

WINTER 2024

EVERY CHILD

CEF of Ireland National Newsletter

**A HUGE
ANSWER TO
PRAYER**

**LITTLE KIDS
BIG GOD**

**Who will
volunteer?**





CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Since 1937

Reaching children worldwide

CEF of Ireland is part of the worldwide CEF family, and we have a passion to teach the Bible to children and young people in an engaging and relevant way, through our direct ministries, training, church partnerships and resources. We want children to enjoy our ministries, but more importantly, we want to teach them deep truths in a way they can understand. Our vision is to reach every child, in every county, and to enable them to be in God's Word every day.

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Welcome!

We trust you are enjoying the new style of our National Newsletter. While the newsletter has changed, the reason for producing it hasn't. Our desire is to keep you informed of our efforts to reach the children of Ireland and further afield with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that you will be blessed by reading the reports in this issue and that you would be challenged to become actively involved in ministry to the children.

The ministry of CEF of Ireland is built upon volunteers, and there are many roles for believers to use their gifts in building the Kingdom of God among the children. We are very thankful for all of our summer volunteers, but we also require much help during the winter months when Good News Clubs, JYCs and SYCs are in full swing. So as you read this newsletter, keep the following question in the back of your mind: 'Is there something I can do in CEF for the glory of God?' We believe the answer is a resounding **yes!**

If you would like to be involved, then please contact our National Office in Belfast.



David Edwards
National Director



Facebook, Instagram, X:
@CEFIreland

Cover Image: Seaview in winter

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Our financial policy is to “ask God and tell his people”. As we seek the Lord’s provision and share our needs with you, please find the relevant details below if you’d like to support us financially:

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www.cefireland.com/give

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To set up regular giving, forms are available at www.cefireland.com/give or by contacting our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)

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(Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland)

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Phone:

You can give a gift by card by calling our National Office on 028 9073 2263.

Post:

Gifts can be sent to our National Office along with designation instructions (if applicable). Cheques payable to ‘Child Evangelism Fellowship’. Gift Aid declaration forms available at www.cefireland.com/giftaid or by contacting our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)

“LITTLE KIDS BIG GOD”

Johanna Austin (Wexford)

I was reminded recently of this title I had given a seminar I taught last May in our Equip Conference.

It has been a joy this autumn to see our ‘Big God’ at work giving ‘little kids’ opportunities to hear the good news. Some of them are hearing it for the very first time—what a privilege to teach them!

Following a summer club in our home in Wexford town, we decided to start a ‘Little Kids Good News Club’. This is for 3–6 year olds and takes place every Wednesday afternoon. We take some time to rearrange the furniture, set up some ‘learning centres’, plan appropriate songs and a memory verse, and of course, the highlight of our session together is ‘Bible Storytime’.

It has been a great encouragement for me to have a little brother and sister coming from our housing estate whose mother, aunts and uncles all attended one of our Good News Clubs many years ago. Yesterday, the little girl

asked, “Why did Jesus die?” This little girl doesn’t seem to sit still for more than 10 seconds, but she listened while I explained, “Because He loves you.” Pray for this family and all the children attending that the Lord will work through His Word in their lives.

This September, another opportunity to teach the ‘little ones’ opened up for me in a county next to Wexford—Co. Carlow. Every Tuesday, I fill my car with toys, musical instruments and visual aids, and drive to Carlow town for ‘Praise and Play’. This is a group for mothers, toddlers, and young children in Carlow Methodist Church.

I enjoy leading the children in singing great songs which teach how wonderful God is and what Jesus has done.

We have Bible Storytime and make crafts so they can bring something home to remind them of the truths we are learning. One of the students in the church is taking the Online Preschool Teachers’ Course and, God willing, she will be able to get more involved in ‘Praise and Play’ in the future. **Praise God for all the opportunities He gives to teach His Word to the precious ‘little kids’!**



MULTI-SPORTS MINISTRY

Declan & Amanda Curley, Local Workers (West Belfast)

2023 has probably been the most encouraging year for us in West Belfast so far. We witnessed breakthroughs in ground where it seemed, at times, impossible for any gospel ministry to take place. Of course, we know that nothing is impossible for God, and we experienced a great response and engagement for the first time from children and parents within one community in particular during the summer.

We introduced a multi-sports ministry in the summer to our 5-Day Clubs, where the boys and girls would take part in various activities and games but would take a break halfway through to hear the Bible lesson and take part in the quiz.

Some of the teaching was about how God can change people from

the inside to love and follow Jesus. That is our prayer for each child that hears the gospel in every season from summer through to winter, that they would be reconciled to God by becoming new creations in Christ.

We would ask you to pray for this multi-sports ministry as we continue to introduce it into schools and communities over the coming winter months through hiring local venues.

The platform which we use to reach the lost can differ, but the message of the gospel does not alter or dilute, and our hearts' desire is to reach every child in West Belfast with the gospel which is not bound by any political, social, financial or religious wall.



“...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose.”



A HUGE ANSWER TO PRAYER

Andrew and Beulah McMullan,
Area Directors (South West Europe)

We read these great words
in Romans 8:28.

A Children's Ministry Leadership Course (CMLC) had been planned for Spain and Portugal for the past three years and yet had never happened. There were many students who had planned to attend, but unfortunately each year it had to be cancelled. God was working out His plan and purpose, and we praise Him that on 23rd July 2023 a CMLC began in Portugal with eight Portuguese students and three Spanish students—this alone was a huge answer to prayer! The students all completed the first six weeks and the majority of them plan to complete the second part of the course in summer 2024.

We have been praying Luke 10:2 that God would send labourers into His harvest, and it is encouraging to hear that many of the students who completed the first part of CMLC

this year are already involved in reaching children in their areas.

We would ask you to pray for the eleven students that God will continue to reveal and confirm His will for them. Please pray also for four of the students who are already working with CEF Portugal (APEC), pray that God will touch the heart of Christians to support them prayerfully and financially on a monthly basis as they build a ministry to reach the children and young people.

We can say with Psalm 118,
**“This was the LORD’s
doing; it is marvellous
in our eyes.”**

WHO WILL VOLUNTEER?

David Jackson, Local Worker (Mid Antrim)



Two years ago, as the work in Mid Antrim was being planned, the need to develop our volunteer base was viewed as essential. One key part of that strategy is discipling our young teens. In the autumn of 2022, two Junior Youth Challenges were set up, one in Ballymena and one in Randalstown.

The first year in Ballymena went well with an average of 12 in attendance. The one in Randalstown struggled as it appeared they were meeting on the wrong evening. This year both have started extremely well and the change to a Saturday evening in Randalstown appears to have worked. The plan is that through the Bible teaching the young believers will be disciplined in their faith, and

others will come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Another key part of this strategy is getting them to meet young Christians from other parts of the country at national events such as the Sports Night, Missions Night and weekend.

We pray that these young people will join the growing Senior Youth Challenge group, attend the Summer Outreach Training Course, and become volunteers involved in reaching the children of Mid Antrim with the gospel.

Please pray with us that the work of our faithful Youth Challenge leaders will produce fruit in the lives of these young people and as a result they will be used of God to reach others with the gospel.



SHORTFALL

Interview with a ministry partner in Europe
who recently heard about the Shortfall project

what is shortfall ?



Tell us about your relationship with God.

I put my trust in the Lord and wanted to serve Him but felt that evangelism was not my gift. After I started earning my own money, I realised God had given me the gift of giving. Romans 12:8 says, "... if it is giving, then give generously..." (NIV). I began praying that God would give me the opportunity to give Him more!

How did you start to support CEF workers?

I often thought and prayed, "God, why did you give me money, and the gift of giving, but no opportunity to give?" One day a CEF worker friend from church explained to me that CEF workers are supported by donations from others. I didn't know that anyone lived like this. I thought it was amazing. I then started to support CEF workers monthly.

What do you give?

I started by giving 10% of my salary to God, but then prayed that He would increase my salary, so I could give more. I love to give, as it is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and use the gifts He has given me.

How can CEF workers and ministry partners bridge the gap that sometimes exists between those who need support and those who give support?

My suggestion is that each uses their God given gift. Some have the gift to evangelise. Some have the gift to give! Together, we can serve God with our gifts and work together for the gospel. We need to serve Him together!

Gifts for the Shortfall project are helping CEF ministry across Europe to grow. Gifts can be sent to the National Office, marked 'Shortfall'.

Want to stay informed about the work of CEF across Europe?
You can sign up to the European Newsletter, OnMission, at
cefeurope.com/onmission

TRAINING OTHERS

Angie McKee, Education Department Team Leader



Johanna Austin and I are very thankful for opportunities we've had to train others in reaching children:

So far, we've had three national online Teaching Children Effectively courses with just over 90 students involved. And there's another TCE Level 2 course ongoing at present. As a result of one TCE 1 course, a new Good News Club has started in Co. Carlow. The modular system gives flexibility to the students, so if they can't do all three modules in a course at one time, they can spread them out. Pray as we alternate between TCE 1 and 2 courses online each year.

We've also had two in-person TCE 1 courses with churches. Since Covid it's been difficult to get in-person courses going again.

In the past two years, there have been three online Preschool Teachers' Courses with almost 50 students from various parts of Ireland and the UK.

A training day focusing on children with special educational needs was held in Limerick with 27 Sunday School teachers from six churches.

We had the first 12-week residential Children's Ministry Leadership Course in Seaview in autumn 2022 with 18 students. We're planning another course for autumn 2024. Please pray that students will sign up for it and that through it God will call new full-time workers. Both Johanna and I also had the opportunity to teach at the CMLC in Portugal last summer.

These are simply some of the opportunities we've had. I'd ask you to continue to pray for Johanna and me as we seek to train others. Pray that doors will open again for more in-person training. Pray that as a result of what we do regular GNCs will be established and ultimately more children will hear the gospel and be saved.



CMLC 2024

People from all walks of life, and with different plans for the future, take our Children's Ministry Leadership Course. Some are planning to go into full-time children's ministry. Some just want to be better equipped to serve as volunteers in their church children's ministries. Could God be leading you to take the next course in autumn 2024? For more information, scan the QR code, or visit www.cefireland.com/CMLC





SERVE

this summer with CEF

Information on camps, teams, CYIA weeks and training opportunities go live on
30th December at
www.cefireland.com/servethissummer

DIARY DATES

22nd Dec–1st Jan 2023

National Office closed for Christmas holidays

17th–24th Mar 2023

Spring Week of Prayer

29th Mar–1st Apr 2023

Easter Conference
(National Office closed)

2nd Apr 2023

National Office closed



EASTER CONFERENCE
29 MAR–01 APR 2024

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Why not plan to join us this year at **Portrush Presbyterian Church** for our annual **Easter Conference**? We'll be thinking about how to effectively bring the great news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth, especially when much of the ends of the earth have come to us!

WWW.CEFIRELAND.COM/EASTER

FAMILY NEWS

We have been saddened in recent days to learn of the homecall of a number of former CEF workers:

At the beginning of October, we heard of the homecall of Sadie Doherty, who along with her husband, Sam, founded the work of CEF in Ireland and went on to serve in Switzerland as European Directors of the work. Please pray especially for Sam, their son Stephen and his family in these difficult days.

Some of you may remember Roy Porter, who along with his late wife Anne, served in the North West Ulster area and then on the Isle of Man for many years. Roy went to be with his Lord and Saviour in October. Please remember the family circle in your prayers.

Anne Parsons (Dublin) was called home at the end of October, following a period of ill health. We would ask you to especially remember her husband John and children, Bryan and Michaela, in your prayers at this very sad time.

The Board of Trustees after much prayer, consultation and deliberation, have identified David and Heather Cowan as the successors to David and Rosemary when they step down from their leadership position within the mission. David and Heather will be phasing out of ministry in Lagan Valley and working alongside David and Rosemary for a period, to familiarise themselves with leadership responsibilities. Please pray for each couple during this transition period and for a smooth handover when that time comes.



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