

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Spring
2021

FOR THE
CAUSE OF
CHRIST



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Why do you do what you do? That question confronted me years ago during a prayer meeting. I was running a successful business and involved in church, but God was working in me to change my focus. He was calling me to live for the cause of Christ by reaching children with the Gospel. I would never consider myself a teacher of children, but my burden for boys and girls to come to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ has motivated what I do and why I do it.

I have been honored to serve as president of Child Evangelism Fellowship for over 31 years. The uniqueness of the worldwide CEF family comes from its solidarity of purpose. Together we strive to reach children for the cause of Christ. Together we pray and serve and join in the joy of reaping the harvest God gives through this ministry. Whether you're on staff, a volunteer, or support the ministry financially or through prayer, you have a vital role in this ministry and are part of our family.

I am always energized when I spend time with the CEF family. Conversations reflect passion, commitment, and dependence on God. I marvel at the grace of God as I hear stories like the ones included in this edition. When I receive ministry reports, like the recent pictures of boys and girls practicing *The Wordless Book* to share the Gospel with other children on the island nation of Mauritius in the



Indian Ocean and the photos of over a hundred children listening to a Christmas Party Club in Madagascar, all spread out for social distancing, my heart rejoices that God continues to use this ministry to advance His kingdom.

This year our family reunion will look different as we host our CEF Digital International Conference 2021 in May. Please join us. I'm excited to gather together with even more family from around the globe through this online platform. As you take advantage of the inspiring messages, informative workshops, and encouraging times of fellowship and prayer, I hope you will reflect on why you do what you do and be motivated to give all *For the Cause of Christ*.

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

"He was calling me to live for the cause of Christ by reaching children with the Gospel."



Please Pray

- 1 God's blessing on our time together during CEF® Digital International Conference 2021.
- 2 God will raise up more workers and give creativity to know how to reach more children in today's climate.
- 3 Praise God for answered prayers and the children who are growing in Jesus.
- 4 God will continue to provide funds, resources, and training for our missionaries.
- 5 Praise God for changed lives and encouragement to teachers.
- 6 God will strengthen our missionaries to stand firm with Him and remain committed to the cause of reaching children with the Gospel of Christ.



CAUSE FOR THE
OF THE
CHRIST
PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8

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FAMILY GATHERING

MOISES ESTEVES, CEF Executive Vice President

If you're like me, there's something extra special about spending time with family, especially when you live far away from one another. My wife, Maryjane, and I look forward to holidays spent with our children and grandchildren. We long to be able to spend more time together but count every moment we do have as precious. That's also how we feel about our CEF family.

When the CEF family spends time together, I am often encouraged, challenged, and in awe of what God has done. We are bound together by a unifying call to reach children for the cause of Christ. Although we may live far from one another, we labor together to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

and to establish them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living. I am humbled to take part in such a great work of God.

The pandemic may have stopped us from joining together for our 2020 International Conference, but God has not disappointed us. This year even more of the CEF family from around the world will be able to gather online for CEF Digital International Conference 2021. No visas, passports, or costly travel expenses needed. And sessions can be viewed live or recorded, providing personal scheduling preferences. Participants may access Conference content at any time after its scheduled premiere through July 8, 2021.

Together, we will worship and enjoy time in God's

»»»» Learn more at cefonline.com/conference.
REGISTRATION CLOSING APRIL 25.

Word during main sessions, fellowship and pray using a state-of-the-art interactive platform and Zoom breakout rooms, learn from over 40 workshops about a large variety of ministry topics, and visit virtual exhibitions including vendors who offer digital download and international purchase options. All this for our lowest conference price ever of \$35. Although the sessions will be presented in English, we will utilize translation technology for nine other major languages.

When Altagracia, national director for CEF of Honduras, learned about this year's conference, she said, "I am filled with joy because this is one of my answered prayers. After God gave me the privilege of attending the last conference, I asked the Lord that our entire team of teachers would have that precious opportunity one day."



TOGETHER WE WILL EXPLORE:

- Loving the Bride for the Cause of Christ
- Joys and Trials for the Cause of Christ
- Surrender for the Cause of Christ
- Suffering for the Cause of Christ
- Making His Name Known Far and Wide
- Living and Serving for the Cause of Christ
- Pressing on Toward the Prize

WE ARE EXCITED TO HEAR FROM:

Richard Blackaby
 Reese Kauffman
 Nate Irwin
 Adam Bailie
 Beltane Harrigan
 Paul McIntyre
 Jana Alayra

Camping Online

AND BEYOND



How does camp work in a year where you cannot run camp?

This was the question Chris Kallal, director for Camp Good News® of Illinois, and his team were asking themselves as they went into summer 2020. The team had big plans as they approached their 65th year of camp ministry, that is until the pandemic changed everything.

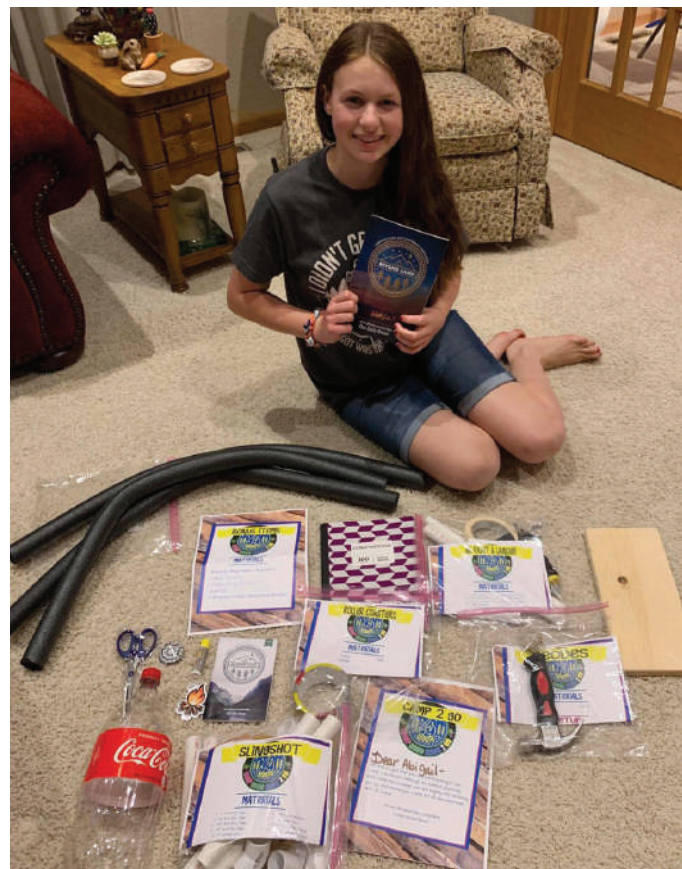
Although Chris and his team looked for ways to still have camp, their discouragement grew as no solution could be found. They kept praying, "Lord, what do we need to do?" and sensed this answer, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Chris says, "God showed me, not what I was going to do, but what He was going to do, and how He was going to make camp incredible this summer."

In March, the ministry team began a virtual camp—Camp 2.0. They offered online programs that involved mad science, blowing things up on Zoom, and teambuilding activities. They were encouraged to see boys and girls participate through the computer screen.

"In a normal summer, we have a little over 400 campers," Chris shares, "but with our online virtual camp we had 4,159 people involved."

By June and July, the Camp Good News team did something called "Camp Good News To-Go." Boxes of camp activities—crafts, team-building activities, and games—were made available for parents to pick up curbside for children to do at home. One grandma got boxes for her grandchildren and all the other boys and girls in the neighborhood. Together they did the activities and devotions and watched the online camp messages. In total, for June and July, there were 123 boxes that went out to campers.





By fall, many schools in the area were doing remote learning, leaving boys and girls stuck at home. The *Camp Good News* team decided to start an E-Learning Day Camp, some days having up to 16 children at the program. With individual cubicles, each child could take off his or her mask and still be safe doing Zoom classes and studies. After class, children participated in fun camp activities like “Hike the Solar System.” For this activity, they hiked around the campground following a scaled-out version of the solar system. Our solar system is so large, that even when the sun is scaled to the size of a softball, the solar system still spreads out over the entire campground.

The entire hike took about an hour, and with the sun at the flagpole, Earth just so happened to land

**NO CIRCUMSTANCES,
NOT EVEN A PANDEMIC,
CAN HINDER GOD FROM
ACCOMPLISHING HIS
PURPOSES.**


on the camp’s one-way sign. At this part of the hike, children heard how Earth is the only planet that God put humans on, and that there is only one way to Heaven. Most of the e-learners are unchurched. One little girl was really thinking about what was being said and asked some questions. By the time she reached Saturn on the hike, she said, “Mr. Chris, I don’t know that one way. Can I figure out that one way now?”

No circumstances, not even a pandemic, can hinder God from accomplishing His purposes. God desires for children to hear about Him, so when one door closes, look to Him to open another, and watch what God does.

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” **Psalms 46:10**



GLOBAL GOOD NEWS

 Praise God for 325 people (children and teachers from 17 countries around the world) who registered for the Mandarin Chinese online *Good News Club*® since it started in April. Little did we know that one registered individual would turn out to be an entire church watching the online GNC™ together! One church is in Thailand, where the church leader says solid biblical teaching is much needed. God’s Word is going *beyond* our normal ministry audience.



 An undisclosed Middle Eastern country has been struggling with many COVID cases. Although *Good News Club* ministry had to stop in April, they were able to restart in July. Before COVID there were 781 clubs with a weekly average attendance of 13,000 children. But when they resumed in July and August, they had 756 clubs with an average of 16,000 children—an increase of 3,000 children! God also opened doors for 150,000 copies of “The Greatest Doctor” tract to be printed, 300,000 Gospel masks made, and provided training in 14 areas. The evangelistic outreach resulted in 78,000 children receiving Jesus as Savior.



miracle

IN PROGRESS



What happens when we ask God to restore the ministry in a country where the work has nearly diminished? He hears us! Only God could connect the dots and orchestrate a connection over 4,620 miles away.

In Cape Verde, the CEF work was almost nonexistent. There was no staff, and the volunteers were directionless, having no contact with CEF in recent years. The children needed to be reached, but no one stepped up to lead the work.



Recognizing this need, Alex Twum, West and Central Africa Regional Director, planned a trip to Cape Verde to lay the groundwork for re-establishing the ministry there. Assisting him on his trip was Enoch Kang, South Korean CEF missionary to Ghana. Although they knew no one in Cape Verde and the only contact on record never responded, Alex thought to himself, “It’s God’s will that children of Cape Verde should hear the Gospel, therefore *it is possible* even without a contact.” He had assurance in his heart that God’s timing was NOW.



Meanwhile, at CEF International Headquarters, God was already working. Lydia Kaiser, Corporate Communications Specialist, started her day as she often does—scrolling through the morning announcements and prayer requests. “Please continue to pray that God would lead Alex to church leaders and other connections in Cape Verde,” she read. “We currently have no contacts there.” It was at that moment Lydia remembered hearing about someone in Cape Verde before. She was able to track down a contact and connect him with Alex.

When the time was approaching for Alex and Enoch to leave on their trip, they were overjoyed to watch God at work using Lydia’s contact to connect them with a local pastor in Cape Verde. Pastor Emanuel prepared hotel reservations and picked up Alex and Enoch at the airport. One of the first things he said was, “My wife has attended CEF Institute in Brazil and so did her sister, Jandira.”

In only a few days, God had changed everything and worked the details according to His bigger plan. “Things went so quickly that it was a clear indication this was the hand of God and nothing else,” said Twum.

By God’s wisdom and under Alex’s leadership, CEF ministry in Cape Verde is already taking root. Most recently, Twum appointed a provisional

“I’VE NEVER KNOWN OF A TIME IN MY HISTORY WITH CEF WHERE I HAVE SEEN MORE ENCOURAGEMENT THAN THROUGH THE ANSWER OF PRAYER. SOMETIMES THE PRAYER AND THE ANSWER ARE SO CLOSE TOGETHER, I CALL IT A MIRACLE IN PROGRESS. THERE’S NOTHING MORE EXCITING THAN A MIRACLE TAKING PLACE IN THE MIDST OF PRAYER, AND GOD RECEIVING THE GLORY.”

– Reese Kauffman
CEF President





God Answers Prayer

national board of seven members to begin re-establishing the work. Jandira was named as interim national coordinator.

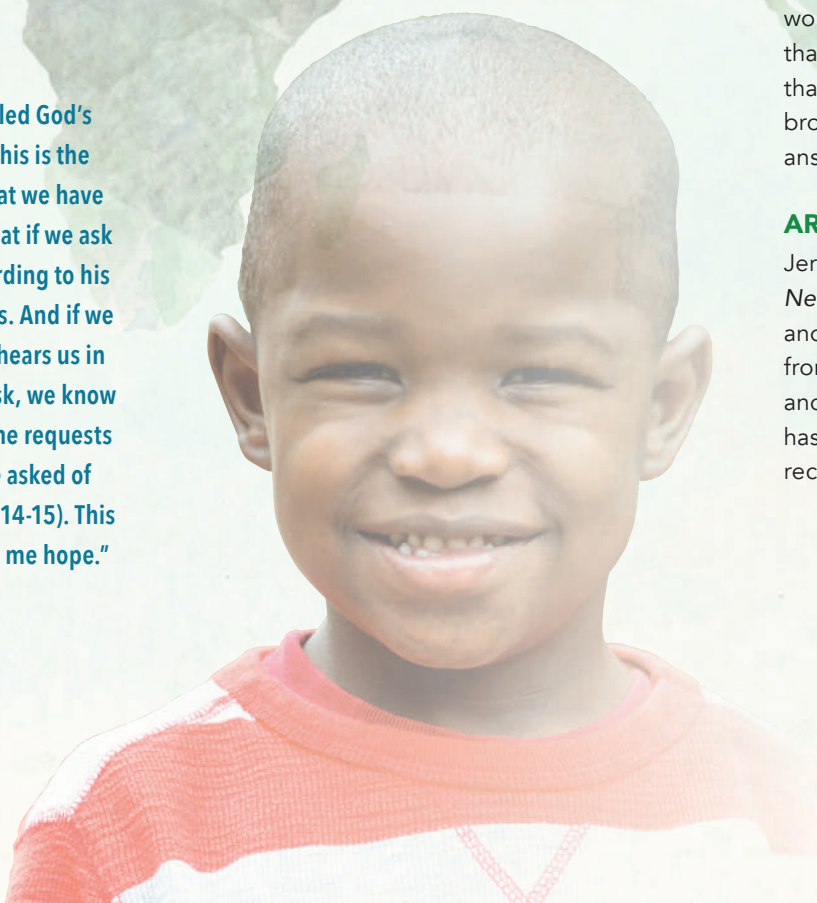
Jandira shared, “I have always loved *CEF* and made three attempts to establish it in Cape Verde but failed for lack of direction.”

Later, Alex and Enoch met with Jandira and two other Institute graduates to form a training team. Pastor Emanuel continues to follow up on the process of registering *CEF* of Cape Verde with the government.

“I can now say with certainty that the Lord has established *CEF* work in Cape Verde, for which we are glad!” exclaimed Twum. “To God be the glory, great things He has done!”



“Then I recalled God’s Word, ‘And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him’ (1 John 5:14-15). This Scripture gave me hope.”



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

CEF of Trinidad and Tobago were asking God to provide an office space. God answered through their *CEF* board chairman who pledged to make an office space available to them at her family-owned building.

SURINAME

Missionaries in Suriname prayed for a treasurer to join their board. They hadn’t had one for over ten years. God sent them a registered accountant. She had told the Lord that after passing her last exam, she would start working for Him and that she would love to do something that benefited children. When God brought her to the team, it was an answer to many prayers!

ARUBA

Jeremy, a 12-year-old boy from *Good News Club*, has gone through chemo and radiation to fight cancer. People from several islands prayed for Jeremy and his family for some time. Jeremy has been healed by God and is recovering at home in Aruba.



I was only 13 years old when I was able to see how God used a simple man, a pastor who invited me to take part in the work that he was doing. We took trips by truck or train to tiny communities of a few families and traveled by bicycle over dusty roads to pray with a family, visit a sick man, or share the Gospel. We knocked on door after door. My job was to hand over a tract after the pastor would share the Gospel.

I wondered if one day I would be able to share the message and someone else would be able to deliver the tract. I am convinced that this was the moment God called me to the ministry. Some years later, God reminded me of this call, and the following questions arose: How can I serve God? In what area or ministry can I serve? Should I do it part or full time?

God answered my questions and cleared away my doubts. He was guiding me, and I was introduced to CEF. While taking a course and practicing the presentation of *The Wordless Book*, I realized I had never shared the Gospel with an adult or child. I was convicted of the call on my life to evangelize children and to dedicate my life to this purpose. As time went on, God challenged me to take a step of faith in my desire to serve Him full time. After leaving my previous

The Call of God

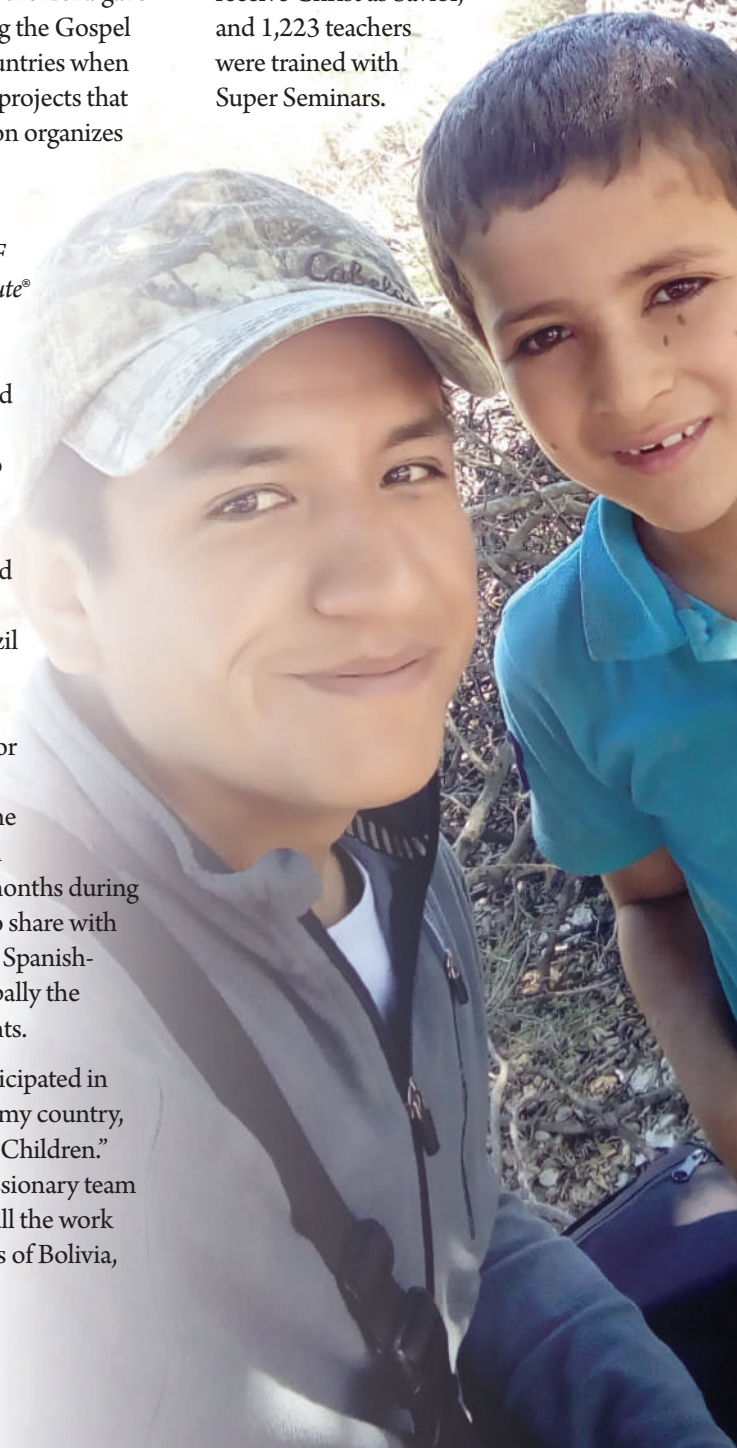
ARMIN VLADIMIR CAMECHO, Bolivia

full-time job so I could spend time evangelizing children in rural schools, I had the opportunity to go to different areas in my country. Also, the Lord gave me the privilege of sharing the Gospel with children of other countries when I helped with missionary projects that CEF Latin America Region organizes every year.

In the fall of 2018, God allowed me to attend *CEF Children's Ministries Institute*® in Argentina. Although this was a great challenge, God once again confirmed my calling to minister to children full time. He also opened doors for me to continue in preparation for service when I received an invitation to attend additional training in Brazil in 2019. Brazil is the only country in Latin America that offers an internship for missionaries. Although I wasn't able to complete the documentation to remain in the country, I had six months during which God allowed me to share with Portuguese-speaking and Spanish-speaking children, principally the children of Bolivian parents.

After leaving Brazil, I participated in the missionary project in my country, "Send Me to the Bolivian Children." Afterwards our entire missionary team offered our gratitude for all the work done in the different cities of Bolivia,

surpassing our goal. We thanked God that 53,139 children were reached, 22,324 children made the decision to receive Christ as Savior, and 1,223 teachers were trained with Super Seminars.





53,139 

children were reached

22,324 

children received Christ

1,223 

teachers were trained

- A CEF missionary in Kenya shared the Gospel with children of nomads. These children do not attend school; their job is to watch the animals.
- In Belarus, a missionary held open-air Christmas Party Clubs in a park near a children's hospital. She spoke into a loudspeaker and children in the hospital opened their windows to hear the lessons.



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 1,000 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.

Surprising Fruit

WENDY BLUHM, California

A few years ago, I taught *Good News Club*® in a public school—a wonderful place to share Jesus with children. It was challenging, encouraging, and such a blessing. Seasons change and I was called away from that leadership, but recently all those memories came flooding back. A mom of one of my students visited our church and shared with me how *GNC* impacted their home. Their son brought the family to Christ—something we didn't know at the time. We had a wonderful reunion with hugs and praises to God. I was blessed that God allowed her to share that story with me.

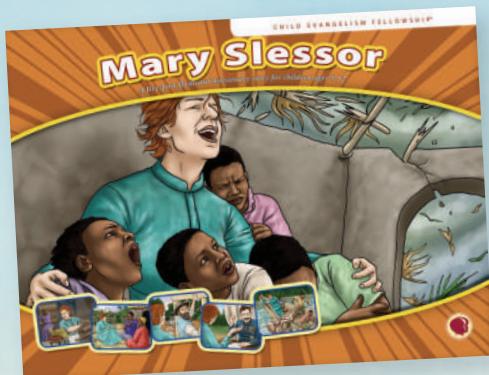
Now a little background on their son. He had been unruly in club, disturbing the other children, and he didn't receive discipline from the teachers. Eventually the disturbance

to other students kept us from having a productive club. After much prayer among the *GNC* teachers and talking to his mother, we decided her son would take a break from club and not return during that spring. When club restarted in the fall, he was the first one to talk with me about returning and he apologized for his behavior. When he came back to club, he listened well and participated. He accepted Jesus as his Savior and took that Good News back to his family.

Not long after his mother had visited our church and shared her story about *GNC*, her son, who was now an older teenager, was killed in a car accident. I attended his funeral and cried with his mom. We were thankful for his coming to Christ as a young boy in *GNC* and bringing the Good News to his family.



In August 2020, the West Africa country of Mali experienced its second coup in less than ten years. Although this nation has been plagued with violence and destruction, God can do amazing things. This past December, 902 children and 79 teachers attended a Christmas rally in Mali.



USE ME LIKE *Mary*

WALTER OMONY OPOK, Uganda

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TO LEARN
MORE.

In December, my fellow missionaries and I organized a large camp in Gulu. The purpose was to bring children to God and encourage them to have hope in Christ and believe in Him. Many children from different districts came. During class I taught the missions story "Run Ma Run" about Mary Slessor. She went to Calabar in Africa as a missionary to help desperate people who were living without hope. The children listened intently as I told them how God used Mary to help the sick, rescue twin babies, and resolve conflict between tribes to keep them from fighting. She bravely told many different tribes about Jesus. In all the challenges Mary encountered, she was faithful to stand



firm with God. One child asked, "Can God use me like Mary?" I encouraged the children to stand firm in difficulty and tell others about Jesus. At the end I asked whoever wants to be a missionary like Mary to put up their hand and 45 children lifted their hands. I prayed for them and told them to begin in their homes.



Children's Bible correspondence lessons have become popular in Russia during the pandemic. One mother wrote, "When my eight-year-old son began the 'Story Time' correspondence course, I helped him with his assignments. I had never read the Bible before and realized that a lot of important things are written there. One day after finishing his lesson, my son wanted to pray and confess he was a sinner. This new phenomenon entered our lives. I also understood I am a sinner and need to come to Christ. Now my husband is interested in these lessons.

Thank you!"



**INSPIRE CHILDREN TO
LIVE FOR GOD—TEACH
ABOUT MISSIONARIES.**



ONE STEP AT A TIME

JANELLE MULVIHILL, CEF Missionary to Belize



Growing up as a missionary kid was a unique blessing. I was born in Manchester, England, to Jim and Jan Mulvihill, *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® missionaries in the United Kingdom. When I was two, my family moved to Belize, Central America, to pioneer the ministry of CEF. Belize is where I grew up—attended school and played with children. When I was five years old, I received Jesus as my Savior. I remember attending *Good News Club* and being the only American child (besides my brother). It seemed normal to me to have English Creole, Spanish, Asian, and Mayan friends.

Being a missionary kid does not make you a career missionary. I clearly remember when God called me at age 16. I had attended the 2011 CEF International Conference. During the closing session, CEF leaders stood throughout the auditorium while others gathered around

them to pray. As I prayed for Latin America Regional Director Abner Pineda, I clearly heard the Lord say to me, “Be a missionary,” to which I answered, “Yes, Lord.” That’s right, no arguing with God—just looking for Him to lead me, step by step.

Fast forward one year and I was off to Pensacola Christian College in Florida pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in



**THE RESPONSE
WAS SO GREAT
WE PRINTED
15,000 TRACTS.**



“God has helped me to take *Children’s Ministries Institute*, although I faced many difficulties and obstacles. I was so sick at the beginning of *CMI*®, I attended two weeks of class while at the hospital. Doctors said I was short of oxygen and that my heartbeat and glucose level had increased. But all my colleagues, friends, and family members prayed, and God healed me. I didn’t have a device to follow the classes on Zoom but God unexpectedly gave me an expensive and quality laptop. I am grateful God helped me complete *CMI*. I learned so much from each teacher.”

— Sri Lanka *CMI* student

*"When we conducted a **Wordless Book** training seminar for students at a Christian school, six students realized they had never asked Jesus to be their Savior and trusted Him. One boy said he had been waiting to learn how to lead a friend to the Lord whom he had been talking with and even gave him his own Bible."*

– Mrs. Jana Mackey, Local Director, CEF of Jackson County, Michigan

Elementary Education with minors in Music Ministries and Bible. Although I was unsure what ministry God would lead me to, I knew it would be with children, so I pursued courses to help me learn how to teach children. After graduation in 2016, the Lord led me to *Children's Ministries Institute* where, near the end of the course, He called me to serve in *Child Evangelism Fellowship*. During my nine-month CEF internship in 2017 in both Guyana and Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Lord directed me to work with CEF of Belize—where I grew up!

In 2018 I became a local director in Belize. For the past year, ministry has looked different due to the COVID-19



pandemic. Since we could no longer meet face-to-face, God led me to begin an online *Good News Club* on Facebook and YouTube. It started with my friend Wilfredo, a summer missionary from 2019, and me teaching the online GNC. Now, another former summer

missionary, Gabby, has joined us. What an opportunity to share the Good News not just with children, but with adults, teens—whoever joins us!

In *Impact* magazine, I read about CEF missionaries throughout the world who distributed the special COVID tracts CEF developed. After prayer, God led my parents, who are also CEF local directors in Belize, and me to request permission from CEF International Headquarters to print "Stop the Spread" tracts to distribute in Belize. Although schools are not in session here, each week they supply learning packages to students. As we presented the tracts to school principals, we received an overwhelmingly positive response. The principals agreed to place these tracts in the students' learning packages—one per family to make our supply go further. The response was so great we printed 15,000 tracts. My dad and I went to 71 schools, including the 2 primary schools I once attended, and distributed 9,011 tracts. We also provided 4,000 tracts for other Belize CEF directors to use. Attached to these tracts was my business card with links to children's online resources for spiritual growth.

God has encouraged me throughout the past months as I hear from children who watch the online GNC. What a joy to hear a girl share how she asked God to forgive all her sin! I praise God for using me in whatever way He wants as He leads me one step at a time.



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.

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.

Learn more at cefcmi.com.



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