



Winter 2019, ISSUE 20

“For the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.”

Habakkuk Ch2Vs14

KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD

The winter is here and there is a lot of excitement and activity around the primary schools of Co. Armagh. Most schools look like a winter wonderland with Christmas decorations on display around the corridors and classrooms. Various display boards contain the evidence that Christmas has been the main topic throughout the month with beautiful exhibitions of art in the form of multi-coloured, glittering, Christmas baubles and highly decorated paintings of Christmas trees. Amidst the art you can take a sneaky peek at the odd Christmas wish list or two.

The sound of Christmas is also in the air, as children practice the lyrics of many songs for the annual carol service. Auditions were conducted, and roles assigned to each child as rehearsals for the school play get into full swing. Dance moves are carefully choreographed and stage direction given to everyone on the stage; as well as those behind the scenes.

School desks get transformed into market stalls and all manner of stocking fillers are available for purchase at the craft fair. Around the schools “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas; everywhere we look.”



Children say the funniest things: *“Great, Gareth and Lindsay are back. I’ve been listening to them my whole life!”* These were the words from a child only starting P2.



Through the month of November Lindsay was speaking to the children, during assembly, on the life of Cameron Townsend; a young farming man from California who had a desire to see the fulfilment of Habakkuk Ch2Vs14 *“For the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.”* His love for the Lord, and languages, took him around the world as a Bible salesman. But on meeting the Cakchiquel people of Guatemala he was asked “Why didn’t God speak their language? Was he only the God of the English and Spanish speakers?” So Cameron became a Bible translator and founder of the Wycliffe Bible Translators. This lesson really struck a chord with the children from Dreincourt junior infant school; this is a small school with only 30 children from 6 different language groups including Latvian, Bulgarian, Russian &

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Lithuanian. It was wonderful to hear about a family of children who had joined the Bulgarian church in Armagh and had been teaching the other children in the school some children's choruses in the Bulgarian language; along with translation. Another child was very keen to inform us, in her own words "I asked Jesus in to my heart last week." The impact that the word of God can make in a life should never be underestimated.

Over the past year, along with our committee, we have been looking at the ministry, spread across the towns and villages of our county. This focus has let us see villages where there is no monthly or annual Child Evangelism Fellowship ministry. Therefore, we have decided to make a purchase of 5,000 children's calendars as well as 5 teacher's manuals entitled "Unravel – The mystery of Christmas" for distribution to a number of schools within these Gospel barren areas. Throughout the month of December we hope to visit a number of schools in south Armagh, and perhaps across the border into Co. Louth, in an endeavour to get the Gospel calendars put into the hands of as many children as we can before the New Year. Average primary school numbers range from 100 – 200 children; this being the case it allows us to attempt a visit to 25 schools where we currently have no direct outreach to children.



Good News Club is still very much a ministry at the heart of CEF and many of these are run as after schools clubs. In the club pictured above you can see a girl holding up her first Bible, she is copying how we use our flashcard book to help tell the story. This was her first Bible which she bought with her own money just days before at the school book fair. Two weeks previous she brought a dictionary as she was so surprised to find God's name in there, as well as the meaning of the word Heaven. Three weeks before that, the first day of the GNC term, she sat at the back of the room disengaged and uninterested. Amazing what can happen in the space of 5 weeks as she had almost read her new children's Bible from cover to cover remembering a lot of the detail from the stories she had read.

Your Support

Four times per year we have a small team who offer up their time to visit dozens of homes to collect world globes. Every penny that is dropped into those little boxes is used for the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship. We have noticed that those boxes are quite flimsy and we are replacing large quantities of them every year. Perhaps you would consider requesting a standing order form and giving your donation each month, or each quarter, via bank transfer. It's a simple process and only requires a basic form to be filled in and returned to ourselves. Maybe you would consider starting to give in this way. Standing order forms can be requested by email or give us a call.

Perhaps you cannot commit to giving on a monthly basis, but maybe you would consider a one-time gift made payable to "Child Evangelism Fellowship" marked for Co. Armagh, and sent to the National Office.

Yours in His Service

Gareth, Lindsay & James Gwynne

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Pray for safety as we travel around the roads in a cold and wintery December. The boot of our car will be filled with 5,000 calendars as we journey to over 20 schools in South Armagh.

Pray for the children who are receiving regular teaching at our GNC's that the truth of the word of God might change their lives.

Pray for Christian teachers and principals who are trying to underpin the education system with a Christian ethos, in spite of attacks from without and within.

Praise God for children and teenagers who are trying to share their faith within the classroom.

Praise God Crossfire: Not Ashamed is still running very well with many bookings coming in for dates all throughout 2020 in both schools and churches.

If you would like your details removed from our mailing lists email your full Name and Address to garethgw@cefireland.com with the words "REMOVE ME" in the subject line.