

Reaching the next generation one child at a time

# IMPACT

Winter  
2024

## PARTNERSHIP IN THE *Gospel*



A publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

EVERY CHILD  
EVERY NATION  
EVERY DAY



# FROM THE *President*

**H**ave you ever had a job you knew was too big for you? Although God has assigned certain jobs for each of us to do, He never intended for us to work alone. **Ecclesiastes 4:9** shares these words of wisdom, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.” The passage goes on to explain the benefits of working together—benefits I have seen repeatedly in my years of ministry.

When I consider all the children who desperately need to hear about Jesus, the task is too big for me; it’s too big for my staff; it’s too big for our volunteers. I am grateful for everyone who does their part. Without them we would not have impacted over 29 million children with the Gospel of Christ last year. But there are still millions more who have not heard.

In **John 17:20-21**, knowing He would soon go to the cross, Jesus prayed, “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may

be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Jesus places a high priority on the unity of believers. He is pleased when we work together to accomplish His Great Commission.

There are people around us who don’t know the truth of the Gospel—**who will tell them?** God has filled some with passion to tell the children—**who will train them?** Effective resources are being created—**how can they get into the right hands?** CEF has over 87 years of experience to help us be prepared to leverage every opportunity for the Gospel of Christ. Together, we can work to fulfill God’s plan to grow His kingdom.

There are great benefits to partnering together to proclaim the Good News. We can build on one another’s strengths and mitigate each other’s weaknesses. More work is done and more children are reached. Men and women are needed to teach, help, pray, train, develop resources, distribute literature, and give. As we prioritize proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, our partnership will grow in unity for the glory of God.

A servant of the Gospel,

*Jeremiah Cho*

**Rev. Jeremiah Cho**

**“TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR TOIL.”** —**ECCLESIASTES 4:9**

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# Please Pray

- 1 The Lord of the harvest will send more laborers to reach children in every part of the world.
- 2 God will increase the believer's passion to evangelize and disciple children.
- 3 *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® training will prepare effective children's workers.
- 4 More churches will partner with *CEF*® to reach more children in their communities.
- 5 Praise God for opportunities like the Paris Olympics Outreach.
- 6 *Good News Club*® ministries will be used to help grow churches.



JOIN US IN PRAYING GOD'S OWN PRAYER REQUEST—

**LUKE 10:2**



AND HE (JESUS) SAID TO THEM, "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."

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PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH

# ONCE-A-YEAR CHURCH

COLTER BROWN, Administrative Assistant to the Regional Director of Latin America

In 2007 I sat on a bunkbed in a poorly lit dorm room in Argentina, listening intently as a Peruvian man told me an appalling story. He and a friend were visiting the *Palabra De Vida* (Word of Life) Bible Institute where I was a student in the Bilingual Bible Program. As a newly minted missionary with *Child Evangelism Fellowship* of Latin America, I was on my first assignment: learn Spanish.

The man shared the following story:

Once a year a Catholic priest makes the arduous journey from Lima, Peru, to a remote Quechua village high in the Andes Mountains. There are no roads so the priest must hike ancient Inca trails that ascend ever higher. It is not easy!

All year the residents of the village wait for the holy day to come. There is only one Catholic church in the village, but the doors are locked shut every day of the year except one. The villagers must wait for a priest to come.

When the priest arrives, he unlocks the doors of the church and performs weddings, baptisms, funerals, and the confession of sins.

After the villagers have been attended to, the priest locks the big doors to the church, says goodbye to the village, and begins his descent to Lima. Twelve long months will pass until they see him again.



## Can you imagine only having one day of the year to meet with God?

When I heard this story, I was troubled. I couldn't imagine the Quechua people not having a basic understanding of God's desire for a relationship with them—God's desire

### God's desire to redeem people from every tribe, nation, and language to Himself.

to redeem people from every tribe, nation, and language to Himself.

I prayed that God would bring the message of the Gospel to the Quechua people high in the Andes. I asked God to send the Holy Spirit to illuminate the minds and hearts of the mountain people so they could know the glory of God for themselves.

I wanted them to know they didn't need to depend upon a visiting priest to meet with God!

Seventeen years after I asked God to send someone, the CEF regional director of Latin America asked me, along with my family, to focus on ministry in Peru.

I will help mentor Mihael and Perla, a husband-and-wife team, who graduated from the *Children's Ministries Institute*®

in Paraguay last year. They live in a mountainous region in southern Peru that borders Lake Titicaca, an important lake to the Quechua people in the region.

We plan to proclaim the Gospel to children and disciple Christians in the high mountain villages where Mihael and Perla live and minister. We plan to partner with them to see the name of Christ exalted in dark places.

As my wife Anna and I continue to serve with CEF of Latin America to train, equip, and support national missionaries, we are excited to minister alongside Mihael and Perla in Peru. I never imagined all those years ago that God would use me as part of His answer to my prayers.



CEF® INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**EVERY NATION**  
**TRIBE**  
**TONGUE**  
UNTIL **EVERY CHILD** HEARS

A great multitude, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... crying out, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

**REVELATION 7:9-10**

**2025 CEF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Ridgecrest Conference Center, North Carolina  
**May 19-24, 2025**

[ic.cefonline.com](http://ic.cefonline.com)



LEARN MORE



*An invitation* to all CEF staff, volunteers, board and committee members, and ministry partners.

**E**mbrace the vision and enjoy the fellowship as you are encouraged in faith and exhorted in ministry.

Come celebrate the goodness of God with CEF family from around the world. You will hear from President Jeremiah Cho, Bible teachers Trent Casto, senior pastor at Covenant Church of Naples, Florida, and Crawford Loritts, senior pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Georgia, as well as reports from regional directors and helps and ideas from workshop leaders.





PASSION TO TELL THE CHILDREN

# GOD'S HAND AT WORK

## A TESTIMONY FROM ABMAEL DA SILVA

REBECCA KEE



**I**f you think I didn't know that it was your hand inside that ugly thing, you must be stupid. Your finger was going through its nose!"

Though momentarily embarrassed by the child's criticism, Abmael da Silva would soon discover how a lifeless puppet could forever change someone's life.

### AMAZON ROOTS

When Abmael was 13 years old, he and his six siblings became Sunday school teachers for their church in the Amazon rainforest. Every Saturday night, they laid in their hammocks, fighting sleep, to listen to a CEF missionary sing a song, explain a memory verse, and teach the Bible. The next morning, they would repeat what they learned to the children.

Blessed with creativity and determination from God, Abmael supplemented his lessons with little figurines made from clay or yucca. Yet, Abmael often wondered, How can I learn to present Bible lessons as the missionary does?

Five years later, God opened the door for him to attend Bible college in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. His first class was in child evangelism, led by a woman who had been trained by CEF workers. Abmael commented, "I didn't think we would learn such a thing in a seminary, so I thought, 'God really has called me here!'"

### "THE UGLY BUG"

After graduation, Abmael and his fiancée, Vilma, returned to his home in the jungle to host a vacation Bible school. They enlisted a third helper, Abmael's handmade frog puppet, to help invite the children. But as soon as the puppet said, "Hello," the children ran back to their huts, crying for their mothers. They had never seen a puppet, and voodoo witchcraft had a strong grip on the people, so they assumed the puppet was possessed. They dubbed it "the ugly bug." Abmael and Vilma promised the children that, if they came to VBS, "the ugly bug" would tell them a secret.

"I thought that we would have 20, maybe 50, children, but on the first day, more than 100 children and adults came," Abmael recalled.

The following day, 200 people came, and the number kept increasing each day. The people who gathered

there heard this truth: God is more powerful than any spirit or fear. On Thursday, 300 of the 500 people in attendance responded to the invitation to receive Christ as Savior.







## STRONG FAITH

On the final day, 11-year-old Murilo\* approached Abmael and boldly told him he had invited several of his neighbors to come see “the ugly bug” talk, but Abmael had forgotten his promise. In addition, Murilo’s father was the local witch doctor. He agreed Murilo could attend VBS on one condition: whenever Murilo returned home, he would have to spank him to appease the spirits.

“But it was worth it,” Murilo told Abmael.

Vilma had counseled him for salvation, and when he went home, he told his father, “God is my Father. If you hit me, God’s angels, who protect me, will hit your spirits.”

“I always remember the strong faith of that young boy,” says Abmael, “and that God now protects him from evil and fear.”

## THE MASTER’S HAND AT WORK

Eighteen years later, Abmael and Vilma encountered Murilo, now a married man and father. “Because of that puppet,” he told Abmael, “I heard God’s Word. After you left, I kept going to the church.” Now, Murilo and his wife are the children’s leaders in their church with his entire family—including his father—serving the Lord.

**“God is my Father. If you hit me, God’s angels, who protect me, will hit your spirits.”**

A puppet cannot do anything without its owner’s hand. You and I can do nothing without the Master’s hand. As God uses us, others will see His presence and power at work in our lives. God can use anyone and anything to impact the life of a child.

\*Name changed



For 20 years, Abmael da Silva ran his own publishing house for visual aids and developed over 200 visualized Bible lessons and 10 vacation Bible school kits, complete with lesson visuals, song lyrics, and crafts for children. He also traveled to countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East to train teachers to use these materials. After his business closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, God called him to serve as the CEF regional director for Latin America.

# YOUR CEF RESOURCES:

Your nearest local CEF chapter:

[cefonline.com/locations](http://cefonline.com/locations) for training, children’s ministry resources, and ministry opportunities

Children’s ministry resources:

[cefpres.com](http://cefpres.com)  
[cefonline.com/resources](http://cefonline.com/resources)  
[cefonline.com/unite](http://cefonline.com/unite)

Training:

[cefcmi.com](http://cefcmi.com) for campus and online training

Ministry Information:

[cefonline.com](http://cefonline.com)



## Fellowship One:Seven™

*A biblical podcast from Child Evangelism Fellowship*

*Sharing the Truth of Christ’s Light with His Disciples*

*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

**1 John 1:7**

**Join us!**

[cefonline.com/fellowshiponeseven](http://cefonline.com/fellowshiponeseven)





Children can develop a vibrant faith, but they often lack robust discipleship. For many churches, their investment in children’s discipleship is the once-a-week Sunday school program. However, many Sunday school teachers lack the training and tools to equip them to minister to children effectively. CEF wants to help equip these teachers to better disciple their students. Sunday School Solutions™ offers clear explanations and activities for key topics that help children grow in their relationship with the Lord and knowledge of the Bible. It is a great supplementary resource to any curriculum. Below is a sample from an article posted July 11, 2024.

# Teaching Children the ACTS of Prayer

BY DEBRA HANE

As a parent, I love when my children want to spend time with me. I enjoy when they share what is on their minds or ask for help. And it warms my heart when they say thank you. Good communication pours the foundation for healthy relationships. That is also true in our relationship with God. Good communication with God centers on reading the Bible to hear God speak to you and you talking to God through prayer. Boys and girls will grow in their relationship with God as they develop these two habits.

*How can you help boys and girls develop a good prayer habit so they can grow in their relationship with God?*

You can develop a good prayer habit in boys and girls as you teach them to talk to God by using **ACTS** as a simple acrostic:

- A** – Adoration
- C** – Confession
- T** – Thanksgiving
- S** – Supplication

Each aspect reveals important truths about our relationship with God that can be summarized in these two sentences:

God is great and I am not. He provides all things, and I need Him to care for me.

The teachings and activities below will equip you to help children understand the **ACTS** of prayer.

*Teach children to adore God for who He is.*

**A-Adoration.** Teach children to adore God for who He is. God is holy, perfect in every way. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, faithful, true, and the Creator of all things. He is worthy of our greatest love and respect. Remember to include adoration as a part of your prayer time in class or at home.

**ACTIVITY:** Make slips of paper with God’s attributes on them. Allow children to pick a slip and pray, “God, I love You because You are...” and name the attribute....

Read more of this article and explore other helps to teach children. Topics include victory over sin, prayer, worship, parables, and much more.





# Training in Nimule

FRANCIS CANDIGA, South Sudan

In May, we held training programs and a Teaching Children Effectively™ Level 1 course. Super Seminars were conducted in the capital city of Juba and in refugee camps. One Super Seminar training was held in Nimule, a small town located at the border between Uganda and South Sudan. This was our first training of Sunday school teachers and volunteers in the area.

It all began last year when we promoted the Christmas Party Club™ ministry in many parts of South Sudan, including Nimule. We planned to do a follow-up program with the volunteers who received the CPC training and materials. Praise God that 9 churches were mobilized and over 60 Sunday school teachers and some pastors attended the training. The two-day Super Seminar successfully trained teachers and provided them with materials to use in their churches. Many teachers desired

more training and signed up for the next TCE™ course. A pastor shared that no one from his church had ever

been trained to teach the Word of God to children. Although the church has many children, most Sundays they do not receive any teaching.

Rev. William of St. Peter's Cathedral was excited to attend the training and asked CEF to establish ministry in Nimule. He said they had been praying for this training, and he believes it can positively impact the churches to raise their children in the Word of God. He was incredibly happy and offered Bibles to all who attended the training.

Pastor Maritee of First Baptist Church was impressed with the training and asked us to hold more trainings in Nimule.

The impact of the training in Nimule resulted in two 5-Days Club® programs. In total, 119 children were reached with the Gospel and 19 put their trust in Christ as Savior.

Plans are underway to strengthen the ministry in Nimule to reach children. Seeing the great need and commitment of the churches to reach children, a CEF missionary pledged to go to build the ministry there. We look forward to seeing a larger Christmas Party Club program in Nimule this year since many teachers have already been trained.



## Teaching to Transform

Whether you teach Sunday school, children's church, Good News Club, or some other children's ministry, Child Evangelism Fellowship® provides specialized, practical training to help you evangelize and disciple children.

A variety of seminars and courses are offered through our local offices\*, online, or the Children's Ministries Institute®.

### FREE ONLINE SEMINARS

*Can Children Be Saved?*  
*The Gospel:  
Prepared for a Child's Heart*  
*Wordless Book  
Training and Demonstration*

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*Romans Road for Children*

Learn more at [cefcmi.com](http://cefcmi.com).

\*Find a local chapter near you at [cefonline.com/location-finder](http://cefonline.com/location-finder)



# A Beautiful Partnership

RACINE BIBLE CHURCH, WISCONSIN—CEF INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, MISSOURI

**T**he first time we met Volunteer Services Coordinator Mark Yeadon, he gave the group of middle school boys a bucket of hammers and told them to tear down a wall. At the end of the week he presented a golden plaque that read, ‘Broken hammers but not broken spirits.’ We’ve returned each year ever since.”

Chris Varebrook has been part of the team from Racine Bible Church in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, who has traveled the six hour, 400 mile trip to Warrenton, Missouri every year for 25 years. A team of teenagers and youth leaders volunteer for a week at *Child Evangelism Fellowship*

International Headquarters.

In the beginning, a youth pastor at the church learned about *CEF* as he looked for a way to involve the youth group in missions. At that time, Chris was a volunteer working with the church’s middle school students. They determined that during seventh grade, the youth start to mature physically and mentally and develop a desire to grow spiritually.

They were at a great age to join a service project. By eighth grade, those returning help tutor the younger students and set the culture. Through the years, they have seen students come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus during the trips to *CEF* and some respond later based on what they learned.

As the youth group grew significantly, needs changed. For the last five years, the opportunity for service went to the 15 and 16-year-olds. At the end of school year, those interested in spiritual development receive a discipleship

booklet to help them engage in daily Bible reading, Scripture memorization, and prayer. As a team, they meet once a week for eight weeks leading up to the trip and are challenged in practical obedience, fasting, and personal

development. Students have shown they have a heart to learn and grow. The discipleship continues throughout the week of service. The youth are accountable to each other and meet together in large and small group settings (pods of six to eight students and a leader).

**The church’s mission of making and training disciples who make and train disciples is fulfilled through the church’s partnership with *CEF*.**

Some students who have grown out of the youth group enjoyed it so much that they return to volunteer as leaders. The church’s mission—making and training disciples who make and train disciples—is fulfilled through the church’s partnership with *CEF*.

Mission trips are a great way to strengthen faith, build relationships, and develop character. Racine Bible Church provides opportunities for spiritual development with personal devotional times, group fellowship, and small group times for more in-depth





Mission trips are a great way to strengthen faith, build relationships, and develop character.



discussion. They also had times of fun together in the game room, on a scavenger hunt, swimming in the pool, and playing volleyball and other group games. Each year, the Racine Bible Church team proved they could rise to the challenges put before them. Helping around campus has given the team a better picture of what it takes to keep a ministry running.

CEF International Headquarters is a great place to serve that requires minimal logistical planning with comfortable lodging, three meals a day, and places to meet, relax, and play. CEF has much work that needs to be done. Teams feel like they have been a blessing and they are always welcome to return.

# TOGETHER WE CAN SPAN™ THE GLOBE

Trained and equipped nationals are the ideal individuals to minister to children in their countries. They already speak the language, know the culture, and can work where people of other nations are not welcomed.

Since 1972 the Sponsor-A-National™ program has provided financial assistance to trained nationals who live in areas where it is difficult to raise support. Presently over 1,500 CEF national missionaries from 140 countries receive assistance through the SPAN™ program. This enables them to spend more time sharing the Good News about Jesus with the children.



[cefonline.com/spantheglobe](http://cefonline.com/spantheglobe)



## A CHANGE OF HEART

### ARMENIA

An Armenian pastor was initially reserved and cautious about partnering with Christian organizations. For many years CEF workers tried to help him understand the importance of child evangelism, but he was not convinced. They prayed and continued working with him. God ultimately touched his mind and heart. Now he is glad to join with CEF in sharing the Gospel with children. CEF workers help as the church holds evangelistic meetings for children along with other events. Afterwards, the pastor asked CEF for the first time to provide his church with literature.







PREPARED TO LEVERAGE EVERY OPPORTUNITY

# PARIS OLYMPICS OUTREACH

FRANCE

**A**s France welcomed athletes from around the world for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games, *Child Evangelism Fellowship* was on a mission to bring the Gospel to children. CEF workers and volunteers from around the country and the world came together to strategize for Gospel literature distribution and outreach before, during, and after the games.

Ministry began months before the Olympics. CEF France hosted a Gospel literature distribution campaign in Normandy May 25 to June 1. *Gospel of Luke* booklets were distributed as the Olympic flame passed through sites in Saint Lô, Caen, and Bayeux. A multinational team from France, South Africa, and America traveled together to distribute Gospel booklets as the torch continued to make its way to Paris for the opening ceremonies.





CEF provided 150 "Sports Day" kits designed for churches to organize a Sports Day in celebration of the Olympics. The kits include a Gospel lesson to share about the victory children can have over sin and how they can have a personal relationship with Christ. One vacation Bible school used the Sports Day kit in Valenciennes in northern France. CEF reached 700 children through 30 Sports Day clubs.

CEF France workers, Frédy and Liliane Augsburg, hosted a Sports Day on May 25:

We had a beautiful, sunny day with 47 children full of energy! Even during the breaks, they kept playing and never tired. They were attentive during the teaching. The theme was, "The race with Jesus leads to victory!" Unlike the Olympic Games where there is only one winner, in Jesus, we are all winners!

During the Olympics, Sports Day clubs were held by a team of ten teens from Ireland and

ten teens from France, who also participated in a mass distribution of Gospel literature. Children who attended CEF Sports Day received Gospel wristbands. Around 5,000 were handed out in Paris and elsewhere in Europe during the Olympic outreach.

CEF France also created a wooden obstacle course that brought 150 children and adults together for face-to-face evangelism. One of the biggest outreaches was through the distribution of CEF Gospel literature in partnership with churches. In total, 150,000 pieces of Gospel literature were distributed.

The overwhelming amount of CEF workers, volunteers, churches, and teens who shared the Gospel is a testament to their passion and love for people. The Olympics outreach not only touched the thousands of people who received the Gospel literature or participated in a Sports Day club but will continue to touch thousands of lives as the effects of our ministry live on in France and other countries around the world.



*CEF workers and volunteers plan literature distribution as they look at maps of areas where the Olympic torch will pass.*



*CEF France hosting a "Sports Day" club to reach children with the Gospel.*







# Planting Churches

PHILIPPINES

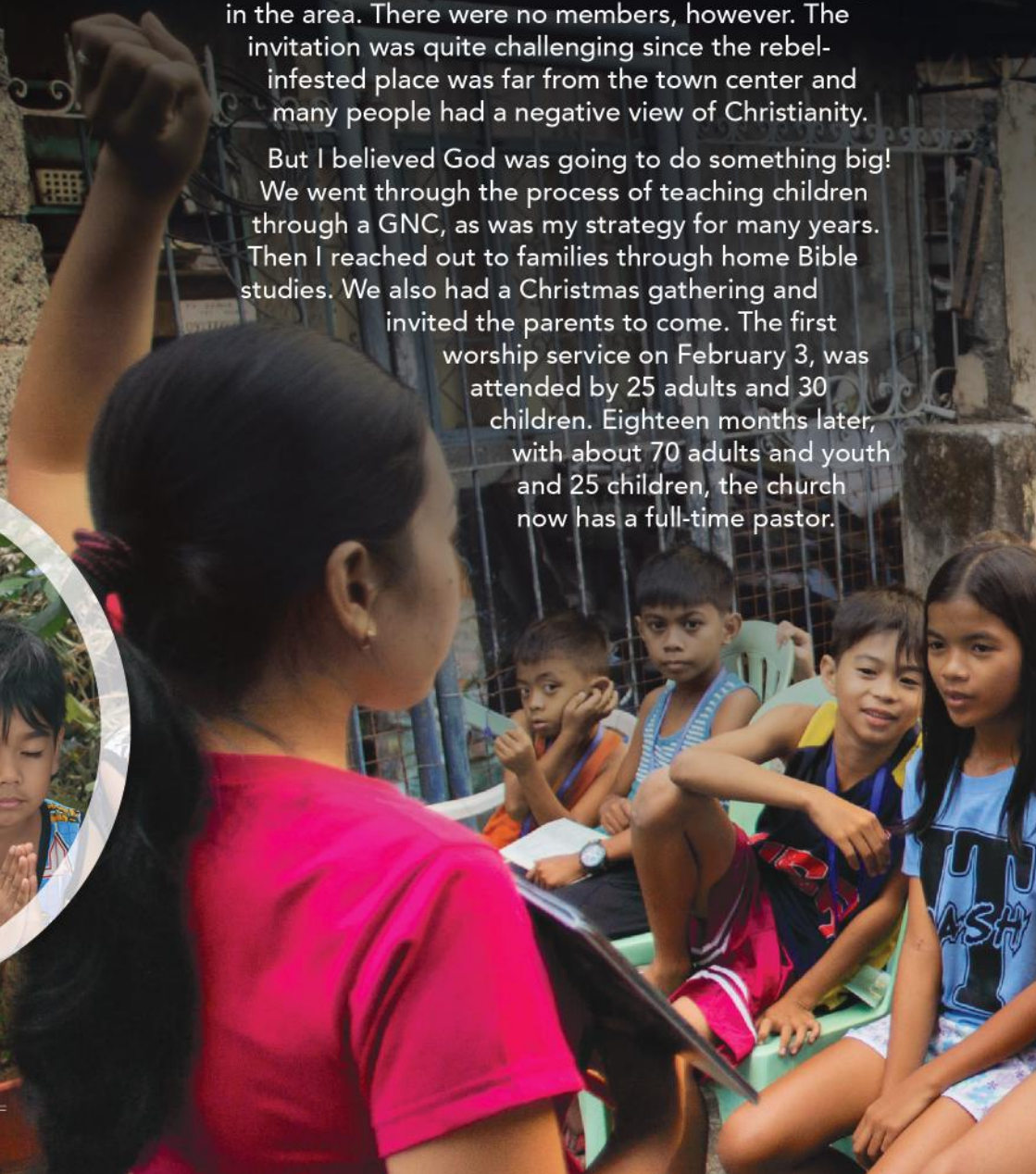


**R**ev. Joel Indico, former CEF Philippines national director, is now passionate about planting churches. His model is to plant churches beginning with children. After completing the *Children’s Ministries Institute* in 1979, Rev. Indico’s *Good News Club* was the first to become a church in the Philippines in 1980. To date 58 new churches began by following this model. He encourages CEF workers to teach GNC™ with a purpose—to eventually channel the children to a nearby Bible-believing church or ask the help of a pastor to plant a church if there is no church nearby. Here is one of Joel’s stories:

In November 2017, the Lord opened up a church planting project south of Manila. This was through the invitation of a Chinese businessman who had built a church building in the area. There were no members, however. The invitation was quite challenging since the rebel-infested place was far from the town center and many people had a negative view of Christianity.

But I believed God was going to do something big! We went through the process of teaching children through a GNC, as was my strategy for many years. Then I reached out to families through home Bible studies. We also had a Christmas gathering and invited the parents to come. The first worship service on February 3, was attended by 25 adults and 30 children. Eighteen months later, with about 70 adults and youth and 25 children, the church now has a full-time pastor.

**THROUGH THE START OF A *GOOD NEWS CLUB*, CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE REACHED AND DISCIPLED.**





# Can Begin with Children

In 2003, Mark Olubalang was assigned to be area director of CEF Albay. He was challenged by Rev. Indico that a church could start through a GNC. Upon starting a GNC, 25 children attended in a family home the first two Saturdays. The third meeting of the club was moved to an open field where a tent protected 35 children from the harsh afternoon sun. The club grew to 85 to 100 children. While Mark taught the club, a volunteer from his partner church led a Bible study for the parents.

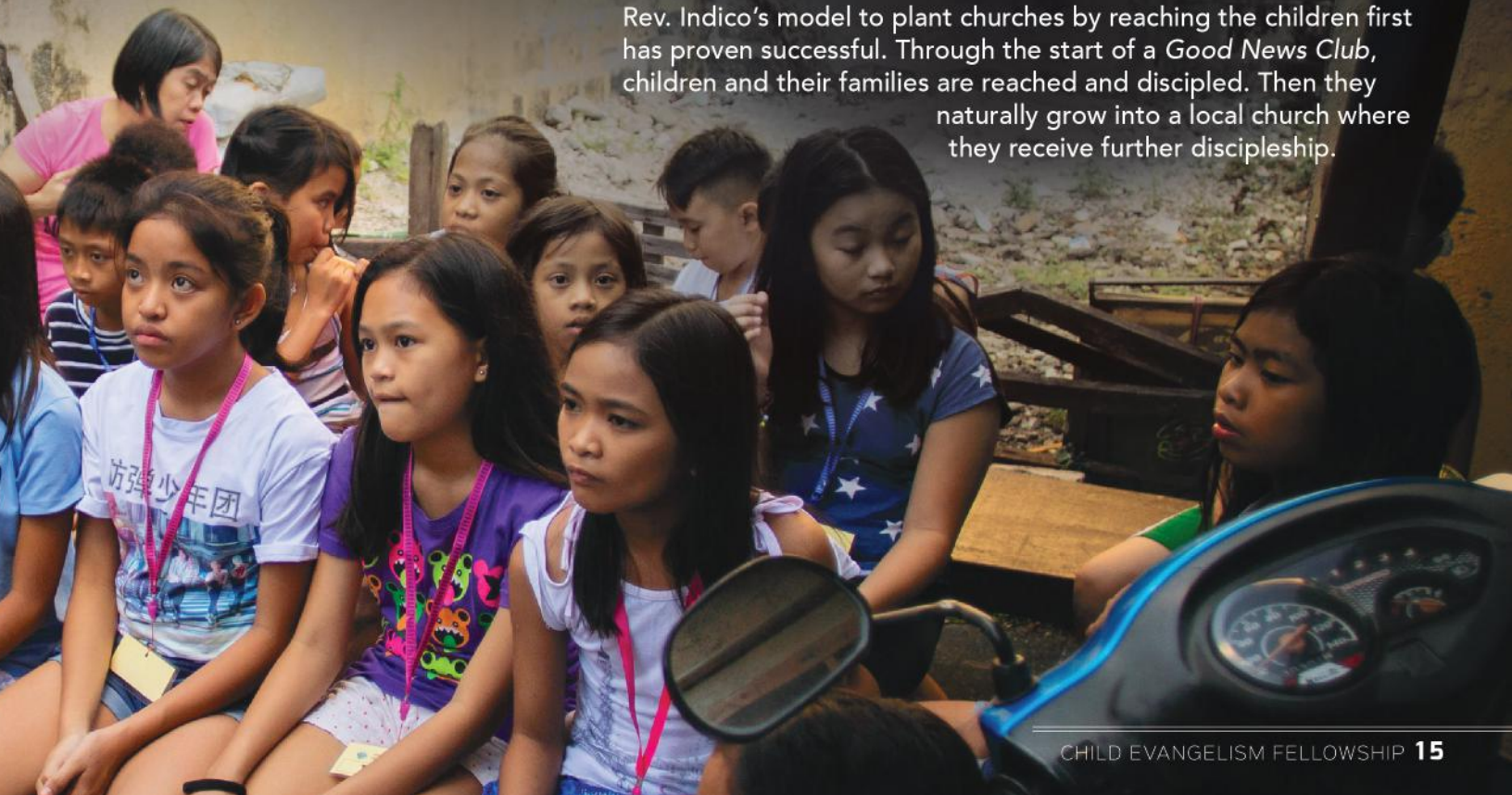
After five months, Mark turned responsibility for the GNC to the partner church as he moved on to other ministry. After a year, he heard the GNC had become a church. When he visited, there were 100 children. He heard that 24 teens with their parents had been baptized. Some of the teens became musicians in the church and others helped during Sunday services. Some teach the GNC that still happens every Saturday.

In 2020, before the pandemic lockdown, Jennifer Choudhari reluctantly moved to Ligao City to live with her grandmother. Here's Jennifer's story:

On my fourth day there, two boys came to the house selling feed for ducks. The Lord impressed on my heart to share the Gospel with the boys using *The Wordless Book*. Both accepted Christ as Savior. I told them they could come back anytime. To my surprise, the boys were back in half an hour with a friend. So I shared the Gospel with him too. The next day, these three boys brought three more kids to my grandmother's house and they kept bringing friends every day until I had shared the Gospel with 30 children. I started a GNC and soon their parents and siblings were coming to listen to God's Word too. In about a month, the first Sunday service was held as a house church. The Lord provided leaders and workers, allowing us to reach more kids for the glory of God. As of February 2022, my coworkers and I reached more than 1,000 children and teenagers.



Rev. Indico's model to plant churches by reaching the children first has proven successful. Through the start of a *Good News Club*, children and their families are reached and disciplined. Then they naturally grow into a local church where they receive further discipleship.





## IN THIS ISSUE:



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