

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

IMPACT

Summer
2025

2024  ANNUAL REPORT

IT'S HARVEST TIME!



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD
EVERY NATION
EVERY DAY



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jesus often used stories or metaphors to drive home a point. In the case of getting the Gospel to the ends of the earth, Jesus uses the metaphor of the harvest in Matthew 9:37-38. In these verses, Jesus gives four facts about the harvest:

The harvest is plentiful. Child Evangelism Fellowship serves one of the largest mission fields in the world—children. Children make up 25 percent of the eight billion people on the planet. CEF workers have certainly seen that the harvest is plentiful. Last year, our workers counseled over nine million children for salvation, but it is not enough! There are still vast areas of this world where the name of Jesus is not known.

The number of harvest workers is insufficient. We rejoice in every worker that God has provided, but 2,733 workers is not enough to get the Gospel to every child. We recognize the need for more workers, and we are asking the Lord to increase our number to 10,000. Our founder, Rev. Jesse Overholtzer, prayed that “someday an army of evangelists would encircle the globe,” telling the next generation about Jesus.

Prayer is the key to providing harvest workers. Jesus used the strongest version of the word “pray” in verse 38 to express the type of prayer we need—“beseech,” “implore,” “beg,” or “earnestly pray.” Jesus wants our prayers to be earnest. Join us in praying that God will raise up men and women who have a heart for Him and for the boys and girls who desperately need Jesus.

Harvest workers must be sent. For workers to be effective, they must be trained, equipped, and supported. Our desire is to increase the number of Sponsor-A-National workers year by year. To do so requires financial support. We thank you for all that you are doing through your gifts and prayers. We would ask you to share with your friends all that God is doing in and through the ministry of CEF.

May God not only increase the number of workers; may He increase the number of ministry partners because the harvest is plentiful, and the time is limited.

For the children,

Jeremiah Cho

Rev. Jeremiah Cho

**THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES,
“THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL,
BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW;
THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY
TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST
TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO
HIS HARVEST.**

—MATTHEW 9:37-38

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PO Box 348, Warrenton MO 63383
800.748.7710

Contributor: John Luck
Editor: Rebecca Kee
Assistant Editors: Jeremy J. Lloyd and Mark Shaw
Designer: Tristen Stogsdill

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Please Pray

- 1 God would use our ministry highways to help us reach 100 million children annually by 2032.
- 2 For God's help and wisdom as CEF® training instructors prepare laborers for the harvest.
- 3 The Gospel presented through our printed and digital materials would fall on fertile soil.
- 4 God would send more laborers into His harvest using the Sponsor-A-National™ program.
- 5 God would provide CEF USA chapters with fruitful prayer partners.
- 6 CEF would continue being faithful harvesters for the Lord, no matter the challenges ahead.



TOGETHER WE CAN SPAN™ THE GLOBE

You can adopt a national missionary through our Sponsor-A-National™ program. Visit cefonline.com/spantheglobe.

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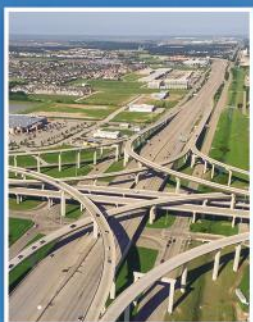
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HISTORY, MOMENTUM, AND HOUSTON



You can learn a lot from this highway in Houston!

The Katy Freeway is one of the widest highways in the world with 26 lanes at its widest point. Those 26 lanes are designed to help move an enormous amount of traffic from one destination to another. With its connectors and interchanges, it allows traffic to change direction to get to the desired destination.

Scripture speaks of highway-building in Isaiah 62:10. Because the harvest is plentiful, *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® has identified at least seven highways to help us in changing the direction of children's lives and moving them toward faith in Christ:

1. **Christmas Party Club**® capitalizes on interest in Christmas and turns it toward the Savior.
2. **Good News Club**® meets weekly and helps to evangelize and disciple children with the goal of establishing them in the local church.
3. **5-Day Club**® is a summer highway that ensures access to the Gospel throughout the year. Teens and young adults trained through **Christian Youth In Action**® share the Gospel through these clubs.
4. **Children Reaching Children** and **Go and Tell!** enable those whose lives have been saved to share Jesus with their friends so their destinies can be changed as well.
5. **Junior Youth Challenge**® brings middle-school kids into conformity with Christ. They learn to handle daily challenges biblically and how to direct their friends toward Jesus.
6. **Digital ministry** is a highway without limits. The digital world can be accessed across the world and can be used to share the life-changing message of the Gospel.
7. **Literature** is printed material and these paper missionaries are constantly changing the destiny of children as they encounter the truth about God.



Scan to learn more
about **CEF Ministry
Highways!**

Whether a child is coming from affluence, poverty, brokenness, homelessness, atheism, or religiosity, our desire is that ultimately they take the entry ramp to a CEF ministry that will bring them from darkness to light.

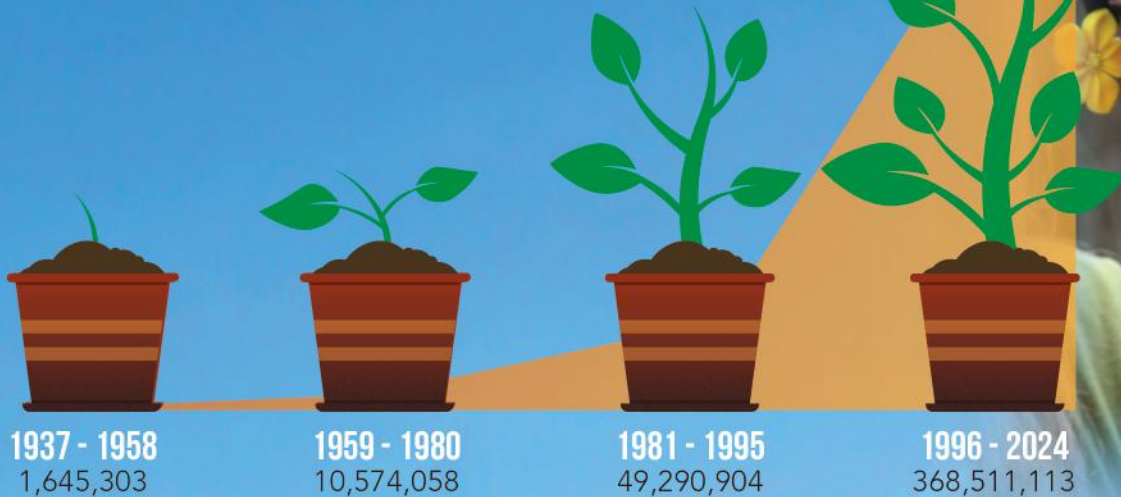


OUR HISTORY

Rev. Jesse Overholtzer was reading a sermon by Charles Spurgeon where the great preacher argued that a child of five, if properly instructed, can as readily believe and be regenerated as an adult. Mr. O's heart was gripped because he did not believe children could be saved. Yet, his profound respect for Spurgeon led him to align his beliefs with the Bible and to found CEF, which has become the world's largest ministry to children.



OUR MOMENTUM OVER 400 MILLION CHILDREN HAVE HEARD!



STRUCTURED TO MAXIMIZE THE HARVEST

How Mission, Vision, and Strategy Work Together

Farmers committed to the harvest are highly interested in using the best soil so they can grow optimal crops, provide sustainability, and successfully overcome challenges to the harvest. *CEF* is no different. We are deeply rooted in God's infallible Word—the "soil" of our ministry. We are driven by biblical truth. The Great Commission is clear. We must take the Gospel to every person. God's will is clear: "It is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14). Whatever we do, we must "do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

In farming, a GPS guides the farmer for precision planting. In *CEF*, we are guided by our mission which causes us to focus on evangelism, discipleship, and establishing in the local church for Christian growth. We are not satisfied to simply share the Gospel with children; we desire that those who believe will grow and become engaged with a local church.

In farming there are clear landmarks that help us stay on course. In *CEF*, our vision—**Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day**—helps us stay on course. We desire to engage every child with

the truth about Jesus and seek to do so in every nation on the planet. We currently have active ministry in 201 of 211 nations. We must seek to daily involve children with God's Word so they can grow in their relationship with Christ.

If a strategy for the physical harvest is important for success, how much more is a strategy for the spiritual harvest? Our strategy for the harvest is three-fold: Train, Equip, Support.



Training prepares workers for the harvest so they can effectively evangelize, disciple, and establish the next generation.



Equipping provides trained workers with the teaching and discipleship materials needed for the harvest so they can effectively minister to children.



Supporting provides financial resources to trained and equipped workers so they can maintain focus on the harvest.

EVERY CHILD EVERY NATION EVERY DAY



TRAINING

Over a Half Million Harvesters

Each year, by God's grace, *CEF* trains over 500,000 people to work in the harvest of souls. *CEF* recognizes that training is essential to carrying out our mission and must be carefully designed and diversified to meet every challenge.

CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB TRAINING accounts for over 50 percent of our training each year. By training volunteers to effectively share the true meaning of Christmas, we are able to reach millions each year with the truth of the Gospel, and we are also able to enlist thousands more volunteers.

TEACHING LITTLE KIDS is designed to prepare the harvester to work with children who are between the ages of two and seven. It focuses on finding ways to make truth come alive in a way that a very young child can understand.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TRAINING focuses on preparing harvesters to go into local schools with the message of the Gospel so that children can learn their need for a Savior, Christ's sacrifice for their sin, and that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. Teachers and volunteers can participate in a local GNC™ Super Seminar training or through online Quick Start training.

UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S CHILD is a course which prepares the harvester to help children of all ages and from different religious backgrounds. They also learn how to disciple children coming from difficult situations, such as broken homes or addiction to drugs.

TEACHING CHILDREN EFFECTIVELY™ LEVEL 1 focuses entirely on preparing the harvester to evangelize effectively. This 30-hour course is comprehensive and is recognized for college credit in many places.

TEACHING CHILDREN EFFECTIVELY LEVEL 2 prepares harvesters to disciple children so they can grow in their relationship with Christ.

MINISTRY STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT teaches the harvester how to be successful regardless of the soil. It shares best practices to help harvesters engage others to join them in reaching the next generation around the world.



CHILDREN REACHING CHILDREN teaches little harvesters how to serve effectively among their peers and share with them how they can put their trust in Christ.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION prepares teenage harvesters to make a difference during their summer break by teaching *5-Day Club* in parks, community centers, apartment complexes, and anywhere children gather.

These are just a sample of the many training courses *CEF* offers for harvesters. Training is essential if we are to successfully plant the Gospel seed in every soil and trust God for an abundant harvest.



Scan to learn more
about training.



THERE WERE TOO MANY!

JHO D. MALDANGESANG, National Director of CEF Palau

In March, Jho and two other instructors held a *Christian Youth In Action* course for several girls at a Christian boarding school. They were willing and enthusiastic students. Jho writes: "One moment that stood out was when four girls chose to stay in class instead of leaving to practice for the Pacific Mini-Games. Later, during the final weekend of training, two other girls—one from a Mormon background—were told their parents wanted them home. They both politely refused and stayed until the training was over."

The following month, Jho and the dorm manager led 14 of these girls on a three-day mission trip to Peleliu Island. On the first day, they launched Children Reaching Children training at the church. Only four children arrived but, "We did not lose heart. They were all excited to learn." The girls partnered with the kids to help them practice sharing the Gospel message through *The Wordless Book*.

The following day, the team joyfully taught an Easter Party Club for the children. Afterwards, 40 out of 50 children accepted the invitation and were counseled for salvation by the girls. Jho says, "As the girls sat with their assigned groups, their nervousness slowly faded away to excitement and a sense of purpose. There was joy in their voices and love in every word they spoke."

According to Jho, "The final evening was nothing short of a divine surprise. As we waited for the children to come, we heard footsteps rushing toward the door. The kids were coming! And there were too many!" Now there was hardly any space in the church! Fifteen more children came to CRC! Many of them had been counseled for salvation at the school. Now they were eager and ready to become harvesters along with their big sisters.



Children's Ministries Institute® celebrates 80 years of training children's ministry workers!



Britnell Knowles, from the Bahamas, recently graduated from International Headquarters' 180th CMI® class.

"One doesn't just go to the start line and start to run. There is a time of preparation. For us in children's ministry, it is a constant, long-distance race."

TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO SUCCESSFULLY PLANT THE GOSPEL SEED IN EVERY SOIL AND TRUST GOD FOR AN ABUNDANT HARVEST.



First Session of Child Evangelism Institute, January-June, 1945

2024

24 institutes held worldwide
605 students enrolled

1945

CMI is founded
33 students attend
the first class





EQUIPPING

Harvesters with Printed and Digital Tools

A trip to any modern farm would likely uncover a wide variety of tools, each one designed to lead to a greater harvest. Tractors, harvesters, plows, cultivators, spreaders, seeders, and sprayers—they exist because we all know that having the right tool to do the job makes an incredible difference. It is no less true in the harvest of souls. In CEF, we use both printed and digital tools to increase our effectiveness. Each one is designed for a specific need.

PRINTED MATERIALS

- **TEACHING MATERIALS** are included in our curriculum for *Good News Club*, *5-Day Club*, and all other clubs. They often include the Bible lesson text, missionary story, songs, memory verses, and the “Word Up!” (a short phrase the children shout to remember the lesson’s main teaching). Each Bible lesson contains application for both the saved and the unsaved child because we never stop thinking about evangelism and discipleship. We carefully craft the scope and sequence of our curriculum so that children receive balanced and rich instruction from Scripture. The missionary story focuses on a hero of the faith who gave their life to be part of the harvest. We know that tomorrow’s harvesters may be today’s students and we are always asking God for more. Hiding His Word in their hearts is essential, so we use verse songs and games to help them memorize these truths. The “Word Up!” is even designed to turn the child’s natural energy into a teaching moment. These materials may be the best and most effective way to plant or cultivate the seed planted.
- **DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS** include devotional books to help children spend time in God’s Word and prayer so that the truth can take root in the soil of their minds. *The 60-Day Wonder Devotional Books* contain 1,080 days of devotions that Warren Wiersbe called “systematic theology for children.” *Meet the King!* teaches the life of Christ in a way that kids can understand. *My Bible Brave Adventures* includes games and activities for children to learn about how God gave Bible heroes the bravery to serve Him.
- **SPECIALTY MATERIALS** are those used in unique situations. *Do You Wonder Why?* has helped countless children face natural disasters, school shootings, and other crises. *A Better Life* is specifically designed for children who find themselves in a refugee situation.

DIGITAL MATERIALS

- Our *U-Nite*® platforms allow children to engage with God’s Word and grow in their faith at any time. *U-Nite TV*® streams animated adventures that teach truths from the Bible, music videos to learn God’s Word, and stories that teach the Gospel. *U-Nite Radio*® offers short episodes of Good News Heroes and Good News Devos.

The bottom line is we need the right tool to do the job. That’s why we have translated our materials into 96 languages and continue to send them to as many children as possible. CEF is committed to providing the tools to every harvester so they can be effective in evangelizing, discipling, and establishing.



Two of the brothers from “Paper Missionary” (page right) stand on either side of three young churchgoers about to be baptized.

A MOVEMENT OF HOPE, ONE BOOKLET AT A TIME

From Bogdan Bassara, CEF Europe

In a continent of deep history, spiritual diversity, and growing secularism, a simple but powerful Gospel tool is making a profound impact. Over the past few months, a Gospel tract called “That’s Strange” has been distributed in 27 countries, over 738,000 times across Europe. “That’s Strange” presents the Good News through three supernatural events that occurred at the time of Jesus’ death: the darkness which covered the land, the temple curtain torn in two, and the stone being rolled away from the empty tomb. The tract leads the reader to consider who Jesus truly is and why His death matters.



“I didn’t know about the curtain that was torn in the temple from top to bottom so that we could have free entrance to God. Now I know I can talk directly to Him.”

—Parent at Easter Party Club in Estonia

PAPER MISSIONARY

From CEF Romania

Several years ago, a CEF Gospel tract was thrown over a fence. It landed in the hands of three brothers, none of whom had any church background. One of them picked it up and read it. He boldly declared, “I will read the Bible to prove that God doesn’t exist!”

But as he read, something strange happened—his heart changed. He gave his life to Jesus. Not long after, his two brothers committed their lives to Jesus also. Today, one is a pastor, another is a church elder, and the youngest is a firefighter, actively sharing the Gospel with his coworkers. And the ripple effect continues: A fellow firefighter came to the youngest brother after containing a fire that destroyed everything except a New Testament. The man began asking questions. Now he and his child are part of a local church.



cefpres.com



SUPPORTING

Placing Harvesters in the Field

Local harvesters are essential to the work of reaching the next generation. Workers at CEF International Headquarters are global harvesters. They work to provide what workers around the world need to be more efficient and effective in the harvest field. We have harvesters at the regional level who focus on overseeing the work, developing the training, providing the literature, and advancing digital ministry in their part of the world. National workers focus on the harvest in one of 201 national harvest fields. There are ten countries of the world where we are praying for the opportunity to begin ministry, and we call them target harvest fields. Ninety-six percent of our workers are nationals. They serve in a harvest field where they know the language, understand the culture, and are most effective.

The Sponsor-A-National program is at the heart of our harvest operation. We train them, equip them, and then send them out into the harvest field to reach boys and girls for Jesus. Currently SPAN™ harvesters are working in 147 of the 201 countries we serve.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

JOY S. SIDRO, CEF Philippines

The Gospel is always urgent, but it is especially so for the Aetas, a tribal community in the Philippines who live in the mountain regions of Luzon. Only one third of their children will live past their 15th birthday. At the end of last year, knowing the Aetas' desperate need for the Gospel, a team of CEF missionaries from the Philippines made the journey to minister to them.

They traveled until the roads were no longer passable. Then they put supplies on their backs, got in a canoe, and continued their journey. Once they arrived, the missionaries handed out snacks and school supplies.

Then they broke into two groups—one taught 20 of the adults and another taught 70 children. That day, the Lord's arm stretched out into the vast reaches of the Philippines and saved dozens of the Aeta people. There were many smiling faces as both children and adults said, "Thank you for coming to share Jesus with us."

National CEF workers are bearing fruit!

I CAN TAKE THEM

DEAN HUNSUCKER, Executive Director of Global Media

We took tens of thousands of *Wordless Books* and gave them away to the workers at a Middle East conference. I saw this worker clutching two giant bags of *Wordless Books*. He was on the floor weeping and wailing. He kept saying, "I can take them! I can take them!" The other workers kept telling him, "No, you can't have that." I went in there and said, "No, no, it's fine. You can have them!" The worker's supervisors pulled me away and said, "There is a 100 percent chance that when he enters his country, they will search every ounce of his stuff. If they can prove in any way that he's a Christian, he will go to jail." He was willing to put his life and everything on the line for the opportunity to get the Gospel into the country.



IT WAS WORTH IT

From a SPAN worker in a sensitive Asian country

I was in a state of grief; I lost my beloved father, I lacked ministry funds, and because December is our rainy season, I was ill for several days. But it was worth it to see the children so excited. There were 679 children who heard the Gospel this Christmas, and among them 227 responded by accepting Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. It is all because of God's goodness and love that the ministry continues to grow.

ADOPTING HARVESTERS



This year we have exciting news. Not only can you support this program of harvesters called SPAN, but you can also support an individual harvester. Do you have a burden or passion for a particular country? You could adopt a SPAN worker or workers

from that country. Do you have a special family tie to another country? Why not consider supporting someone working in that harvest field? Does your church want to balance its mission portfolio by adding someone in another region of the world? You can adopt a SPAN worker.

To learn more about how you can adopt a SPAN worker, visit www.cefonline.com/spantheglobe. There are missionaries featured from all over the globe. Find the one that fits your passion and burden, and adopt today. You can be part of encouraging and equipping the most productive harvesters in all the world.



+

THANK YOU FOR COMING
TO SHARE JESUS WITH US!

PRAISE GOD FOR A FRUITFUL YEAR OF MINISTRY IN 2024



EUROPE

People Trained

👥 46,753

Good News Clubs

😊 11,428

Children Reached

👤 2,420,646

44% increase
from 2023

NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

People Trained

👥 21,759

Good News Clubs

😊 5,010

Children Reached

👤 779,503

LATIN AMERICA

People Trained

👥 70,691

Good News Clubs

😊 21,689

Children Reached

👤 1,540,675

4% increase
from 2023



WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

People Trained

👥 57,850

Good News Clubs

😊 9,788

Children Reached

👤 3,157,643

5% increase
from 2023

MATTHEW 18:14 "SO IT IS NOT THE WILL
OF THE FATHER THAT ONE OF THESE
LITTLE ONES SHOULD PERISH."



CHILDREN
IMPACTED
EVERY...

DAY
75,162
HOUR
3,132
MINUTE
52

ASIA PACIFIC

People Trained

 74,302

Good News Clubs

 9,259

Children Reached

 1,696,642



MIDDLE EAST

People Trained

 180,404

Good News Clubs

 23,657

Children Reached

 7,459,214

9% increase
from 2023

EAST & CENTRAL AFRICA


People Trained

 60,248

Good News Clubs

 8,916

Children Reached

 6,232,749



SOUTHERN AFRICA & INDIAN OCEAN

People Trained

 22,031

Good News Clubs

 10,957


Children Reached

 4,146,996

30% increase
from 2023

WORLDWIDE TOTALS

DIRECT - CHILDREN REACHED

 27,434,068

DIGITAL AND DISTRIBUTION IMPACT

  3,602,805

CHILDREN IMPACTED


 31,063,873

WORLDWIDE TOTALS

GOOD NEWS CLUBS

 100,704

NUMBER OF STAFF

 3,550


PEOPLE TRAINED

 534,038

USA MINISTRIES

PRAYER BRINGS **THE HARVEST**

JEFF NICHOLS, Vice President of USA Ministries



Recently I had the opportunity to have breakfast with the leader of another non-profit children's ministry. The pancakes tasted good, but sharing in the excitement of telling kids about our Savior tasted sweeter. He told me about the growth they are seeing, and I told him about our growth worldwide and what God is doing here in the USA. His question would have stung if not for the history we have in our friendship. "Jeff," he said, "How is CEF doing what it's doing? I've heard a little more about CEF lately, but you don't hear that much about it. It's not as well known as many other ministries. How do you get all the volunteers? How is CEF reaching so many children?"

He was right, in a way. CEF may not be as well known, as well publicized, or even as well funded as many other ministries. But God has used us to reach millions of children around the world, including many right here in the USA. Why? How? I thought for a moment. Then I said, "It's prayer. I've never been around a ministry that not only talks about prayer but values prayer as much as CEF does."

The prayer warriors who have prayed for our ministry throughout these 88 years continue asking God for something that is so close to His heart: the salvation of children. Prayer is the number one way to express our total reliance on God, and this ministry depends on God's provision and protection for all it does and will do in the future.

When I told him we have 350 local chapters around the USA, his reaction gave me new insight. He said CEF is poised and ready to take off with all that infrastructure already in place, and I agree. God, in His sovereignty and grace, divinely orchestrated the creation of these chapters over the years. Are they reaching all their potential right now? Some are, but many are rebuilding or looking for new leadership after the devastation of COVID-19. But local chapter committees are in place. CEF staff and volunteers are present and ready to do even more. And state chapters are in every state ready to **Train, Equip, and Support** the local chapters to reach as many kids as possible.

Our ambitious goal is to reach **one million children in the USA by 2028**. This goal is part of the overall CEF goal of

reaching **60 million children by 2028** and then **100 million by 2032**. How will this happen? The answer lies in what has caused tremendous growth all these years: Prayer! What would a white-hot prayer movement look like in your city for the children who live there? What would a prayer wave look like for all the children in your state? What would a nationwide prayer revival look like for the souls of our children? It will cost time on our knees before our Father who is "not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). What will be the benefit? A harvest of young people who turn to God for forgiveness of their sins. Does it get any better than that?

I'VE NEVER BEEN AROUND A MINISTRY THAT NOT ONLY TALKS ABOUT PRAYER BUT VALUES PRAYER AS MUCH AS CEF DOES.



USA MINISTRY STATISTICS



4,395

Good News Clubs



1,834

5-Day Clubs



45,296

Professions
of Faith



894

Total Staff

DIRECT MINISTRY
DIGITAL MINISTRY
DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY

TOTAL

539,467 **CHILDREN REACHED FACE-TO-FACE**
1,058,016 **MEDIA ACCESSED**
67,362 **DISTRIBUTED LITERATURE**

1,664,845 **CHILDREN IMPACTED**

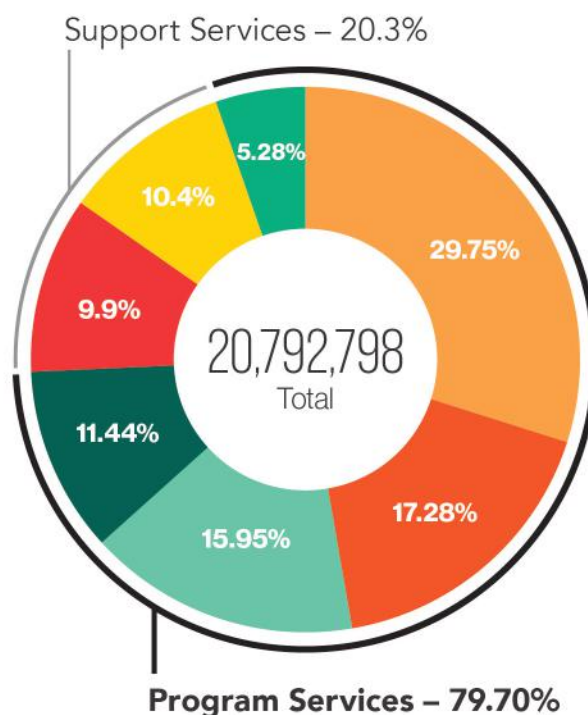


INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FINANCIALS



Audited Distribution of Funds 2024

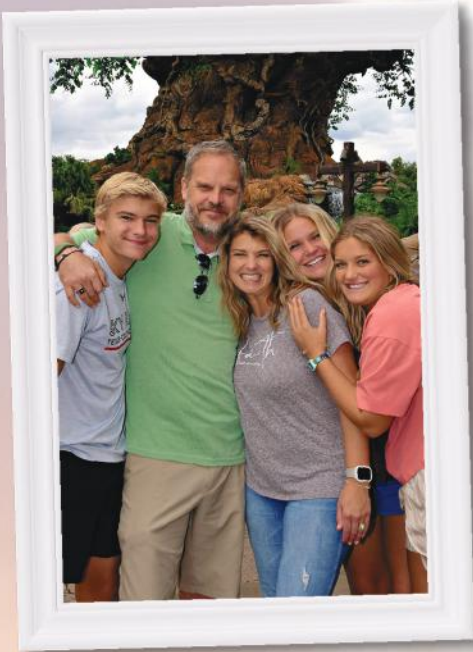
Audit performed by CliftonLarsenAllen LLP



Child Evangelism Fellowship is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

THE HARVEST COULD NOT WAIT

THE SENKELS



ALICIA

I grew up taking care of myself after school, watching TV, and eating snacks. My favorite days, however, were the ones where I got to ride the church bus to a once-a-week afterschool program. It was not a

Good News Club, but it gave me first-hand knowledge of how impactful after school discipleship programs can be in shaping a child.

A few decades later, when Bill and I were married and raising our three children in Georgia, I noticed my daughter's elementary school had a *Good News Club*. I was so thankful there was a place for unchurched children to hear the Good News. That is when we became financial supporters of CEF.

BILL

Several years later, Alicia and I decided to attend a CEF conference in California. While at this conference, John Luck brought up the urgency we should all have in sharing the Gospel because "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2).

From a very young age I was involved in all aspects of farming. One day while I was out driving a tractor,

my dad drove up in the pickup. This was strange—he should have been in the combine (a machine used to harvest wheat). He had been working on the gas engine when his hand caught on fire. As he walked up to the tractor, I saw the loose skin hanging off his burned hand. "Shut the tractor down," he said. "I need to go show you how to run the combine."

As we drove to the combine, I tried to convince my dad that he needed to get to the hospital. He told me there was no time for that; the harvest could not wait. We climbed inside the combine and drove around the field while he told me what all the levers did and what gauges to watch. Before I knew it, he was heading to the hospital with my mom. I sat there for a few seconds, still in disbelief. Finally, I put the combine in gear and started harvesting the wheat. By the grace of God, I was able to finish that day, and my dad's hand was patched up well enough that he could finish the harvest.

From this experience, I learned the importance of the harvest and the importance of working through difficulties. We must take a step of faith, even when we think we aren't 100 percent ready for the challenge in front of us. When I realized how much CEF understood the importance of the spiritual harvest, I knew this was an organization Alicia and I wanted to continue supporting. God has blessed our family richly and we are honored to be a small part of CEF.



I REALIZED HOW MUCH CEF UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE SPIRITUAL HARVEST.



BEHOLD, CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD,
THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB A REWARD.
LIKE ARROWS IN THE HAND OF A WARRIOR
ARE THE CHILDREN OF ONE'S YOUTH.
BLESSED IS THE MAN
WHO FILLS HIS QUIVER WITH THEM!
HE SHALL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME
WHEN HE SPEAKS WITH HIS ENEMIES IN THE GATE.

—PSALM 127:3-5

CHILDREN: OUR **HERITAGE** AND **RESPONSIBILITY**

PHILIP MILLER, Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago



When Dwight L. Moody wanted to reach the city of Chicago in the mid-1800s, he began a Sunday school for street kids. He rented an old saloon, cleaned it overnight, and then rode through the streets on his “missionary horse,” throwing out candy to recruit children off the streets to hear the Gospel message. Moody knew the key to transforming a booming city involved reaching its youth. That Sunday school soon gave birth to the church where I pastor today. Over 160 years later, children’s ministry is still one of our highest priorities.

Making spiritual investments in the lives of children is one of the most strategic and rewarding opportunities we have as God’s people. Ministering to kids is central to our task of making disciples. In Psalm 127:3-5, Solomon reminds us why investing in kids is so worthwhile by using three insightful images. The first image is one of heritage. Kids are gifts that have been entrusted to us. They belong to God, and He has given them into our care. That’s a huge responsibility to steward! When we sense the weight of this heritage, we invest in kids, knowing they belong first and foremost to the Lord.

The second image is that of arrows. Ancient archers crafted and shaped their arrows, took careful aim, and unleashed them so they could make a far-reaching impact. Like arrows, children launch out for a kingdom impact that goes far beyond us. The kids we invest in today will touch countless lives in ways that we never could. When

we see the potential and far-reaching impact of children, we invest in kids, knowing they’ll make a mark on the world in ways we never could.

The third image Solomon gives us is one of gates. The gates of ancient cities were used as defenses. Picture the younger generation rising up to defend their elders whose strength is beginning to fail. The faith that is passed to the next generation will unleash an army that will lead the way forward for the future. We pray the children we invest in today will one day be the leaders championing the faith on behalf of us all. When we see our need for future leaders, we invest in kids, knowing they will take up the mantle and fight the good fight for years to come.

This is why I’m so grateful for the ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*, which sees the kingdom potential in the faces of children all around the world. The Gospel is the power of salvation for all who believe, including the little ones whom Jesus brought near and said, “to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Discipleship unleashes the power of each child’s life as they follow fervently after the Lord. What a heritage we’ve been given in these kids! What an amazing array of arrows to be honed and launched out into the world! What a precious force of future leaders who are being raised to guard the gates of faith!

I’m convinced that both Solomon and D. L. Moody would be delighted to see this ministry’s loving and strategic investment in the children of the world. The impact of *Child Evangelism Fellowship* will echo through the ages. Let us continue to pray for their steadfast vision to reach Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day.

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