



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF IRELAND

newsletter

AUTUMN 2021

www.cefireland.com





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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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Diary dates

17th–24th October
Autumn Week of Prayer

24th Dec–3rd Jan (inclusive)
National Office Closed

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NEW THINGS

“

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19

”

Normally our minds turn to new things or new beginnings when it is Spring season, but now as I write, my mind and spirit are thinking in that manner. Surely soon we will be able to conduct ministry as we are used to and in doing so it will almost seem like a new thing. It has been a long dark season when ministry to an extent has been curtailed. All of us in CEF of Ireland are keen to return to normal working practices and none more so than our on-field workers who deeply desire to be ministering face to face with the children.

Oceanview camp centre in Donegal has been refurbished to such a high standard it too is almost like a new thing. It is our prayer that the centre can be used throughout the calendar year for church groups of any age so please consider Oceanview as a venue for your weekends away. It has an excellent sports hall, table tennis, a pool table, indoor and outdoor football and is only a 10-minute walk from the beautiful Rossnowlagh beach.

One clear new thing is Seaview camp centre. An amazing facility has been constructed to a very high standard and is now available for the churches in Ireland to use. We believe any individual or group who use Seaview will be astonished at the quality of the centre and seek to return as soon as possible. It is not just available at weekends but can also be booked during the week.

But the new thing we are all seeking is the main thing! All that has been written above, direct ministry, Oceanview and Seaview are all part of the objective of seeing children coming to faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. In doing so they find new life and a lifetime ahead of them to serve the Master.

Please keep praying; may your prayers be fresh and new and may you be blessed by seeing new things happen in your own sphere of service.

David + Rosemary Edwards

(National Directors)

GOOD NEWS ACROSS ROMANIA

Claire Bain

It was the third day of Good News Across Romania in County Buzau and the teams were faithfully taking the gospel to 1,600 children in 61 locations each day as well as distributing 14,000 packs of literature – especially in new areas. Everyone was busy and enthusiastic about what God was doing in this more challenging area of Romania.

At the morning prayer meeting, one of the CEF workers said, ***"I can't stay – I just came to the prayer meeting to ask for prayer. We were robbed during the night. A musical instrument and other items were taken. Pray we get the oboe back as it was quite valuable."***

Much prayer went up for the musical instrument that morning, but also for the children in each of the clubs and for each person who would receive literature that day.

When we heard of Mario who helped distribute literature to his friends (telling the teams where all the children lived in his village), Stefan who stood up during the Bible lesson and said, "I want to trust in Jesus!" and 8-year-old Radu who refused to leave the club even though his mother thought he was too young for teaching about sin and forgiveness, then we rejoiced at how God was working and answering prayer.

However, it was 6-year-old Lidia's prayer that challenged us the most, **"Lord, please save the thief who took the oboe!"**

Pray for God to transform many lives in Buzau as a result of GNAR this summer!



WHAT'S THE STORY

CEF MINISTRY IN CO CORK

Stan and Denise Beamish

Often in different parts of the country, counties have their own sayings and phrases. For example in Cork some people might ask, "What's the craic?" meaning "What's happening?" or "Any news?" When you ask, "How are you doing?" some may answer, "Happy out" meaning they are happy and content with each day. "I will yeah!" is said when the person has no intention of doing what you just asked them to do. Others might ask, "What's the story?" simply asking, "What's new?" or "What's happening these days?" or "What's all this about?" referring to something specific they have heard about or seen.

"What's the story?" can be asked in so many ways these days when ministry and regular summer activities are not being run, and some summer ministries are being run in a limited way. "What's the story?" is also the title of a big evangelical campaign being planned by a number of different churches. It's to be launched in the Republic of Ireland in March 2022 asking people to think about 6 Big Questions. Please pray that we might have opportunity to ask and answer big questions that would be specifically related to questions that children and young people might be asking. For some, "What's the story?" is a genuine question because God and His Word is not a part of their life experience—yet!

For years we have had the privilege of reaching thousands of children in schools ministry, Good News Clubs™, Christian Youth In Action™ weeks and summer camps, having the opportunity to answer some big questions. Over the last number of years we have been challenged as to how we can reach more children and youth, and have more opportunities to answer some of life's big questions. One answer is that we need more workers and volunteers all around the country who can help to

answer these **big questions** for the children and young people who live near them.

We have been in touch with many churches over the last number of months and the more I chat with people the more I see the need for children's and youth workers to work alongside these churches. Can we encourage you to meditate on this verse, Matthew 9:38

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."

This verse very clearly shows us that the first part is for all of us to ask the Lord. Will you pray that the Lord will call more full and part-time workers and more volunteers into the harvest field around Ireland. Pray with us that this campaign planned for 2022 will be a real challenge and a starting block for more people to get involved in helping to answer the **big questions** that adults, teens and children around Ireland may have with regards to "What's the story about God in my life?"





Our ministry in the state of North Dakota, USA, has been very exciting this year. We have 6 local chapters across a state that has quite different terrain than Ireland and about double the size geographically but with less than 1 million in population.

We place a lot of emphasis on summer ministry, with five sessions of Camp Good News and several weeks of 5-Day Clubs®. In a typical summer, we will have around 350 children attend Camp Good News. Last summer, we were unable to have our Camp Good News program at our State-led location because the facility we lease was closed, but one of our local chapters held a week of camp at another location, and that session was fairly well attended (over 45 children).



Kim Erickson serves as our Executive Director for Camp Good News for our State Office. She leads a team of approximately 40 volunteer staff members each week, along with roughly 10 to 15 paid staff. Camp Good News is a program that we are continuing to expand because of the effectiveness for both evangelism and discipleship. Most of the children attending are unchurched, and many of them keep coming back each summer.

Both 2020 and 2021 have proven to be fruitful seasons for our 5-Day Club programs. For the past several summers we had been questioning whether we needed a different program to be able to reach children more effectively. In North Dakota, children have several activities to choose from during the summer months; they have 3 full months of summer break from school so many parents enroll their children in sports camps, travelling sports leagues, and also summer enrichment programs offered by the schools. When family holidays were added to the mix, we found ourselves competing with several options while trying to get children to come to 5-Day Clubs.

When Covid-19 hit, all those other activities shut down, and our 5-Day Club became a relevant option once again. During summer months, churches typically hold a week-long outreach called Vacation Bible School (VBS). Last summer, many churches did not hold VBS and called upon us to assist their outreach with our 5-Day Clubs.

We had 122 clubs with 1294 children enrolled. Needless to say, God has used our 5-Day Club program in ways we did not expect and for that we

praise Him!

We were blessed to visit Ireland in 2016, and your Youth Challenge program inspired us to transform our Christian Youth In Action program into a stronger discipleship tool for teens. We still send our teens out each summer to minister through camps and 5-Day Clubs, but now we devote more time and energy to preparing their hearts for life-long ministry.

Ben Vinje serves as our Assistant State Director, and he leads our Christian Youth In Action training. Ben is constantly working to improve our methods for training, equipping, and inspiring our young people as they prepare to serve in our local chapters each year. We added a couple of discipleship retreats to our calendar, and we are seeing many students committing to multiple years of service with this program.

God keeps moving, and we praise Him for new opportunities along with established programs that we can continue to use to reach children with His Good News. Thank you for praying with and for us in North Dakota. We will continue to pray for you and the ministry of CEF Ireland.



Ministry in... North East Ulster

Pauline Duke, North East Ulster Committee

Ballycastle High School on the north coast with its dominant Fair Head is where it all happened on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July 2021. At last children and leaders met together in person for day camp.

A mix of seasoned junior and senior campers, including three new 6-year-old children and two seniors, attending for the first time (30 in total). Three willing junior helpers worked alongside a good many leaders who weighed in to make it all flow smoothly.

We are thankful the weather was beautiful and although we had a building to use, all the teaching and activity was done outside under the sun. So the ice-cream van arriving on Monday afternoon was a welcome surprise.

The Bible lesson for both groups was from Nehemiah. He remembered the instruction God gave to Moses that although His people were unfaithful and scattered, God promised He would bring them back and make "a chosen place

as a dwelling for my name." Nehemiah prayed, consulting the Lord, then asked for the king's approval to rebuild the city walls. There were four lesson parts and the following Bible memory verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures..."*

Team games got underway with the usual rounders, football and team challenge. The story of Jim Elliott the American missionary to the Huaorani people of Equador, was explained with flashcards demonstrating that God honours faith. The craft task was to assemble and paint model aeroplanes. The children and young people were attentive and took part singing songs and learning the memory verse.

We are thankful for everyone who came along and took part, also for the prayer friends and relationships formed with the day campers. Thanks to God for His leading and guiding. We are looking forward, with anticipation, to the new season ahead.



25

Specialised Book Ministry

Years on Helping!

Terry Flanagan

**“Lord,
what
do You
want me
to do
now?”**

This was Sam Doherty's big question when he 'retired' from the leadership of CEF Europe after 29 years. As Sam prayed about this, it became clear that there was a mighty work to do in writing and publishing literature to help and encourage children's workers around the world. Such a ministry would be based on the many lessons Sam had learned over the years. After some time of planning and organising, a charitable trust was formed to govern the work commencing on 29 August 1996. The name given to the trust was "Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide" (ACEW) with the particular aim of helping CEF workers—so eventually the work became known as the 'CEF Specialized Book Ministry'.

The ink in Sam's pen began to flow as book after book was published, and eventually over 100 titles of books and visualized doctrinal lessons along with many small booklets were produced. Much credit is due to Isobel Metcalf (Sam's secretary) who took Sam's handwritten notes and transcribed them for the printed page. A team of volunteer workers was assembled to handle the big task of mailing the books to thousands of workers around the world. God provided a base for the work in offices kindly provided in Lisburn, N Ireland.

As the work grew many books were translated into over 70 languages including Chinese, Russian, French, Spanish, and Hindi. In several countries these publications became the means God used to extend and strengthen the work. In using these publications CEF Ghana says, "Our knowledge and understanding of concepts and principles have been greatly enhanced." In Nepal, the work has grown as the workers have been equipped with study books and teaching tools giving the work stability. The CEF Leader says, "It was a 100% blessing for my ministry, a work that has now grown to 13 workers." Such publications gave strength and dignity to the work.

In an amazing way God has provided the large amount of finance needed so that millions of books have been distributed at little or no cost to the worker.

Today the work continues as many children's workers access the resources available online at www.CEFBookMinistry.com.

25 years of helping has brought untold blessing to countless children's workers around the world and to thousands of precious children.



Facing a task UNFINISHED
That drives us to our knees
A need that undiminished
Rebukes our slothful ease
We who rejoice to know Thee
Renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge We owe Thee
To go and make Thee known.*

The Unfinished Task

Andrew and Beulah McMullan,
Assistant Directors SW Europe

We read in Acts 1:8 "...and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." This was a verse God used to confirm our call to Co Monaghan and again when He called us to assist Stephen and Pam in the work in South West Europe. This new role involves taking us out of our current "Samaria" and to the further parts of the earth. There are now 9 countries in the area of South West Europe due to the addition of Greece in June.

As we look at the task of some 116 workers reaching the 48 million children and young people in these 9 countries with the gospel we do certainly see it as an "unfinished task" but, we praise God that it is not an impossible task!

"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

The methods used to reach children and young people over the past 18 months have changed immensely in each country. The workers have had to adapt to using Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, puppets, mail drops and many other platforms to continue fulfilling their calling to reach the children. The Lord Jesus told his disciples it was not His will that one of these little ones should perish and we pray that we too will have that desire and burden for the children of South West Europe.

Please pray that God will give us a spirit of wisdom, discernment and understanding as we get alongside the workers and leaders in SW Europe and that we will be an encouragement and blessing to them.

LOOK DOWN Learning



Prior to joining CEF, I was a qualified nursery nurse and worked in a variety of different childcare settings. During my time in that role, I used some simple signs to communicate with the children. This instilled an interest within me to learn Makaton or even develop further to learning sign language. But like most people life seemed to get busy and sadly it was something I never pursued any further.



That was until the world changed and we all found ourselves in lockdown.

With an empty diary and nowhere to go it was refreshing to spend the days resting and some much-needed alone time with God. I decided I was now presented with a great opportunity to develop some new skills. Despite Gareth and James wanting me to learn a musical instrument I chose to look into learning Makaton. Makaton is a form of communication using a combination of speech, symbols and signs. If you have young children, you may be familiar with a TV series called Something Special. Mr Tumble uses Makaton to teach children the signs and symbols.

I discovered there were some online courses, so I decided to enrol onto the first two levels. I enjoyed the courses so much I also enrolled onto the last two levels. After completing all four levels I did some further research and made my first Makaton video for our YouTube Channel, a Christmas special called, 'It's Nearly Christmas'. I also recorded another lesson for the channel called, 'Enough for Everyone', teaching the lesson on the feeding of the 5000. You can view these lessons and many others at www.youtube.com/discovertruth.

Preparing these lessons is so much more time consuming but it has been wonderful to see them being used. One colleague shared the Christmas lesson with a school in their area that uses Makaton and in turn

it was shared with the parents of that school to replace the Christmas nativity, as they couldn't perform as they normally would have due to Covid restrictions.

I have also had the privilege to teach Memory Verses using Makaton in churches where some restrictions were still in place and verbal repetition was not possible so signing the verse was a great alternative.

I hope to keep introducing Makaton into some of our clubs in the future. Whilst I am by no means an expert, I am delighted to have been given the time to learn a new skill and use it for the Glory of God.

Perhaps you do use Makaton and are more familiar with it or you even are fluent in Sign Language. Why don't you use your skills, if you haven't already, and introduce it into your children's meetings or Good News Clubs? Wouldn't it be wonderful to see some special signing Good News Clubs pop up all around the country?

Use your interests, talents, hobbies and gifts for the Lord.

Lindsay Gwynne, Local worker Armagh



News from the NATIONAL OFFICE

Andrew McNabb, Office Manager

As with most offices across the world over the past 18 months, life in the national office has looked very different than normal!

for us as we adjust to life back in the office together, especially with the various restrictions that are still in place.

There are, however, sad changes ahead too. After eight years of being our Shop Manager, Karen Crockford is leaving us for another role. Karen is sad to be leaving us, but feels the Lord leading her towards a role with an emphasis on pastoral care. After many years as both a local worker and more recently part of the office staff, Kathy Coffey is also leaving her role as an Administrative Assistant and I am grateful for all the work that she has done here. Please pray that God will bless both of them as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We also have a new member of staff in Claire Moorcroft, who will be taking up a part-time role in the office focussing on communication, website and social media work. Please pray for her as she begins her new role and spends time learning how everything works.

This year marks twenty years of the "new" national office at 199 Templemore Avenue. We are thankful to God for all of his faithful provision for the National Office over those years, and for the opportunity to serve him here in our various roles. Despite the fact we don't see any children in the course of our days, we know that what we do here has an eternal significance, so would you pray with us that we would all serve to the best of our ability and be able to see the bigger picture of reaching children and young people across Ireland with the good news of Jesus Christ?

Thank you for all your prayerful and financial support, and words of encouragement to us, over the past 18 months. We look forward to welcoming you at the office sometime soon!

Update on Seaview

Andrew McNabb, Office Manager

By the time you are reading this article, Seaview will, God willing, have been opened on 25th September. Perhaps you were able to join us on the day!



Our next National Newsletter will have lots of information about the new centre, but for now we wanted to say thank you.

First, thank you for your prayers for the project over the past two years. When we first introduced the Seaview Redevelopment Project at Easter Conference 2019, the finishing line seemed impossibly far away! Yet, by God's grace, in answer to your prayers, we are celebrating the completion of a building that is far better than anything we ever imagined.

Second, thank you for your financial support for the project. Although we were convinced of the Lord's leading in the project, £2.2m was still a huge amount of money to raise. Yet, once again by God's grace, at the time of writing (early September), there is less than £100k left to raise to finish the project. In a year when many projects had to stop, the Lord, through you, provided everything needed to finish Seaview.

If you haven't already visited, we can't wait to show you round the new building. But more than that, we can't wait for it to be filled with children and young people enjoying camps full of fun, great food, and most importantly, faithful Bible teaching.

Family News

- We extend our deepest sympathy to Lynda McAuley on the homecall of her father in May. Lynda had been able to be at home to support her mum during his illness. Please remember them in your prayers. Lynda will not be returning to Mayo but will become the Local Worker in the North East Ulster area, which has been vacant for a couple of years. Praise God for what was achieved during her time in Mayo and pray that the clubs there will continue.
- There have been a number of changes in the Multimedia Department recently. David Coffey stood down as Team Leader and is now working part-time in the Department as Designer. Following this decision, Leadership appointed Victoria Hylands to lead the Department also on a part-time basis. At the end of July, Erin Wilson left us to take up a post as Children's and Young Teens Worker in Richhill. Please pray for each of these folks in their changing roles.
- We were saddened to hear of the passing of former workers known to many of you. Mollie McQuilken, who with her late husband David were former National Directors of CEF Ireland, went to be with her Saviour at the end of June. Less than two weeks later, Sally Strain, who had served for many years in France and then in the National Office in Belfast also went to be with the Lord. We will miss these great prayer warriors! Please remember Mollie's nephew and Sally's niece and their families at this difficult time.
- Congratulations to Andrew McNabb on his engagement to Claire Moorcroft in July. We pray they will know the Lord's leading as they look towards the future. We also congratulate Faith (Crozier) on her marriage to William Mahon earlier in July and pray for the Lord's blessing on them as they begin married life.

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