



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF IRELAND

# newsletter

WINTER 2021

[www.cefireland.com](http://www.cefireland.com)



**Rejoice  
always,  
pray  
without  
ceasing, in  
everything  
give  
thanks; for  
this is the  
will of God  
in Christ  
Jesus for  
you.**

1 Thess. 5:16–18

**W**e are advancing rapidly into the new year and for some of us of an older generation the year 2020 is akin to something from an old sci-fi movie. Each year brings mixed emotions and challenges. The previous year has gone with unfulfilled ambitions, a new one looming ahead with all that it entails. The world of this current generation is vastly different from the one in which CEF of Ireland commenced ministry. The children are known as Generation Z. They are growing with a seemingly natural ability to manage technology. You only need to watch a young child swiping to one side on an iPad or similar device to realise this.

As a Christian organisation we cannot keep pace with the rapid changes in society, but we can present a God who doesn't change and who is still actively involved in His creation. So how do we accomplish this? Through simple principles of teaching the truths of the Bible in an engaging and relevant way. **We trust that CEF® will never move away from teaching truth, but we also know that how we communicate the truth today is different from how we did it even a few years ago.**

Having realised this, we are seeking opportunities to share our knowledge and skills with local churches to enable children within their reach to be clearly and simply taught while trusting God the Holy Spirit to impart understanding and conviction. Maybe you are ministering to children and teenagers through your church. Could you participate in fresh training? Would new ideas energise you and those listening to you? Will you invite a CEF worker to come and train you and your colleagues so that the children receive teaching to the best of your God-given ability?

Please contact your local worker or Angie McKee who leads our Education Department at [angiemc@cefireland.com](mailto:angiemc@cefireland.com).

*David + Rosemary Edwards*

(National Directors)



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## *Diary* dates

### **1st January**

National Office closed for New Year.

### **14th – 21st March**

Spring Week of Prayer.

### **22nd March**

National Office closed for workers CPD day.

### **Easter Conference:**

Unfortunately, due to the continued uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Easter Conference will not be happening in its usual format. We are still planning to have a conference, but on a smaller scale. Further details will be available on our website and social media, or from your local CEF worker, closer to the time.

**info@cefireland.com    www.cefireland.com**

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland is a charity, registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100984) and with the Charities Regulator in the Republic of Ireland (RCN 20201509).

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# THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**T**he Board of Trustees for CEF of Ireland consists of fourteen people who come from various places on this island, from various denominations, but all of whom have a passion for seeing boys and girls across Ireland (and beyond) reached with God's good news.



Philip Beattie



Mark Conroy



James Martin



Gareth McBeth

**T**he Board of Trustees are: Philip Beattie, Mark Conroy (Chairman), Clyde Cromie, Janice Elliott, Linsey Farrell, Roberta Hamilton (Secretary), Ashleigh Martin, James Martin, Gareth McBeth, John McCormick (Vice Chairman), Tim McKee, John Parsons, Jean Porte (Hon. Treasurer) and Ken Rainey.

Our overall role is to ensure that the aims and objectives of CEF of Ireland are met. In short, our responsibilities are wide and include determining the overall

"Our overall role is to ensure that the aims and objectives of CEF of Ireland are met."

strategy, policies, direction and goals of CEF of Ireland. We are thankful for the way that God has been leading

CEF of Ireland for over 70 years, and for how He has placed His people as National Directors, Assistant National Directors and Workers. We recognise that we are in a privileged position—reading reports, hearing stories and praising God with CEF workers and volunteers for what our great God is doing across this island. We are thankful for the number of people

who support CEF of Ireland both prayerfully and financially, and as



# TEES

Janice Elliott



Janice Elliott



Linsey Farrell



Roberta Hamilton



Ashleigh Martin



John McCormick



Tim McKee



John Parsons



Jean Porte



Ken Rainey

we look ahead to the completion of the Seaview project in the months to come, we are amazed at God's provision.

We meet once a month, generally on the first Wednesday of each month, and at the minute (like everyone else!) we are meeting on Zoom. Our meetings are often long and varied but, without fail, precious time is taken to seek God in prayer. Please pray for us as a Board, that God would give us His wisdom as we make decisions that direct the work here in Ireland. Pray too for the work at this time of global pandemic, that God would encourage the workers and volunteers, and that He would save boys and girls.

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DISCIPLE  
ESTABLISH



Since 1937

CEF  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®

Reaching children worldwide™

# Ministry in CO CORK

Matt and Adele Corke

**O**ne of our highlights of the year is to get to spend a week with some of our volunteers and other young adults at #52. It is a week of discipleship, conversation, teaching and worship.

This summer felt very strange as we walked the new path of COVID-19 restrictions. We were hoping that by the time #52 came about at the end of August we would have been able to have a residential week with them. Many of the young adults contacted us to ask if there was any way that we could still go ahead with an "in person" camp. Due to government restrictions and the health and safety of all, there was just no way it could proceed. We were unsure about running an online camp. The young adults had been sitting behind screens for months at this stage, with all of their schooling or university lectures taking place online. Even their social interactions had all been online and we were aware that many were becoming "zoomed out". Nonetheless we put together a five day program of teaching sessions, discussion groups and prayer groups for any of the young adults that felt they wanted to join in. We were so grateful to a good friend and pastor who

agreed to do the teaching sessions. We had a fantastic week of #52 online. The young adults really engaged with the teaching and were able to invite friends to join in who ordinarily would not have attended a full week of #52. God really blessed the week, with many of the young adults really experiencing God speaking into their individual situations.

We praise God that we were able to conclude the week with a 'socially distanced, in person' worship evening. We are thankful for the stories coming back from these young adults as they share their faith and the hope that they have with those in their own communities.

When we look at these young adults we remember the words of Habakkuk 1:5, and our hope is renewed, **"Look among the nations and watch—Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you."**



# SEEDS FOR GOD'S KINGDOM IN SOUTH WEST EUROPE

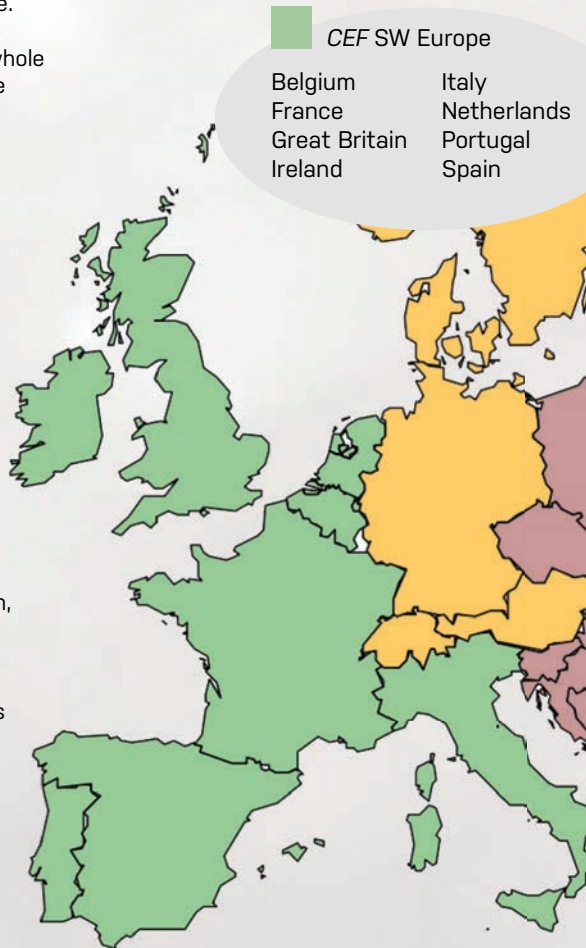
Stephen and Pamela Garrett

When I read about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 13:31–33, I'm reminded of those small seeds which grow tall under God's hand. We praise God for just over 100 full and part-time workers who labour in the eight countries of SW Europe along with numerous volunteers to plant these seeds. In each of the countries there have been very many challenges to face this year and many adaptations to be made.

In every country there has had to be a whole new way of working, namely online in the majority of cases. Just recently in my personal prayer letter I wrote about Portugal...one YouTube channel...one programme...one seed...250 views...perhaps as many as 600 children...several continents!

Financially some of our national workers are dependent on the help of SPAN (Support a National) from Europe and America. They cannot raise their monthly budget on their own. Yet this funding is stretched in helping workers across Europe and indeed right around the world. It can be difficult to keep these workers on the field. There is still a need for inter-cultural missionaries in some of our countries. Can you speak French, Flemish, Italian or Portuguese? There are ways in which you can help in SW Europe.

We praise God for new National Directors appointed in the Netherlands (Marco & Jose Baan.) Please pray for them and their young family. Also, all those awaiting Children's Ministry Leadership Course (CMLC) training next summer, that God will lead them and help them to prepare practically for whatever lies ahead. May many be led into CEF ministry.





# NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Johanna Austin



■ ■

In Spring 2019, it was mentioned in a *CEF* Workers' meeting that we should pray for the right person in the Republic of Ireland to take on a role in the *CEF* Education Department. As I began to pray, I found I was being nudged in this direction—beginning to wonder if maybe God wanted me in this role. In Autumn 2019, it was talked about again at our Staff Conference. As I prayed, I knew God wanted me to take it on, but I didn't feel able. Eventually, I arranged to talk to *CEF* leadership about it. Around this time, however, I ended up ill in hospital for many months. I felt a bit like Gideon—I started out feeling inadequate for a role that God was calling me to and ended up a while later with even less ability! However, through this God reminded me of His ability and sufficiency in all things. This past summer I knew that God was prompting me again and that the timing was right. I am unable to visit schools at the moment, and so I can use this time in the Education ministry. I am thankful to God for the local believers who work alongside me in the children's ministry here in Co Wexford. With their support, I continue to be involved in two *Good News Club*®s and two *Youth Challenge*™ groups which are all online this term.

In this new role, I am seeking opportunities to serve churches and believers in the Republic of Ireland by offering various *CEF* teacher training courses. At present, I am contacting churches outside my own county to explore with them what they need in terms of training in evangelism and children's ministry. I am thankful for the help and encouragement of our team leader, Angie McKee. It has been a challenging time for many of us in *CEF* as we have been learning how to move some of our ministries online. However, it is exciting to think about the opportunities this gives for training teachers across our island without the need for travel. I would appreciate your prayers very much as God guides and goes ahead of me in this vital ministry.

■ ■



# School Ministry in Fermanagh

Jonathan Graham

**L**ife is different  
in these days  
and yet we praise  
God for the many  
opportunities  
which He gives  
us to continue  
to reach many  
boys and girls in  
Fermanagh with  
the gospel.

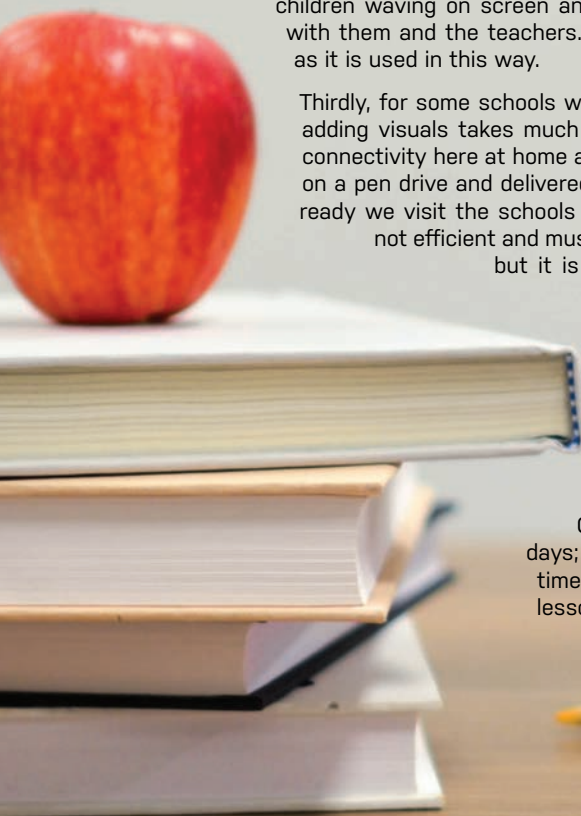
Historically in the county one of the strongest ministries we have is within schools and yet, in the times we find ourselves, it is impossible to stand at the front of an assembly hall to present the gospel. So how can the message continue to be shared? How can boys and girls be reached?

We have a 3-fold plan to continue our schools' ministry. In some schools we are able to go into class "bubbles" following all the necessary guidelines. Nothing can compare with the direct face-to-face teaching of the Bible and within these smaller groups we are encouraged by the children's questions along with the excitement and interest evident in their faces! Pray for more opportunities like this in the days ahead.

Secondly, we use Zoom in a number of schools, and it is a joy to see the children waving on screen and to be able to still have some interaction with them and the teachers. Pray that God would bless the technology as it is used in this way.

Thirdly, for some schools we pre-record lessons. Preparing, editing and adding visuals takes much time and due to not having great internet connectivity here at home and in some of the schools, the lesson is put on a pen drive and delivered to the schools. Each time a new lesson is ready we visit the schools again to deliver it. Some might say, "that's not efficient and must take up a lot of time." Perhaps that is true, but it is a brilliant opportunity to visit the schools regularly, and some conversations with staff members during these quick calls have been a real blessing and encouragement.

Yes, life might be different but praise God neither He, nor His Word, changes... Only the way we present it does! Please pray that God would bless schools in these difficult days; pray for teachers in these unprecedented times and pray that God would use the assembly lessons to speak to many children and staff.



# JOY FOR THE CHILDREN OF NORTH WEST EUROPE

Stephen and Grace Chambers



**Is there joy for the children of NW Europe? As believers witness about Christ, the Holy Spirit ensures they give attention to Him and He alone will bring real joy to their lives. How can we be sure?**

In Acts 8 we read that there was fierce persecution of the young church because of their faithfulness to the gospel (v1-3). This passage ends by recording, 'there was great joy...' (v8). How can this be? Verses 4-7 tell us two things happened. The people went about everywhere preaching the good news of Jesus (v5), and the crowds paid attention to what was being said (v6).

*The passion of the boards, leaders, workers, volunteers and supporters in NW Europe is to share the good news of Christ with the children. That has been different, even difficult this year, but it has been possible.*

## SWEDEN



In **Sweden** the first ever *Teaching Children Effectively*™ course was held this autumn. They were a small group of four students, but what a blessing to train others to proclaim Jesus. Robert, the team leader says, "There is a lack of understanding among the churches today in Sweden, that we need to reach the children. If the Lord can awaken them, many more children would hear the gospel." **Pray that this course will have an impact and more children will hear and respond to the gospel as a result.**



# ESTONIA

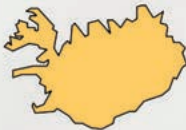
In **Estonia**, harvest party clubs (socially distanced) were also an important opportunity for the team recently. Three children trusted the Lord. What joy it brought to the children, the church and *CEF* leaders.

**Pray for the team that the Lord will use them to continue to bring joy to the children and young people of Estonia.**

Thank you for your ongoing prayerful interest and support for the ministry in NW Europe! **Please continue to pray that we will be faithful to proclaim Christ. Pray that many children will pay attention and know the joy of sins forgiven.**

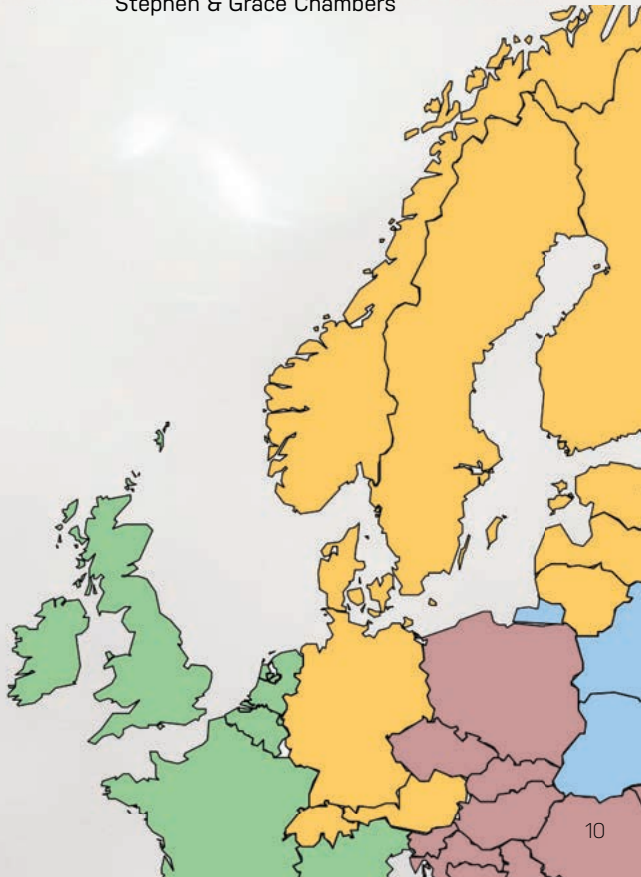
Yours for Christ's glory

Stephen & Grace Chambers



 CEF NW Europe

Austria	Latvia
Denmark	Lithuania
Estonia	Norway
Finland	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Iceland	





# MINISTRY IN LAGAN VALLEY

David and Heather Cowan

**B**efore I joined *CEF* I worked for the Royal Mail as a postman and it was a job I really enjoyed doing. This past summer I was reminded of my time as a postman when I used to deliver the mail.

Back in the middle of June *CEF* produced an online *5-Day Club*® called "Truthcatchers" which was put on the YouTube channel. Leaflets were also produced to promote this online *5-Day Club* and over the summer months with the help of some willing volunteers we were able to put 7,419 of these leaflets into letterboxes throughout the Lagan Valley area. Many days were spent going up and down roads, in and out of driveways, whilst remembering to close gates and being careful not to get fingers caught in letterboxes! During the sunny days when people were sitting in their gardens, we were able to explain what we were doing. Thankfully many people gladly received a leaflet, even if they didn't have children. I had only a couple of refusals. One man didn't even give me the opportunity to speak, he just said "whatever that is I don't want it!" Thankfully, however, this kind of response was a rare occurrence!

Please pray that children and even adults who received a leaflet will watch the *5-Day Club*. Pray too that we will hear of boys, girls and perhaps adults trusting the Lord as their Saviour. Remember if you would like to watch this *5-Day Club* it can be found on the YouTube channel.





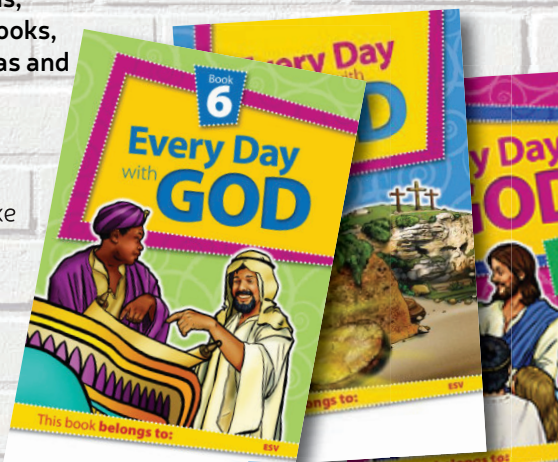
Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland

# RESOURCE Shop

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## EVERY DAY WITH GOD 1-6

6 child friendly devotional books each containing 30 days of devotionals that take children through key parts of the Bible. Includes lots of interactive elements to keep children's attention. Full-colour on every page. Designed for 6-8 year olds



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# Update on the Seaview REDEVELOPMENT

One year ago, we wrote about the plans for rebuilding Seaview. At that stage the old building was in the middle of demolition, and it was hard to imagine how different 133 Harbour Road was going to look in the future. Now, one year on, the site is completely transformed! The steelwork and blockwork is complete, and the roof is being fitted.

Over the next few months, glaziers, plasterers, joiners, electricians, plumbers, carpet fitters, engineers, painters and more will come onsite and bring the building to completion.

## Some things to thank God for:



The progress over the past few months, even with knock-on effects of the global pandemic.

The good relationships we have with our architects, builders and other contractors.



The provision of over £1.6m so far. The total bill is still estimated at around £2m, and we're so encouraged by how the Lord has provided thus far. We're thankful for financial support from individuals, churches, businesses and trusts (such as the Allchurches Trust, who recently gave £45,000 towards the project).

**W**e're aiming to have the building finished for summer 2020. We can't wait to show you around, but until then, make sure you follow us on our social media channels, as we regularly post photos and videos of the progress onsite.



**Thank you for your prayers.** If you'd like to know more about the project, including how you can pray for it, promote it, or give towards it, visit [www.cefireland.com/seaview](http://www.cefireland.com/seaview)

**PRAY**

**PROM-  
OTE**

**GIVE**



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BT5 4FR

Please mark gifts "for Seaview project".

*Seaview*  
REDEVELOPMENT



# FAMILY NEWS

We congratulate Louise Boyd on her recent marriage to Peter Davidson and we pray God's blessing on them as they set up home in Ballywalter, Co Down. Louise is working as a candidate in the N E Down area with the view of being appointed as the full-time worker. Please remember Peter and Louise, and the local committee, in prayer as they continue ministry to the children.



Teaching Children Effectively™ online

Monday evenings 7:30 – 9:55pm

1st February – 26th April 2021 (no classes 5th April)

The course is made up of three modules and you can do one, two or all three modules.

For more information or a registration form contact Angie:

Email: [angiemc@cefireland.com](mailto:angiemc@cefireland.com)

Phone: +44 7803 150428

You can also visit:

[www.cefireland.com/training](http://www.cefireland.com/training)



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