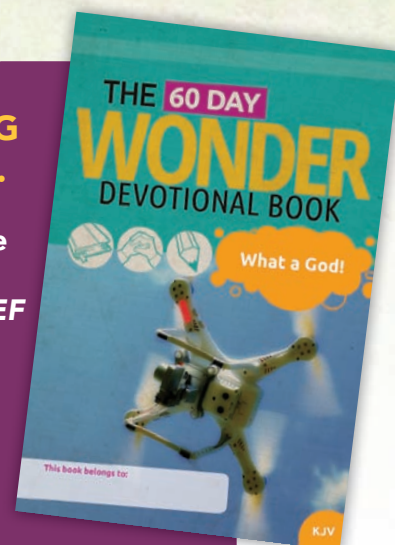
WHAT PARENTS AND TEACHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOKS.

"It's a great day in Burundi every time we receive *The Wonder Devotional Books*," said Leonie, a CEF worker involved in school ministry. "Thomas, one of the parents, said, 'I am so impressed with the impact *The Wonder Devotional Book* had on my daughter, Ladouce. I am amazed to see how she has changed since she started doing her devotions regularly. Her desire to seek God has also increased significantly.'"

Benoit, a teacher who uses the books with his students, gave these reasons why he loves CEF *Wonder Devotional Books*:

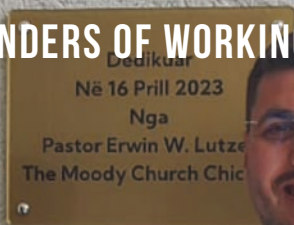
- They guide children to meditate on God's Word and have personal devotions daily.
- The language is simple and easy enough for a child to understand.
- It helps children read the Bible each day.

What a wonder!





WONDERS OF WORKING TOGETHER



Why Church Partnerships are so Valuable

ALESIO SEMA, ALBANIA

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, the Apostle Paul says, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”

Child Evangelism Fellowship is all about making Jesus known to children and teenagers around the world. We are committed to planting seeds that produce fruit. But we don’t do it alone.

During Christmas 2016, a *CEF* team, including trained volunteers from a partnering church, visited the small Muslim village Sovjan in southeast Albania. The team conducted a Christmas Party Club for children—with songs, games, and a lesson about the true meaning of Christmas. Many children heard for the first time how Jesus Christ loves them so much. He came down to earth, suffered, died, and came alive again so they can have a forever friendship with God. Jesus is indeed the greatest gift ever. About 300 children heard this Good News that day. Many wanted to know more about Him and some even brought their parents to the meeting. There was a hunger for Jesus.

The children who were reached, and even the adults, needed to be established in a local Bible believing church for Christian growth. This is why church partnerships are so valuable. *CEF* helps churches fulfill their challenge to reach their neighborhood and to the end of the world (Acts 1:8), and

church partners provide important follow-up ministry to encourage Christian growth.

At that moment it was clear, Sovjan needed a church. Our partnering church, the Evangelical Church of Libonik-Maliq,





immediately invited the children and parents who were present to meet again the following week. Many came. The children's ministry continued, and an adult meeting started. After one year, there was a church with a regular *Good News Club* and church ministry. Over time, the group grew in number, and they no longer fit in the place where they met. After much prayer and discussion, the local church created a partnership with the Albanian Church in Chicago and with The Moody Church. Through them, God provided a new church building in that village. The church was dedicated on Easter 2023 by Erwin Lutzer, Pastor Emeritus of The Moody

Church. Along with *CEF* workers, over 150 people celebrated the mighty work God alone started and continues to do in a small Muslim village in southeast Albania.

The Evangelical Church of Libonik-Maliq and its pastor have followed the *CEF* strategy for Christmas Party Clubs. In the last nine years, they have successfully planted seven churches in villages reached through their ministry partnership with *CEF*. Looking back, it all started with prayer, *CEF* staff training and equipping local church volunteers, Christmas Party Clubs, and people with passion and a heart to give glory to God in everything they do.

NOTABLE CHANGE

ZIMBABWE

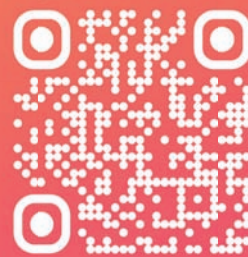
Six pastors and several children's workers attended over a dozen Super Seminar courses in Zimbabwe. As a result, Good News Clubs were established in Windsor and Solomio.

The *Good News Club* affiliated with the Solomio church began in May 2023. The club has 41 children of mixed ages. They are enthusiastic about the games and enjoy the social interaction during club.

The change in the children has been notable. They have become more obedient to their parents, improved in self-awareness, and are able to recite verses and apply them to their lives. Now more leaders are needed to cope with the growing numbers.

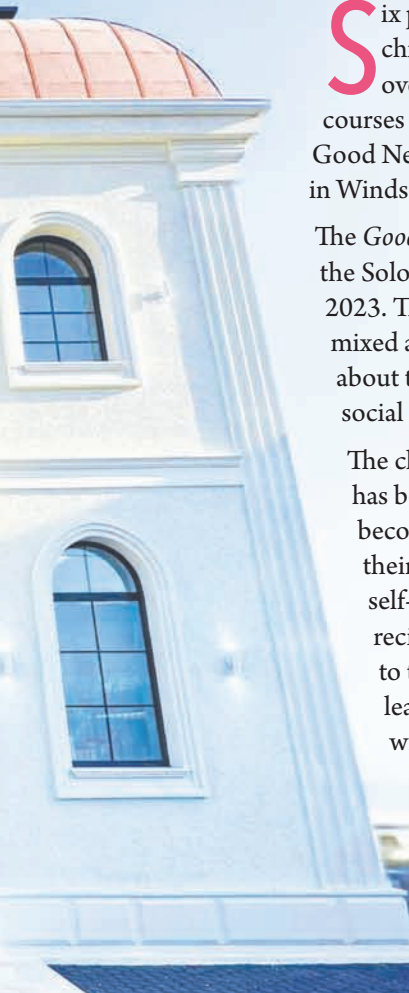


Uniting Kids with The Gospel
Through Technology



cefonline.com/unite

A Ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*





BOUNCY HEART

DIANA DOYLE, GNC™ TEAM LEADER, CEF VIRGINIA, PENINSULA CHAPTER

In *Good News Club* this year we had a delightful but energetic first grader. Each week she came bounding into club full of enthusiasm, bouncing from one table group to another, then wiggling and chattering through the Bible lesson and other club activities. I prayed God's truths would get into her bouncy heart.

During the last club of the year, each child received a *Wordless Book* wristband. As I explained God's salvation plan through the colors,

my bouncy first grader was as active and distracted as ever.

The next week, while attending a school play, I spoke with a fifth grader from our GNC™. She was a teacher's helper for my bouncy first grader's class. She shared that a couple days after our final club, she entered the first-grade classroom to help and saw that bouncy first grader sharing the Gospel message with a friend using her *Wordless Book* wristband.

God works, even in bouncy hearts!



CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL ON DRUGS

SUSAN GAMA, ZIMBABWE

After a few weeks of *Good News Club* at a private school, I discovered a group of boys who were into drugs. They came to school while they were high. I thank God that

one day after having a Bible lesson, two of them received Christ as Savior. They no longer take drugs and even their parents noticed a change.





TOUCHING LETTER

JOYCELINE, SEYCHELLES ISLAND

An eight-year-old Muslim girl attended our Bible class at school. One day when I was unable to be there, I asked a volunteer to teach in my place. She gave the students paper and asked them to write a letter to God. "Of all the students in the class hers was most touching," said the volunteer.

The girl wrote in her letter, "God are you real? I want to know more of you."

Please pray for her because she no longer attends the Bible class. It was not her parents who stopped her, but because Muslims are not allowed to attend our classes, the class teacher will not allow her to attend.

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
cefonline.com/unite

Training: cefcmi.com for campus and online training

Ministry Information: cefonline.com



Fellowship One:Seven™

*A biblical podcast from
Child Evangelism Fellowship*

*Sharing the Truth of Christ's Light
with His Disciples*

We —

- discuss God's calling to share the Gospel with children around the world.
- explore the biblical foundation of child evangelism.
- interview individuals involved in the ministry.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

Join us!

cefonline.com/fellowshiponeseven

WHAT IF YOU COULD REACH
ONE SOUL
FOR ETERNITY?

Maybe you feel it too—the financial belt is tightening.

Although giving trends have been going down, ministry needs and opportunities abound. Please pray God will provide 10,000 new monthly sponsors this coming year for our **ONE SOUL PROJECT**.

We know every soul is valuable to God, which is why our vision statement is

EVERY CHILD · EVERY NATION · EVERY DAY.

On average, \$5 helps us reach one child. That one child may attend a weekly *Good News Club*, a summer *5-Day Club*, a week at *Camp Good News®*, or a special *Party Club*. And you can know that one soul will hear the Good News of Jesus.

**We're here to make
an eternal difference
in the life of a child!**



THE PICTURE OF AN UNSTABLE COUNTRY THROUGH GOD'S LENS

Among the world's most unstable countries, South Sudan has the highest poverty rate in the world and faces ongoing violence, a severe hunger crisis, and devastating flooding. Yet these challenges cannot stop God. His constant provision and protection enable CEF missionaries to faithfully share the Good News of Jesus.

SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH

In May, while children were on school break, our missionaries teamed up with *Christian Youth In Action* participants to run 5-Day Clubs in many areas. As I visited and even taught in a few clubs, I was excited to see children openly respond to the message of salvation. Parents also came to listen to the Word of God. They appreciated the impact CEF had in their children's lives and many requested to host a 5-Day Club. We organized 73 clubs and reached 9,311 children with 3,800 professions of faith. The saved children are discipled through Good News Clubs, Bible camps, and local churches.

EQUIPPING THROUGH LITERATURE

We have been blessed with CEF literature for the ministry and distribute it to churches and partner ministries. These materials transform the lives of boys and girls as well as church leaders. We receive positive testimonies from pastors and children's workers who say CEF materials make it easier to reach and disciple children. Last year we distributed materials to over 2,500 Sunday school teachers and 5,000 children. Our goal this year is to strategically distribute literature to at least 6,000 teachers and benefit 150 churches. We also plan to distribute 150,000 copies of *The Gospel of John*, *Meet the King!*, and *Do You Wonder Why?* to boys and girls.

GETTING TO THE UNREACHED

At the beginning of the year, we asked God to help us start CEF ministry in a new area. God answered our prayer through Viola, one of our volunteers. We received reports of how Viola reached children in Terekeka and the great need to establish ongoing ministry there. Terekeka has an unreached population, the Mundari, who are among the hostile communities in South Sudan. Pray for the teams and the plans to establish ministry in Terekeka in 2024.

**PRAY FOR THE TEAMS
AND THE PLANS TO
ESTABLISH MINISTRY
IN TEREKEKA IN 2024.**





**WE ORGANIZED 73 CLUBS AND
REACHED 9,311 CHILDREN WITH
3,800 PROFESSIONS OF FAITH!**



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 1,400 CEF national missionaries from 140 countries receive assistance through the SPAN™ program. This enables them to spend more time sharing the Good News about Jesus with the children.

LOOKING TO GOD IN THE **PAST,** **PRESENT,** AND **FUTURE**

“

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.”

——**LUKE 10:2**





**FRIK JANSE VAN RENSBURG,
SOUTHERN AFRICA/INDIAN OCEAN REGION**

In August 1991, my wife and I attended the 12-week *Children's Ministry Institute*® not knowing that God would lead us to join CEF to share the Gospel with children and adults in many countries all over the world.

I completed a one-year internship while taking a course in preventative health and studying French (the second official language of Madagascar) with hopes to one day learn Malagasy (the national language of Madagascar). God blessed us and we thank Him we never went to bed hungry. We learned we could trust Him in all things. All four of our children accepted Jesus as Savior before they were four years of age.

For eight years I served as national director of CEF Madagascar. God provided good workers and supporters. Our ministry began with four street children. We registered CEF with the government and established national leadership. The year we left Madagascar, almost 8,000 children were reached. God chose Pastor Diavolana to serve as the new national director of CEF Madagascar and blessed him with a big team. This year we believe

they will reach more than one million children. Keep praying for Pastor Diavolana and the CEF family in Madagascar.

For the next 24 years, God allowed me to serve as regional director of the Southern Africa/Indian Ocean Region. God blessed this region with growth from 167,000 children reached annually to almost 3 million. The ministry expanded from a few countries to all 16 countries in the region.

God blessed again in directing me to identify Jossefa Ngomane from Mozambique as a successor to train under me. This past June he became the CEF regional director for Southern Africa/Indian Ocean Region. Pray for Jossefa in this new position.

As I prepared to retire, CEF leadership had something else in mind. They asked me to become the area director for the six islands in the region. I will travel, train, lead, equip, and support. I trust God will continue to direct and provide.

Our goal is the same for these six countries:

Every Child • Every Nation • Every Day.



God blessed this region with growth from **167,000 children reached annually** to almost **3 million**.



TRAINING THAT IMPACTS LIVES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES INSTITUTE, SRI LANKA



As an important part of CEF strategy to reach Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day, training prepares men and women to effectively evangelize and disciple children. Over 400,000 people are trained annually through seminars, courses, and the *Children's Ministries Institute*. Each year the 12-week Institute is held in about 20 locations around the world. Last June, 17 students completed CMI® in Sri Lanka. All of them have become staff for CEF Sri Lanka. Here's what some had to say:



"CMI was all about how to train teachers to teach children in *Good News Club*, *Party Club*, *5-Day Club* and more. Learning how to teach children effectively was so helpful. I enjoyed the instructors and learned many new things. In the first weeks, we learned important facts about children: age group characteristics, different religions, children at risk, and theology of child evangelism. We also had to demonstrate what we learned during the class hours. In the course, we visited a school to observe children in their classrooms. This practical understanding allowed what we learned in the class to come alive. Practicum work allowed us to evaluate our teaching abilities. I thank God for the opportunity to attend CMI. I believe God will help and guide me to do His will in Sri Lanka." —Jason

"One thing I learned through this program is the discipline in doing God's ministry. Many people do not give much thought about the proper way of doing a ministry and only do it the way they want. CMI taught me to be serious and to have a proper discipline, plan, structure, and arrangement in serving God. CMI is worthwhile and opens doors to a fruitful ministry of evangelizing children. It taught me proper methods and steps to evangelize children effectively. I loved the devotionals, which helped me grow in the Lord and know more about Him. There was something always new in CMI, something to touch our hearts and prepare us for God's ministry." —Shalom

"My pastor requested I attend CMI to help our church ministry grow. I learned how to convey the Good News to children in a way they would understand, how to train others to share that Good News, and how to develop the ministry by connecting with other congregations. I am thankful for this Institute." —Kavindya

"During CMI I learned that children could receive salvation and how important this ministry is. So many children live in dire circumstances and Jesus is the only one who offers true hope. I also learned effective methods to share the Gospel with children and the need for teacher training. The morning devotional times were special and helped me grow in my spiritual life. I learned about time management and the orderliness required for doing ministry. I also came to know the unity of the CEF ministry and CEF family. I thank God for everything He has done in my life and specifically for the opportunity He gave me to attend CMI and join CEF." —Balachandran



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.

Find out more about CMI and CMI Online at cefcmi.com.



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STORY?

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