



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF IRELAND

newsletter

AUTUMN 2020

www.cefireland.com



"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28

The strangest summer of all time has passed. It was one we hope and pray we never have to experience again. All the pre-arranged plans we had in place were totally disrupted; all the normal direct activities with the young people were not conducted; the outreach events in various townlands and even countries didn't happen—yes it was a strange summer. Yet it forced us to consider other means of ministry and we are blessed to have colleagues who are gifted with the skills to develop online ministry. A series of five clubs was recorded (Truth Catchers), and made available on YouTube (still available) for our workers, churches and others to use. Many of our area workers recruited their usual volunteer leaders and conducted camp online, both for juniors and teenagers, with good numbers of young people signing up and even parents joining in. I must admit that many of us were sceptical as to how 'successful' this venture would be, but we have been amazed at the online attendance and the interest there has been. For some areas they reached more

children through their online camps than they would normally. We have even received emails from individuals abroad who tuned into the Truth Catchers clubs and were blessed by them. It simply proves the truth of God's Word and especially the verse quoted above.

CEF of Ireland is built on volunteers like you: people who pray, financially support, volunteer as teachers, assistants, committee members and many other roles. Each of you are vitally important to the advancement of God's Kingdom among the young people, here in Ireland and in the other countries where Irish missionaries are labouring.

Rosemary and I trust you will enjoy and be blessed through all you read in this newsletter. Thank you for receiving it and taking the time to read. Don't let it stop there, please keep seeking the Lord for what He would have you do to fulfil our vision of Every Child hearing the gospel at least once in their lives.

David + Rosemary Edwards

(National Directors)



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Diary dates

3rd October

Online Autumn Conference

23rd Dec – 1st Jan (inclusive)

National Office Closed

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Great PROMISES of the Bible

Gerd-Walter Buskies - CEF European Director

A PROMISE FOR ALL CHILDREN'S WORKERS

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done." Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me."

The word recompense includes both *reward and punishment*; punishment for the evildoers and reward for those who are righteous and holy (*Rev 22:11*). We will focus on the *reward* for His servants which Christ brings with Him when He returns.

"Behold, I am coming soon ..." This statement is first of all *wonderful*! Jesus is coming soon! No generation has been closer to the coming of Jesus than our generation. Would it not be great to be present when He comes on the clouds of Heaven with all the heavenly hosts!? Well, we may live to see it! This statement is also *sure*! It's not an utterance of a fallible man who tries to foretell the future. It's the Lord of the future who reveals to man the infallible decree of God! And finally, this statement makes your ministry *urgent*! The time you have to reach the children in your country may be shorter than you think. Because Christ is coming soon, children need to hear soon!

"... bringing my recompense with me ..." Christ will not come empty-handed. His hands will be full and overflowing with rewards for those who have served Him. *"Well done, good and*



*faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over **much**. Enter into the **joy** of your master' (Matt. 25:21). Our reward will be abundant, eternal, joyful and far beyond all we can think.*

"... to repay each one ..." No one will be overlooked. Christ notices everything you do so that children can spend eternity in Heaven. He is aware of the time you spend in preparation, of the battles you fight to overcome discouragement, of your endurance when you see little or no fruit. Christ sees it all! And the day of His coming will be the time to generously repay each children's worker for his faithfulness, diligence and obedience to the Word of God.

"... for what he has done." Every faithful children's worker will receive a reward, but it's not the same for all. There are degrees of rewards. Paul reminds us, *let each one take care how he builds ...! (1 Cor. 3:10)* He then points out that each one's ministry will be carefully tested. *Each one's work will become manifest ... and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. (v 13).* Some children's workers do the bare minimum. They take time for many things but are poorly prepared when they stand in front of the children. The *test of fire* will reveal the quality of their work. *If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire (v 15).* Others will be highly rewarded and entrusted with beautiful and higher responsibilities. Some will hear Jesus say, *"Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities" or "you are to be over five cities" (Luke 19:17,19)!*

At the day of reward do you think you will regret the time and effort you spent to prepare your Bible lesson or your memory verse well? Certainly not! – What reward will you get?

Questions, questions, questions!

Ida Johnston, Lapland

Most of us are good at asking questions.

Habakkuk had many questions. It was a difficult time for him and the people. He prayed earnestly but it seemed as if God wasn't answering him. It seemed as if everything was against him; he was facing difficulties and problems, but he ends the book with a song of praise. "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." It is good to look to our mighty God and rejoice in Him even when we have many questions about what we don't understand.

Many have been asking questions in the last number of weeks and months. **Why couldn't we finish our Good News Club®s and Junior Youth Challenge groups? Why could we not have camps this year?** (One young teen said, "We could have camp and just keep to the rules!") Yes, there are many who have been very disappointed, including us as leaders. We thought about having online camps, but it just didn't work out.

The BIG question is: **Will we be able to start our GNC™s and JYCs again during the first week in September? Will we be able to have weeks of Children's Mission again from September until the end of November?**

As we think of the thousands who have died from COVID-19 we realise that many have gone to a lost eternity. Surely it must cause us think of all those whom we can still reach with the gospel message and ask ourselves, **"What can I do to reach them before it is too late?"**

We need workers here in Lapland. We look forward to Sarah Bleakley coming to take over the work soon. Sarah will need a co-worker. You can be involved in the work here by praying that God will call out workers. Perhaps you will be the answer to your own prayers as God calls you to go forth to reach the children for Christ.

A New Chapter



Many of our workers began their journey with *CEF* as volunteers and we are glad to be able to add another to that list. Erin Wilson attended her first training week at the age of fifteen and has been involved in various summer and winter ministries ever since, in her home area of Mid Ulster and further afield. Last time we heard from Erin in this newsletter she had completed a placement with us as part of her college course and was on her way to Sibiu to attend the CMLC in the summer of 2019.

Erin completed the first six weeks of the CMLC and has recently graduated from Ulster University Belfast with a BA in Graphic Design and Illustration. We are delighted to tell you that she has now officially started as a part-time worker in the Multimedia Department from 1st

July. Erin brings much in terms of skill and commitment to the department; previously her contribution during her placement was of an excellent standard and greatly appreciated. The promotion booklet on the Seaview project is just one example of her work.

Erin will be employed part-time as she also has a desire to attend Cornhill Bible College for further biblical studies. She will receive a salary but will be required to raise financial support towards it. If you would be interested in supporting Erin please contact the national office.

Please pray for Erin as she begins this new chapter. Pray that she will continue to be a blessing to the ministry of *CEF* and that she would be blessed as she serves God in this way.



CEF MINISTRY IN RUSSIA

Alexander and Raisa Andreev

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever"

These words from Psalm 118 are continually on our lips.

We have become witnesses of His goodness and mercy toward our country, toward our people and especially toward our children. Despite the fact that freedom in Russia now has more restrictions, *CEF* ministry is not decreasing. It is still developing steadily.

Every year more than 200,000 children in Russia hear about the Lord – thanks to the ministry of the staff team (53) and volunteers (more than 4000). We are working throughout all of our country.

In Spring 2020 all our plans were falling apart before our eyes, but we made new plans and implemented them successfully. Due to the pandemic we cannot hold mass children's camps, but we prayed and looked for the answers. We held activities outdoors for up to 20 children. We hiked with children in the forest, we walked with them on the riverbank, we went to the forest to pick mushrooms and berries! We observed the wild life inhabitants of the forest – birds and insects! There are so many opportunities, which we did not use before. The children were happy, and we

shared with them about the beauty of God, how He created the world, what happened to the world after the Fall, about the Saviour Jesus Christ and about personal faith. When the children went back to their homes, their parents kept calling us and telling us that their children had changed a lot; they began to pray daily, they began to love reading the Bible and they discussed a lot about God.

Before we used to think that we carried out all possible activities, but the quarantine revealed the amazing talents of our workers. Video lessons for children along with separate lessons for preschoolers as well as camps online became very popular. 1200 children have already participated in these camps, and the summer is not over yet.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have received thousands of calls and letters from parents with requests – help us, teach us, share with us... So, we began conducting online consultations, seminars, and conferences for parents. We thank God for this opportunity and that earlier He prepared and trained specialists who can professionally help parents. In many regions of Russia there are parents' groups conducted in Viber and WhatsApp, which are led by our workers.

"Mailbox Club" correspondence lessons are most popular during this period. The pandemic has helped many to see that writing letters is convenient and that there is no danger of a child contracting COVID-19. Here is one mother's testimony:

"My 8-year-old son began to take a "Story Time" Correspondence Course. I helped him to do his assignments. We answered questions together. I had never read the Bible before but then I realized that a lot of important things are written there.

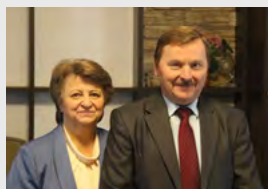
One day after finishing his lesson my son wanted to pray. He prayed to God confessing that he was a sinner. This completely new phenomenon has entered our life. I understand that I am also a sinner and I need to come to Christ. Now my husband is interested in these lessons. Thank you! It is so cool!"

We thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of children and their parents.

We are planning the new academic year for GNCs in two formats – online and offline.

Please pray:

- That many more people in Russia will see the importance of sharing the gospel with children and join our ministry.
- That we will have funds for printing programs within our country.
- For the legal safety of our ministry.



TWENTY TWO YEARS of ministry on the ISLE OF MAN



Geoffrey and Lily Weir

45 years ago Geoffrey's life could so easily have ended due to a road accident but God in His mercy had other plans. That accident was the beginning of God speaking into his life which eventually led to his conversion. Very soon after that Geoffrey became involved in Christian ministry as a Sunday School teacher and a helper in the Youth Club in his home church, Drumgooland Presbyterian, where he later became an Elder.

I (Lily) was a member of Dromara RP Church but I was also a helper in Drumgooland Youth Club and that is where I first met Geoffrey. We first came into contact with CEF when Geoffrey was invited by a neighbour to an Annual Fellowship Evening in Banbridge. It was after that Geoffrey, Grace and I started a GNC in the church. We were married in 1984 and soon after became members of the Mourne CEF Committee. In 1987 Geoffrey left his job and spent three years at Belfast Bible College. At College he considered a number of ministries but as much as he tried, he couldn't get away from the fact that God was calling him into full-time ministry with CEF. In 1991 Geoffrey and I, along with our eldest two children, Andrea and Elaine, went to Kilchzimmer to do the Childrens Ministry Leadership Course. It was after that we began working full-time with CEF in our home area of the Mournes.

In 1998 God again began to work in both our hearts and we felt the call to move to the Isle of Man with our now three children, Andrea, Elaine and Jonathan to take up the work which Roy & Ann Porter had begun in the late 1980s. During the last 22 years that we have been here the ministry has developed but changed. It is now mainly a school ministry. Some 7.5% of the island's population of 85,000 are of primary school age. Throughout the year assemblies are taken in 29 of the island's 33 primary schools. In some schools RE classes are taken during the months of May, June and July. We also take four weekly clubs in schools at lunch-time.

Much wisdom is needed in this type of ministry, so please do pray along with us, the local committee and trustees on the island that God will raise up those suitable to replace us.

We in CEF of Ireland leadership want to express our thanks and appreciation to Geoffrey & Lily for their years of faithful ministry to the children and young people on the Isle of Man. We trust they will enjoy a long and healthy retirement and the fruit of their ministry will be evident as God works in the lives of those who have been taught His Word. But what now? The concern for the local committee is who will follow Geoffrey & Lily? What will happen the entrance they have into schools if there is no new worker/s? Maybe as you read this there is a stirring in your heart for the Isle of Man. Is God speaking to you about taking up the challenge of continuing the ministry faithfully conducted for 22 years? Even if God is not calling you to step into the gap, there is something vital you can do! You can pray for the vacancy to be filled, for the person/s of God's choosing to be raised up to bless the island with the teaching of God's Word. We are asking you to add this need to your prayer list and seek God for the Isle of Man.

David and Rosemary Edwards

Introducing Pavlo & Kateryna Khystov

**"The Lord is my
shepherd; I shall
not want."**

Psalms 23:1

Pavlo and Kateryna have been CEF missionaries in Ukraine for 7 years. They have two children, Nelly (5 years old) and Timothy (2 years old). They write,

“We often turn to the Lord with our needs, and we see the hand of our loving Shepherd in response. Before quarantine we had the wonderful opportunity of taking the Gospel to children in hospitals, in kindergartens, Good News Clubs and more!

For a long time we prayed to be able to open a *Good News Club* in the city of Irpin. Lyuba, a girl from a non-Christian family attends this club and she is a special blessing. She said her first prayer with us, learned her first Bible verses and listened to the Bible stories with much interest. Pray for Lyuba and her family that God would open their hearts to the gospel.

Quarantine began suddenly, and all ministry plans had to be rethought. At first it was unusual to meet with children and teenagers online. However, the Bible studies, fellowship and games provided online were interesting and of benefit to those taking part and were ongoing for several months. The Easter treasure hunt, where children and teenagers were given tasks to complete throughout the day, was particularly popular! We were so glad though when the restrictions were lifted and we were able

to meet again in person.

In May and June we held online training for teachers from Ukraine and Russia. Such was the demand for the course we were able to conduct a second one in July and seventeen students from Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, Turkey and Spain joined us online. This was a great help and encouragement to those conducting children's summer ministry.

We are thankful to God for the opportunities to serve Him in taking the gospel to the children of Ukraine. If you would like to receive our prayer letter or know more about our ministry, please contact us at pasha1histov@gmail.com

With love, Pavlo, Kateryna, Nelly and Timothy Khystov ”

If you would like to support the Khystov family financially, please send your gift to CEF Ireland marked for Khystov family – Ukraine, and we will gladly pass this support on to them.



WHY?

Paddy and Jill Crozier - Assistant National Directors



Many times,
we have been
asked...WHY?
Why are
you going to
Kilchzimmer?
Why are you
leaving Mid
Ulster?

Paul wrote, *"and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, ... but as it is written, "those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."* Romans 15:20,21

Since God called us to this role we have not been involved in direct ministry as much and this is something that at times, if we are honest, we find difficult. However, God is using us indirectly in other ways to help take the gospel to "those who have never heard."

WHY have we spent many hours preparing for CMLC, IOT™ and TCE™ Courses* over the past few years? As we share with students, we are thankful that God can take

what is said and use it to help others take God's Word to precious boys and girls who have never heard.

WHY do we meet with workers, especially those who do not have a Local Committee? Our desire is to be a help, encouragement and support to them so that together we can take the good news of the Lord Jesus to the children.

WHY do we meet with the Board of Trustees, discuss in planning groups and visit Local Committees – often with late nights involved? As we do, we are blessed to see what God is doing across Ireland and we are encouraged to do more so that "those who have never heard will understand."

Please pray that God would make us a blessing, support and encouragement to others so that children across Ireland, and beyond, may come to know Christ as Saviour.

*CMLC - Children's Ministry Leadership Course
IOT - Instructor of Teachers
TCE - Teaching Children Effectively



Ministry in the... Mourne Area

David and Olivia Crutchley



What a strange summer! Normally May to August is packed with *5-Day Clubs*®, Holiday Bible Clubs and of course camps – but not this year! It was so unusual during the days of lockdown in May and June not to be arranging and participating in normal outreach. Much thought had to be given to what kind of outreach would be possible. Like many others we had to move online, recording Holiday Bible Club lessons and Children's Day talks. To be honest we didn't enjoy it - talking to a camera in an empty room is no replacement for teaching direct to children - but it was still worthwhile to be able to get the gospel across as best we could.

Thankfully others had been recording too, so to continue some kind of outreach in the areas we would normally visit for *5-Day Clubs*, our *Christian Youth In Action*™ team was able to get together and deliver 800 promotional leaflets for an online *5-Day Club* produced by the CEF National Office. It was good to be able to keep the contact in these unreached areas.

However, the main summer outreach was camps. Junior Camp went online, with recorded sessions morning and evening as well as a live Zoom meeting each evening.

Our leaders worked so hard recording fun activities for the children to enjoy, and Olivia and Karen Wallace shared the Bible teaching on Ruth. Parents and children were really appreciative. By the time Inters Camp came around, restrictions had lifted to allow us to divide the campers into two groups and meet with each group for two full days, complete with hand sanitising and social distancing. How good it was to meet with young people and leaders for real rather than on a screen! Philip & Denise Annett taught lessons on the life of Peter each day. Our borrowed marquee was essential as the rain poured down almost continually, but that did not dampen the young people's enthusiasm one little bit!

Summer 2020 has been unique in CEF of Ireland's history. As CEF workers we didn't find it easy – it was very frustrating to be able to do so little compared to all we usually would. Most of all we missed the direct interaction with children and young people. But despite it all, God's Word has gone out. The overriding lesson of this summer is that God is sovereign in all things – we can trust Him and know that His Word will never return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11).



Missions Department

Kathy Coffey

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

In CEF of Ireland we have 30 missionaries. Each of these missionaries is assigned two or three local areas in which they undertake deputation to share about their ministry and encourage prayer and financial supporters. My role in the Missions Department involves communicating with these missionaries and the Deputation Secretaries of the relevant local area committees to assist them as they organise and arrange the deputation meetings. The Deputation Secretaries undertake a vital work in seeking opportunities in churches, house meetings and other groups in which

our missionaries can share. We are very thankful for the help and faithful service of these volunteers in what can be, at times, a challenging task. We are also thankful for the churches and groups who welcome our missionaries to share about their ministry and for those churches and individuals who support them. If you would like more information on the assigned missionaries in your area or even know of a potential opening for a missionary to share, please feel free to contact the National Office at info@cefireland.com or telephone **028 9073 2263**.

Please pray for the Missions Department, Deputation Secretaries and our missionaries. Pray for the secretaries as they seek opportunities and that doors will open. Pray for the missionaries as they share about their work, that they will encourage and be encouraged. Finally, pray that through their time on deputation, our missionaries would see God put a desire in believers' hearts for others to be involved in the ministry among the children and young people through prayerful, financial and practical support.

Thank you so much for your prayers, support and encouragement.

Update on the
Seaview
REDEVELOPMENT

It is amazing to see the progress on Seaview since our last National Newsletter. The ground floor blockwork is complete, the first floor slabs are installed and we are well on our way to seeing the first floor walls finished! Thank you for praying over the past few months as construction restarted. We're thankful that there have been no delays in the supply chain and construction has been able to progress normally.



Ministry in Donegal

Samuel Crockett, Donegal Committee

Donegal is currently without a CEF worker and we, as a committee, are currently adapting to life without a full-time worker. God has blessed us with talented committee members and the ministry has been able to continue with the help of many committed volunteers. The HBCs and GNCs are run by a number of churches each having their own teams to assist. Camps have continued and the organisation of these are undertaken by several committee members. This year we were able to have one Inters weekend camp in Oceanview, but unfortunately the Juniors had to be cancelled. The summer camps were then conducted online for

both age groups. We needed a lot of help with the camps and it has been a steep learning curve since these duties were handed over to us when our workers left.

We are hoping that school's ministry can continue in the incoming academic year. We have volunteers ready to go into some schools if they are permitted. Currently there are a number of schools that were reached by our workers previously that we do not have any volunteers for. **I hope you will continue your prayer and support for the ministry in Donegal. Let us do all things for the Glory of God.**

Ministry in North Dublin

Rosalind Patterson

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do."

D.L Moody

Surely as Christians D.L Moody's words should be our aim when it comes to sharing the gospel with others.

The Bible reminds us in Romans 12: 4-5, **"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other"**. We all have something that we can do which is important no matter how insignificant it may seem. Nancy Leigh DeMoss wrote, **"Don't assume you have to be extraordinary to be used by God. You don't have to have exceptional gifts, talents, abilities, or connections. God**

specializes in using ordinary people whose limitations and weaknesses make them ideal showcases for His greatness and glory."

I am so grateful to the many who stand with me in my ministry. I can only do the things I do because of the band of people who share with me in the work. Those who pray faithfully for the work, those who give financially to the work. Those involved in direct ministry giving of their time and talent to reach out with the good news of the gospel to the children and young people in the North Dublin Area.

Would you be willing to do something to reach out to the children where you live?

Family News

- Andrew & Beulah McMullan have been approved by the CEF of Ireland Board of Trustees to become Assistant Area Directors of SW Europe. They will commence deputation for this role in 2021 and once the required support is raised, they will be released as fully active assistants to Stephen & Pamela Garrett. Please pray for Andrew & Beulah during this process.
- We extend our deepest sympathy to Heather Cowan on the homecall of her mum in June. Please remember David, Heather, her sisters and their families at this difficult time.
- We congratulate Fiona Squires (nee Donaghy) on her marriage to Jacob in Bristol at the end of July. Also congratulations to Emma Gordon (nee Busby) and Neal on their recent wedding. We pray that the Lord will bless both these couples as they settle into married life and as they continue to serve Him together.

Date for your diary:

THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT BOUND

2 Timothy 2:9

Online Autumn Conference

Premiering*

03 October 2020

7.30pm

Closing speaker: **Mr Sam Doherty**
Reports from local workers

Go to:



CEf of Ireland



*Conference will remain online after the premier

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