

SHARING THE VISION

OF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

2024 **SPRING**

The children need you

According to the proverb, one volunteer is 'Worth ten pressed men', presumably because they serve with joy and enthusiasm, rather than reluctantly, only for pay, or under duress. Whereas at one time the British Army called 'Volunteers' men who had often been tricked into taking the King's shilling while drunk, or as a way of avoiding the gallows, the word has now changed. The military began to describe part-time reservists as 'Volunteers' - which they by now truthfully were! - and across our society volunteers began to multiply in schools, hospitals, churches and charities, providing (especially for many women), a way of making a real positive difference in society and finding meaning and purpose in their own lives.

But volunteering has a much older history, which we can trace back at least as far as the second book of the Old Testament. Moses himself had been a reluctant 'volunteer' when God told him to go and tell Pharaoh to let His people go ! (Exodus 3:10 ff). God invested much time, encouraging words and the support of another volunteer - Moses' brother - before he eventually stepped forward to serve. From that point on Moses' exemplary life as a voluntary servant of God had life-changing consequences for him, for God's people, and for human history right down to this day.

Some forty years later Moses himself needs voluntary help with his mushrooming workload. "The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone", advises his wise father-in-law Jethro in Exodus 18:18. And so Moses begins to recruit apparently hundreds of fellow-believers to assist him voluntarily in his work. He had to be willing to let go, to delegate, to train and to trust, while they had to

be willing to submit, to learn, to work hard and to serve. For all of them, for Israel, for Moses, and indeed for us today, things would never be the same again. And in both cases the commitment involved was to be long-term.

CEF Britain has only a few full-time Christian workers, who work constantly and hard, with much skill and experience, but who, however hard they try, will never manage to reach more than a small percentage of the children in our nation. But if they could train others to serve as volunteers, whether doing direct evangelism, or in equally important back-stage rôles such as office work, then who knows how the work might grow!

Preaching the Gospel needs volunteers now more than ever before. The fields are still 'ripe for harvest', the labourers are still few, and the full-timers will never reach them all. Perhaps this article will serve the same function as Jethro did when he spoke to Moses, and begin

the process of recruiting you into voluntary service with CEF? Moses' helpers were not 'experts' either, but he helped them with the difficult parts of their work, and they appear to have learned on the job. We do not know their names, nor exactly how each one got on, but we do know that they played a vital part in God's work among His people - without their faithful, sacrificial and sustained effort Moses would not have had the time to climb Mount Sinai or to lead the people through the wilderness !

One final thought - did Moses and his assistants volunteer themselves - or were they first 'volunteered' by God Himself, at work in their hearts? If you are thinking of contacting CEF to offer yourself as a volunteer in this great work, then it will be because God is already at work in your heart, changing you so that you know that you want, even need, to offer yourself for service. And what God begins, He always finishes - to His greater Glory!

William Randall

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

A MISSION WITH GOD'S VISION FOR CHILDREN

www.cefbritain.org



UPDATE

Welcome to the team

■ My name is Kata Peters and I have joined CEF of Britain as Social Media Consultant in February. I finished university in 2023 with a diploma in commerce and marketing. Through working, I have gained expertise in social media, graphic design, editing and marketing. I am passionate about online communication, creating captivating content for several platforms, designing uniform graphics for projects and everything that is related to marketing.

I was born and raised in Hungary, in a Christian family – my parents being the leaders of CEF of Hungary. Growing up I always took part in the 5-Day Clubs, Good News Clubs, Easter and Christmas Clubs summer camps, and many more programmes that my parents had organised with



CEF in our neighbourhood. I gave my life to Jesus Christ at the age of 6 during one of these clubs.

I moved to England almost a year ago after I got married, and now I live in Bath, Somerset with my husband, Timothy, and together we love music, dancing, playing boardgames, and hosting our friends for dinner and good conversations.

In my new role as Social Media Consultant, my goal is to support, strengthen and promote the ministry of CEF in Britain by creating and monitoring social media content. I believe that social media is an important platform for any generation in this day and age, therefore it is a good place to promote the ministry of CEF, share the vision of the organisation and encourage people to join.

I'm very excited to be working with CEF of Britain through social media and looking forward to what God has in store both for me in this role and for CEF of Britain on the new platforms we are planning to enter.

Kata Peters



For more information on our **EQUIP** training, please use this link.

READY STEADY GO FOR GOD!

www.cefireland.com/hbc2024

NEW HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB RESOURCES 2024

- Activity Books
- Leader's Manual
- 'One Way' Lessons & Visuals
- Memory Verse Visuals
- Team Icons
- Outdoor Banner
- Pop-up Banner

■ My name is Louis and It's a real blessing to join the CEF Britain team as the treasurer of the national committee in January of this year. I grew up in a catholic family but never really understood who Jesus and was never taught as a child. Through God's grace I became a Christian at university in Exeter through faithful friends at the CU. I started attending Belmont Chapel where I grew as a Christian through my time at university.



When I graduated I moved from Exeter to Reading where I now live with my wife Gemma and have joined Carey Baptist Church which is a large bible teaching and evangelical fellowship. For the past several years, Gemma and I have had the privilege of leading the Sunday School at Carey and it has been a blessed to share the gospel with between 25 and 30 children each Sunday. Our sessions involve a time of worship, teaching from the bible and activities such as memory verse and craft. Over the past year we've been praying for persecuted churches around the world which has helped the children to consider our brothers and sisters globally.

Outside of church I work as a Chartered Accountant for a large a firm, specialising in the Life Science and Pharmaceutical industry. I also love to cook and spend time outdoors running, cycling and playing tennis. I'm looking forward to getting stuck in with CEF and the exciting work which is happening all over the country.

Louis Berkeley

Volunteers

■ I am a trainee pastor, and I came to volunteer with CEF, working alongside Steve and Rachel Ball, through my contact with Steve. I'd been involved with various children's ministries in my local church, and some of these included partnering with other local churches for inter-church events. This is how I got to know Steve. I was immediately struck by his passion for bringing the gospel of Christ to the young people of London, and by his willingness to go to those children where they are, whatever background they're from. I soon found out, of course, that this commitment is shared by his wife! Steve and Rachel draw on CEF's gospel-centred resources, as well as their own extensive

experience, to engage the children in a variety of ways, with exciting and faithful picture-Bible stories, memory verses, music and songs, games, hands-on activities, puzzles, challenges and prayer. All of this is pitched for the children's level and points them to Jesus again and again. It has been a joy to serve alongside Steve and Rachel. Their enthusiasm and love of what they do rubs off, and they made sure to make me feel valued and fully involved as a part of their team. I would wholeheartedly encourage anyone to join them and CEF in their work. What could be better than seeing children from different religious backgrounds all excitedly talking about our great Lord Jesus?

Tim Cole Rennie

■ My name is Colette Rennie. I have been a volunteer for about 13 years, on the CEF Local Committee of East London, which usually meets once a month. I'm also the Minute Secretary. Steve (Local Director) and Rachel Ball are the Local Workers for CEF East London.

The work of CEF is a much needed ministry for children in our society today, long may it continue.

I was asked if I would consider becoming a volunteer by someone at my church, who had been on the Local Committee for a number of years. He suggested I could attend a meeting; see how I get on, and pray about it. As I work with children at my church doing Sunday school and running the Baby &

Toddler group, I decided to see what it was all about.

When I joined, I came to understand more of the work of CEF, and what being a volunteer with other Christians on the Committee involved, such as provision of support, prayer and advice to the Local Workers, covering a range of issues including forward planning and decision making (inc. financial matters).

I've also helped out at church clubs CEF have run, and regularly helped out one day a week at an After School Club. The work of CEF is a much needed ministry for children in our society today, long may it continue.

Colette Rennie



For more information on how to volunteer, please use this link.



CEF of Greece

Greece is a land of 10 million people and has 1,5 million children. Even though apostle Paul brought the Gospel to Greece, most Christians are nominal (97% are Greek Orthodox). They never read the Bible, and Evangelical Christians are considered heretics.

In 1965 a single lady pioneered CEF in Greece. For 25 years she was struggling alone, because Christians didn't believe in child evangelism. She was translating CEF materials to be used in Sunday schools, probably the only source back then.

In 1990 a young couple joined the ministry. Stefanos and Magda Botonis, started sharing the Gospel in schools, orphanages, and hospitals, even though there was a strict law against proselytism.

The Lord blessed the ministry and today we have 10 co-workers and many volunteers who evangelize children in Roma Gypsy camps, in



refugee centers, in schools and other institutions.

We work also with churches, providing training seminars for teachers and parents and teaching materials.

We made 150+ videos which are uploaded at our children's website: exerevrites.com. Some are broadcasted on a Greek channel.

Last year over 5000 children heard the Gospel through the ministry of CEF in Greece.

Children in Greece grow up without knowing the Gospel. When a young Roma boy came to know the Lord in a weekly Club years ago, he said: "when I grow up, I want to do the same: to teach children about God". Growing up, Stephen, became a volunteer with CEF and now God is leading him to become a full-time worker. We pray to God to provide for his support.

We praise God also for the camp that was donated to CEF, just 15 min. North of Thessaloniki. For 25 years we organize an Easter-, an art & craft-, a Sports-, a Teens-, a Music- and an English camp.

A major renovation is taking place this year. Two dorm houses were installed at the camp, that will host 64 people. We also plan to build a new kitchen and dining room.

There is a family living in the camp who also manage it, but we need one more couple to help in maintenance and other needs.

Short- and long-term interns are needed to help around the camp and work groups to help with different projects. If you are interested, let us know!

Please, pray for:

- The needed funds to come in for the camp projects to finish.
- More children's workers to reach the children of Greece.



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CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

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Reaching children worldwide™

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Website for kids: www.WonderSurf.com

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Gifts: If you would like to financially support the vital work and witness of CEF in evangelising children in England, Scotland and Wales, please send your gift to: CEF of Britain, PO Box 9281, POOLE, BH14 4FS.

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