

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Winter
2021

THEY NEED TO
HEAR



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY



For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

– Romans 10:13-15

Our vision to reach Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day comes from a passion to see each child call on Jesus to be saved. Romans 10:13-15 provides a progression of needs for the Good News of Jesus to be received. For boys and girls to be saved, they need to hear. But how can they hear unless they are told, and how will they be told unless someone is sent? When those who are sent tell the Good News and children believe, amazing things happen. Their lives are changed for eternity.



“When those who are sent tell the Good News and children believe, amazing things happen.”

When I consider the lives of most children around the world, my heart breaks. In this edition of *Impact* magazine articles give testimony to the great needs of children, the faithfulness of God to send laborers to tell them, and the power of God to change lives. Children desperately need Jesus. That’s why we earnestly pray Luke 10:2—that God would send more workers to tell them.

Justin Fonseka from Sri Lanka shared, “Although we’ve been plagued by quarantines and closures due to COVID, we’ve taken advantage of the extra time available to develop prayer ministry. We began with every full-time worker taking a day to fast and pray for God to send more laborers. Then they were challenged to recruit ten more people to meet regularly for prayer. Some workers now have close to 100 prayer warriors praying with them.”

Imagine what God will do through these prayers! I invite you to join this prayer initiative and create your own prayer group to ask God to send more laborers here in the U.S. and around the world. Pray these workers will be trained, equipped, and supported to faithfully share His Good News with boys and girls who’ve not yet heard so they may call on Jesus and be saved.

Yours for all the children,

Reese R. Kauffman

Please Pray

- 1 Children around the world who have never heard about Jesus will hear the truth about Him.
- 2 The Lord of the harvest will send more teachers in every area of the world to reach children.
- 3 More young adults will take advantage of the *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® internship program.
- 4 Christian children will boldly share the Good News of Jesus.
- 5 More children will attend *Good News Club*® and other *CEF*® ministries.



JOIN US IN PRAYING GOD'S OWN PRAYER REQUEST—

LUKE 10:2



AND HE (JESUS) SAID TO THEM, "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."

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Editor Debra Hane
Assistant Editor Rebecca Dwinell
Design SDPcreative
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THEY NEED TO HEAR

HOW THEN WILL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW ARE THEY TO BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD?

– Romans 10:14a



EVERY FRIDAY

PROSSY BUKENYA NALUBIRA, Education Director, CEF of Uganda

In April, when I went to visit my mom, I decided to use the opportunity to visit the few schools near her village. They were all willing to let me share the Gospel with the children. I taught the lesson on Saul's conversion and many children believed in Jesus as Savior.

In one school, all the teachers were present as I taught. As I prepared to leave, one of them asked if I would

come to their school every Friday to share the Word of God with the children. He had never seen this kind of material or teaching. Sadly, I had to say no because I was only visiting and live far away.

Once again I was reminded, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2). We pray for more workers and volunteers who can teach children in areas like this.



LUIS

LAURA COMEJO, GNC teacher, El Salvador

I never imagined one of the children in my *Good News Club*® would die. A teacher is not prepared for that. Luis, almost 12 years old, suffered from heart disease. He faithfully attended club. I thank God we teach the message of salvation at every club. When I went to Luis's funeral, I was able to assure his mother Luis is in a better place. He is in Heaven.

Luis's grandfather heard what I said and quickly responded, "How do you know? Are you the one who taught him?"

He shared that he and his son were Christians, but since his son got married, he had turned away from God. Then he said, "Luis told me about you and how he liked to go to club. One day he told me he had received Christ as Savior, and I was able to confirm

him in the faith. Thank you for your work."

Luis's mother told me, "We allowed Luis to go to your club because he liked it very much. He did not want to go to church with the family, but he asked permission to go to club, and I let him. He said he had learned a lot. Now I only have the Bible you gave him in December."

During quarantine for COVID-19, *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® gave Bibles to kids for having studied the lessons. Wearing my facemask, I went home by home teaching Bible lessons and verses from outside while the kids stayed inside.



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 900 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.



THEY NEED TO BE TOLD

AND HOW ARE THEY TO HEAR WITHOUT SOMEONE PREACHING?

– Romans 10:14b

JAMID

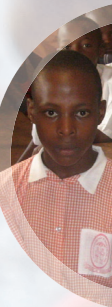
SARA, Undisclosed

Last year we hosted a Christmas Party Club for non-Christian families for the first time. Fourteen-year-old Jamid caught my attention. He was a great helper—he gathered the children, watched them to be sure they behaved well, helped me give out gifts, and joyfully took us to his house. During this time, I prayed Jamid would accept Jesus as Savior and one day become my helper.



However, in May he suddenly experienced severe pain in his legs. The doctor's diagnosis was bone cancer. In June we held camp at his home. Lying on his side on a sofa, Jamid took part in the lesson and believed in Jesus as Savior.

Only after camp did I understand how attentive God is to each child. The lesson "Friend Forever" seemed especially prepared for Jamid. He now knows Jesus is his forever friend. Although doctors say Jamid will likely die from the cancer, we know he has eternal life in Jesus!



THE WITNESS OF A CHANGED LIFE

As a national CEF® missionary visited a new area in his country, he found a village with many adults and even children addicted to drugs. He decided that would be a good place to start a *Good News Club*. One hundred ten unchurched children attended and eagerly listened as the message of salvation was shared using *The Wordless Book*.



When the children went home, they asked their parents to buy them a book with five colors. When asked why, the children responded that they wanted to teach their parents the message in *The Wordless Book*.

At first, the parents feared the missionaries were going to convert their children to Christianity. But when they came to the next GNC™, they had changed their minds. A police officer arrived after receiving a report of unethically converting children to Christianity. As he asked questions regarding the club, it was the children who answered. They told the officer about the sinful things they had done before and how their lives changed after they believed in Jesus. The policeman was amazed at the change in these children, and he commended the missionaries for what they were doing.



WHEN TEACHERS FROM VARIOUS CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN UGANDA PARTICIPATED IN THE LOCAL CEF TRAINING, THEIR EYES WERE OPENED TO THE REAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THEIR AREA. AS THEY DISCUSSED PROBLEMS BOYS AND GIRLS FACE, THEY REALIZED THEY WERE DOING NOTHING TO HELP THEM AND PROMISED TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.



Teaching to Transform

Whether you teach Sunday school, children's church, *Good News Club*, or some other children's ministry, *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® provides specialized, practical training to help you evangelize and disciple children.

A variety of seminars and courses are offered through our local offices*, online, or the *Children's Ministries Institute*®.

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*Find a local chapter near you at cefonline.com/location-finder



→ SENT



THEY NEED TO BE **SENT**

AND HOW ARE THEY TO PREACH
UNLESS THEY ARE SENT?

– Romans 10:15a

IMPACT THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

MARK SHAW



Many young adults today feel they have too many options when considering what to do with their lives. Most high school and college graduates spend their days working temporary jobs or gaining experience at internships. During this time of self-discovery, career exploration, skill building, and lifestyle transitions, they must ask themselves, “What are my strengths and weaknesses?” and “What is a good fit for my personality and interests?” However, Christians have a more important question to consider,

“What does God want me to do?”

Several young adults applied to the *Child Evangelism Fellowship* internship program knowing God was leading them into full-time ministry. They felt an internship program was a great steppingstone for their career. **Seth Beeson**, who currently serves as a *CEF* missionary in Hawaii, said, “Prior to my internship I already knew I wanted to serve in ministry. This program helped guide me to my next steps on that journey and reinforced my love for serving.”

Other recent interns fell into the program by circumstance. “It was not in my plan to do an internship since I was a little older and had a full-time job in Florida that I loved,” **Crystal Seiler** said. “I came to Guide Retreat at *CEF* International Headquarters looking for a small vacation. Little did I know it would change my direction.”

The *CEF* internship program provides many opportunities for people to learn new job skills, expand their professional network, and grow spiritually.

continued on next page

“This program helped guide me to my next steps on that journey and reinforced my love for serving.”

- Seth Beeson

SETH BEESON



Seth is from Florida and had already been teaching Good News Clubs and 5-Day Clubs with his local *CEF* chapter before he heard about the internship program through his *Christian Youth In Action*® leaders. In 2017-2018,

he served in the Global Partnership Ministry department where he assisted in the execution of a variety of fundraisers, including mass mailers, grant proposals, and large donor events. Beeson is currently a *CEF* missionary in Hawaii and says he gets to serve in all three of his greatest passions in ministry: children, youth, and ministry development.

CRYSTAL SEILER



Crystal grew up in Florida and was a teacher for a Christian preschool. She first heard about the internship program through Guide Retreat. For a year, she worked in the Shipping department, packing literature that

went out all over the world. Seiler was also able to use her education experience to teach children at a local *Good News Club*. When her internship was over in 2017, she returned to Florida but was hired by *CEF* just a few months later. She is currently the supervisor in the Housekeeping department at International Headquarters.

Jenna Townson, a Creative Services intern from August 2017 to August 2018, came to *CEF* right out of high school and had a lot to learn. She said, “I got a deep dive into the business side of ministry. It was great to see how the curriculum comes together and the amount of work so many people put into it. It was also great to learn about what considerations curriculum developers must have when writing for an international audience.”

Plenty of internships in the business world relegate their interns to a narrow line of tasks; some of which only include menial paperwork, answering phones, and refilling coffee makers. *CEF*, on the other hand, relies on their interns to accomplish important projects and fulfill all kinds of duties.

Lynelle Thrush, who finished her internship this past summer, explained how she performed jobs all over the Headquarters facility. “I started as a Shipping intern but because of COVID, there wasn’t enough work for me. So, I helped in many departments for the first two months, including Production, Dining Services, and Creative Services. Within a few months I was managing requests from Global Partnership Ministry (fundraising department) and involved with design, edit, and production. I also helped run audio for studio recordings of many *Good News Club TV*™ episodes.”

Despite being placed in several different departments, Thrush maintained a flexible and teachable spirit, which ended up being to her benefit. “I have experience in a variety of skills now and hope to use them as I transition to the field and help local churches,” she said. “My prayer is to travel to India and church plant in one of the major cities. I hope to incorporate what I learned through my internship and *Children’s Ministries Institute*® courses.”

Over the years, many *CEF* interns have been able to use their gifts, skills, and interests during their time of service. This was the case with **Peter Petkof** who spent two years performing a variety of jobs for Shipping, Housekeeping, First Impressions, and Creative Services. But he primarily worked for Studio, which turned out to be a great fit. “I wanted to learn to video edit and film,” Petkof said. “I appreciate that my internship took me from self-taught skills up to a professional level... I can tell the difference in the quality of videos I created at the beginning of my internship and now.”

Video shooting and editing wasn’t the only area in which he grew. Petkof said, “I never worked in an environment where prayer and devotions are done daily. Just seeing my coworkers’ faith journey made me want to change how I was walking in my own faith and because of that I feel like I have grown closer to God since my internship.”

JENNA TOWNSON



Jenna grew up in Kansas and first heard about the internship program at *Christian Youth in Action*. She became a *CEF* intern shortly after her high school graduation. For one year, Townson worked in the Creative Services

department editing curriculum, checking videos, and participating in Bible lesson demonstrations and music videos. After completing her internship, Townson attended Sterling College in Kansas and graduated with a B.A. in Christian Thought in Spring 2021. She returned to *CEF* Headquarters and is currently a full-time curriculum developer for the same department.

LYNELLE THRUSH



Lynelle is from Pennsylvania and attended Word of Life Bible Institute and Clarks Summit University. She graduated with a Bible and Integrated Studies major. Wanting to get into ministry full time,

she researched several different opportunities with various Christian organizations. She found the *CEF* internship program and applied online. For one year, Thrush worked for *CEF* in all kinds of capacities for several departments. She is currently taking classes at *Children’s Ministries Institute* and hopes to plant a church in one of India’s major cities.



PETER PETKOF

Peter grew up in a missionary family in Greece. He first heard about the internship program when his family stayed at CEF

International Headquarters on furlough. From 2017-2019, he worked in the Creative Services department under Studio, helping film and edit videos, moving equipment and props around, and collecting literature to be sent out to the field. Even though he didn't go to college for editing, he loved learning about how things are filmed and edited. He is currently working for CEF full time in the Studio department.

Petkof isn't the only person who speaks favorably of his coworkers. Other former interns who were interviewed for this article said they enjoyed serving alongside their supervisors and fellow

interns. Crystal Seiler said, "Not only did I love my job, but I loved the people here at International Headquarters. I had the best intern group. There were 15 of us and we were a tight-knit family. It was awesome to be able to work, eat, and live right beside them."

When asked if she would recommend the CEF internship program to others, Jenna Townson said, "Absolutely! It's a great program for high school graduates looking to find their calling and for college graduates seeking experience in their career field." One of the reasons she chose to take time off from higher education was because "I didn't know what I should spend all my time and life savings to study. [My] internship showed me how higher education can be helpful to people in ministry. So, when it came time to officially choose a major, the choice was easy [because] I knew how my studies would help me in my career."

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INVESTIGATING THE OPPORTUNITIES
DEVELOPING A PLAN
ENJOYING THE JOURNEY...

THEY NEED TO TELL

**AS IT IS WRITTEN, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET
OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS!"**

– Romans 10:15b

Have You Met Jesus, Mom?

CHARLES AHIMBISIBWE, Kampala Local Area Director, Uganda

Four-year-old Hope attended the *5-Day Club*® I taught. On day two, "Jesus forgives sin!" was the Word Up phrase repeated throughout club. During the song, "God has Given Us a Message in the B-I-B-L-E," children were challenged to go and tell someone about Jesus; it could be their dad, mom, sibling, or maid. After club, Hope ran straight home to her mother and asked, "Mama, have you met Jesus?"

Her mother laughed but didn't say anything. So the young evangelist asked, "Mom, have you ever been forgiven of your sin?"



Her persistence prompted a reply. "No!" her mother answered.

"You need to be forgiven of your sin, Mom; Jesus died for you," said Hope.

That evening when I saw Hope's mom, she told me her

daughter had been preaching to her. This encouraged me that God uses our teaching to produce fruit. I could never get time to share the Gospel with Hope's mom, but her daughter did.

"You need to be forgiven of your sin, Mom; Jesus died for you."

Olympic Wristband Outreach

STEPHANIE BAUGHMAN, national missionary to Tasmania

For two weeks in July boys and girls are on school holiday. In years past, this would have been our time to have a holiday club at the YMCA. However, having just arrived back in Tasmania without time to plan and prepare, I decided to do something different to capitalize on the Olympic theme.

For three days, we set up a table at City Park in Launceston, giving away snacks and water and sharing the Gospel with people using Olympic wristbands. Then for two days we did the same thing in a neighboring town. I was excited to have mostly new volunteers help with this ministry. A

couple *Good News Club* kids got in on the action as well. They boldly invited the children from the playground over to make a wristband and even shared what the colors meant.

On Tuesday as we were getting ready to pack up, I was happy to see the girl I mentor every Friday at the primary school. We aren't allowed to talk about Jesus at school unless a child asks questions. She was at the park with her dad and little brothers. What joy I had as I shared the Gospel message with her.

It was encouraging to watch God use this outreach in different ways. One day an entire daycare came by and got flyers to advertise *Good News Club* to the parents of the children. On another day, a family of Christian teenagers and friends made Olympic wristbands. They asked for more kits and tracts so they could share with their non-Christian cousins and friend.



THEY NEED TO BELIEVE

FOR "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

— Romans 10:13

CHALLENGING CHANGES

Maybe you remember hearing your father or grandfather say something like, "When I was a boy I had to walk to school in the rain, uphill, both directions!" The older generation may be quick to point out how much easier the younger generation has it. Technological advances bring new opportunities which children quickly adapt to. But that doesn't necessarily mean life is easier. It is just different.

For over 80 years, CEF has also adapted to changes so we can more effectively reach boys and girls around the globe. We continually face challenges to keep up with understanding the change in children and implementing changes in ministry.

Today, children are more technical and digital in their thinking. They spend



an average of seven hours every day on electronics, including their phones—playing and watching videos and TikTok. Facebook is outdated to them. They use different media sources to gather information. Some of what they watch is good, but much is needless entertainment. And somehow, we must vie for their attention so they can learn about God.

A CEF missionary from Armenia shares, "These are our children. In clubs and meetings they have a short attention span. This world is dulling their attention and minds. They seem to be listening to you, but they don't hear you. They need to hear and understand the Word before they can believe, but their minds and understanding are not with you. Before camp we told a child he would not be allowed to use his smartphone during camp. He responded, 'I will die without my phone.'"

Although ministry methods continue to adapt to the needs of children, the message children need to hear remains the same. The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is the foundational message proclaimed in all we do! It's a message that changes lives.



PLAYED DEAD AND PRAYED

JIM BLIZZARD, Local Director, Florida's Heartland Chapter

As the news regaled about another shooting, I was gripped when I heard there was an 11-year-old lone survivor who told detectives she played dead and prayed. Four others in her home had been killed and she had been shot multiple times.

As I thought about this terrible event, a strange thought came into my head, *I wonder who taught her to pray?* When I heard about the shooting, I didn't know how she knew about God; none of the articles mentioned a church. But two weeks later, I found out this girl was taught to pray by Mrs. Pam, the lead teacher at the *Good News Club* she attended since she was nine. Even after COVID closed Good News Clubs in schools, Mrs. Pam carried on teaching via Zoom, and this now ten-year-old girl learned about the one true God who wants us to talk with Him.

She knew she could turn to God even in the midst of this terrible, unspeakable wrong.

MEG

Eight-year-old Meg* understands persecution. Her friends relentlessly prod her to say Islamic statements. One time she could not stop herself and shared that God loves the world and sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for everyone. Her teacher was listening and told her to shut up and never bring up this subject. At the end of the day, some of her friends were angry about her confession and

beat her. Although her

teacher and friends

later apologized,

Meg never knows

when talking

about Jesus will

bring a beating

or something far

worse. For Meg, it's

more important to please

God than avoid trouble.

*Name changed



new ♥

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