

# SHARING THE VISION

OF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN

2024 AUTUMN

## What is our vision?

*Two men looked out from prison bars,  
One saw mud, the other saw stars.*

Dale Carnegie

*I am the light of the world  
You are the light of the world  
Jesus Jn.8:12 Mt.5:14*

■ As we prepare for the wonderful celebration of 'God with us' in the form of our Saviour - The Lord Jesus Christ - let's rejoice he's opened our eyes to His glory.

This year many have been looking to the heavens in search of glimpses of the Northern Lights. My neighbour caught this image over our house while we were sleeping.

### **How glorious.**

The heavens declare the glory of the Lord

But far more glorious is the majesty of the love of God demonstrated in that first Christmas morning. The glory shone all around. The angelic host brought terror to the Shepherds until they understood the gift of God to humanity.

As the eyes of the world also turn to Bethlehem again for more distressing scenes we can continue to point the way to the Light of the World. The true prince of peace. We need this good news even more in this fractured world.

So dear friends be bold and speak the truth of Jesus in season and out of



season. May the light of the world shine even more brightly in our hearts. And may we reflect the glory of our Lord Jesus in all we do at this Christmas time. May this be our enduring vision. We are not entertaining children or young people. We are not educating them in the Bible or the Gospel. We are holding out the very words of life to a dying world. The imperative is vital. There must be a readiness in our hearts and minds.

### **Jesus is the Light of the World He says WE are also the light of the World**

Let's pray...

Lord Jesus you are the light of the world

To a world that turns its back and mocks

But you understand the pain and hurt  
You lived with all the suffering and shock

Jesus you were born into a cruel land  
One that sought to drown your voice  
You know that people ignored you  
Despite your hand that gave them choice

Jesus your light dwells in our hearts  
We know your love divine  
So we offer children everywhere  
Your words of life - sublime.

Jesus you have entrusted us  
With your love and care arranged  
To offer your precious presence

To those who think us strange  
Please empower us, our brother,  
To love those who make life hard  
To care for those in pain  
For those whose life is scarred.

May your glory shine more brightly  
In everything we think or speak or do  
At this season of light and love  
That your Glory may always reflect you.  
Amen.

**Colin Bennett**

**CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF BRITAIN**

A MISSION WITH GOD'S VISION FOR CHILDREN

[www.cefbritain.org](http://www.cefbritain.org)



# UPDATE

## Training from two different angles

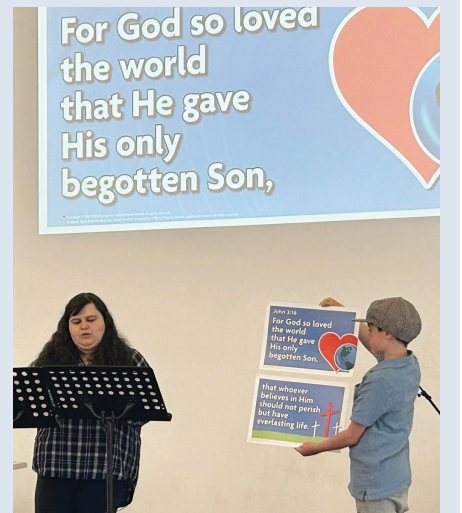
■ On Saturday 22nd June 2024 we held at our church in Chester City Centre what I believe was definitely the best event of the church's calendar to date – 'A CEF 'in person' Training Day' led by three amazing and wonderfully gifted CEF workers and their helpers – namely Steve and Rachel Ball and Megan Scott (previously 'Stone') helped by her husband, Jonathan, and her amazing nephew, T.J. But there again I may be a little biased as I had recently accepted the challenge of administering the children's ministry in a relatively new church which was experiencing an 'exciting'



growth rate. So, it was really a cry for HELP!!

The event was advertised as widely as possible via websites, emails, fliers, and personal contact as I wanted to use this unique opportunity to connect with other churches in the Chester area to find out how they ran their children's ministry and the possibility of helping each other out in the future with resources, advice and manpower. Numerically, about 30 people attended the day. The training itself was outstanding covering a wide range of topics – as was the lunch provided by our excellent catering team to whom we were extremely grateful, giving us the opportunity to exchange ideas and contact details. We all left inspired, refreshed, and ready to put all that we had learnt into action.

I cannot recommend highly enough holding a CEF Training Day at your church it really has made a huge



difference to the way in which we approach our Children's Ministry. Also, we have made 3 amazing friends in our CEF workers with whom we know we can go for help and advice in the future (and we already have!) Thanks so much Steve, Rachel, Megan and TJ, we really do appreciate you!!

**Carol Wright**

■ When the request came through to CEF for a training event in Chester, it was an answer to prayer, knowing that I would be relocating to that area. At the end of June, Steve & Rachel Ball (from CEF East London) and myself had the privilege of running a Training Day at Freedom Church, Chester.

Newly appointed to lead the Children's Ministry at Freedom Church, Carol Wright was keen to organise further training for the



church and wider community. We had a wonderful welcome; there was a real sense of excitement and new beginnings for many who attended. In preparation, some members of the church took CEF Britain's online course, EQUIP, which laid a foundation for the training day.

The day was filled with a varied programme of 7 sessions, including 'Interactive Teaching', 'Preparing

a Bible Lesson', and 'Effective Memory Work', to name a few! One of the highlights of the day was Rachel's session using the Wordless Book to aid 'Counselling a child for Salvation.' We paired up and practised this technique. Afterwards, a pastor from Zimbabwe stated that when he returns to Zimbabwe, he will be taking the wordless book with him to share with children there. Wonderful!

We were greatly encouraged that those who attended had a clear desire to reach the children and young people of their communities. Their commitment to serving the Lord through children's ministry shone through their conversations and eagerness to engage enthusiastically with the whole training day. What a blessing!

**Megan Scott, CEF Wales**



# Getting started and keeping going!



For more information on **Toddler Group Short Course** please use this link.

■ Are you getting started in teaching the Bible to children? Are you looking for a refresher to encourage you to keep on teaching the Bible to children? Sometimes some extra training really helps us to get started and sometimes some extra training reminds us why we got ourselves on the rota to teach the church children on Sundays!

CEF prioritises training because it helps us to teach the Bible well. Training gives fresh ideas and encourages us to keep going.

## Are you interested?

CEF training can be accessed as a church group or as an individual. **Equip** is our online starter course (can also be taken as a refresher). In the comfort of your own home there are training videos to watch with notes (you can print these). Altogether there are six videos that cover different aspects of teaching children the Bible. There is also the bonus of meeting with others via zoom to chat over the ideas shared in the videos

and to encourage one another. The zoom meet ups are hosted and led by a CEF staff member. CEF runs this course each quarter so get in touch if you would like to register your interest. ([info@cefbritain.org](mailto:info@cefbritain.org)) This starter/refresher is completely free.

We also offer a longer online course, **Teaching Children Effectively Level 1**. This is a more in depth course with opportunities for participants to do some practical work. You will have the chance to teach a Memory Verse and teach a Bible Lesson. Currently this course is available online (contact [info@cefbritain.org](mailto:info@cefbritain.org) for dates) but can be held in person where there is a CEF Staff member. There is a charge for this course. The cost covers all the notes and teaching materials needed.

Here's what one of the TCE participants had to say about the course

***Packed full of sound, theological teaching, the TCE1 course is an invaluable learning experience. It made me more intentional with teaching Bible stories, opening***

***my eyes to new ways of effective evangelism.*** - Megan

Maybe you are interested in some practical help with telling **Bible Stories in a Toddler Group setting?** We have developed a short course to give ideas on how you can tell Bible Stories to Young Children and their adults. There are four short videos in this course that you can watch at home or share with your Toddler Group Team. This short course is free.

Christmas is just a few months away and with it a great opportunity to share the Christmas Story with children. In November CEF will be holding an online training to help you to run a Christmas Party Outreach for children. There will be some free Bible Lesson materials and lots of great ideas. Please register your interest for this seasonal zoom get together. Email address as above.

We look forward to serving you as you share the bible with children and their families.

**Rachel Ball**, CEF East London

## Congratulations

■ Jonathan & Megan met at the EMW Aber Conference missionary exhibition.

Jonathan is an elder at Mancott Presbyterian Church, Deeside. When Jonathan isn't working as an electrical engineer, he is keen to support Megan's ministry and will often be working alongside her at Good News Club and Training events.

Jonathan and Megan now spend their time between Cheshire and Pembrokeshire and look forward to what the Lord has planned for them both together.





# Making the most of the Paris Olympics

**H**ow do you preach the Gospel to 11 million children in a country where 51% of the population say they are atheists and are proud of it? In a country where it is increasingly difficult to organise open air clubs?

In 2024, the Lord is giving us a wonderful opportunity with the Olympic Games to be held in Paris this summer.

Since January, a “sports day” kit has been available for churches to organise a one-day club. We are encouraged by the number of kits requested (around one hundred) and pray that each one will be transformed into a concrete club project!

We presented the kit by zoom and around a hundred people took part to find out more about its contents. We're delighted.

130,000 packs have been ordered for mass distribution. The pack contains the Gospel of Luke with an introduction by Eric Liddell and one of the CEF booklets for children (Olympics version).

Some churches distributed this while the Olympic flame was passing through their town.

Thank you for your prayers in support of these actions, which will continue this summer.

We are grateful for the 11 Irish young people who are joining the CEF France team for a week of evangelism during the Olympic Games in Paris. From 1 to 8 August, we will be offering 'sports day' clubs



in churches across Paris, distributing to letterboxes in the town where the national office is based (Wissous) and also trying to do some outdoor activities.

To reach children, we see that it's important to reach the whole family. 2 activities proposed by CEF France are working well:

- The “1001 bricks” weekends, which combine a day of lego building with a service/ inauguration on the Sunday for the whole family.
- Open-air “wood path” with families from working-class neighbourhoods. A trail with wooden games stands and stands for discovering the story of Jesus with wooden elements: the manger, a boat, the cross).

As outdoor clubs are difficult to set up, we have developed camps and day camps. It is through this ministry that we now reach the most children during the year.

For all these actions, we have a team of 15 workers. Many only work part-time. May the Lord use us as he wills and we ask the Lord to send new labourers into the harvest.

**Corinne Ruhland**, CEF France



**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®

Since 1937

Reaching children worldwide™

Tel: 01202 233286

E-mail: [info@cefbritain.org](mailto:info@cefbritain.org)

Website for kids: [www.WonderSurf.com](http://www.WonderSurf.com)

Sharing the Vision is distributed by **Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain** to those who love the Lord and have a heart for the spiritual welfare of children. Please advise us of any change in address.

**Gifts:** If you would like to financially support the vital work and witness of CEF in evangelising children in England, Scotland and Wales, please send your gift to: CEF of Britain, PO Box 9281, POOLE, BH14 4FS.

Registered Charity in England No 235080 Registered Charity in Scotland No SC040343 Registered Company No 570740

We continue to send you Sharing the Vision news letter because you have previously requested it. We shall continue to keep your contact details safe and protected.

We have updated the privacy notice on our website accordingly.

If you no longer wish to receive Sharing the Vision, please notify us on email or by telephone.

Are you someone God is calling to reach the next generation with the gospel message in your local area?

For more information scan the QR code.



For online donations visit [www.cefbritain.org/supporting/giving/](http://www.cefbritain.org/supporting/giving/)