

onmission

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



VOLUNTEERS

The backbone of the ministry



PLUS: SHORTFALL // 2024 STATISTICS // PRAYER REQUESTS

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 (ESV)

Recently, when studying the book of Colossians, I was impressed by how this passage talks about work and relationships. The Apostle Paul encourages believers to do their work with all their hearts—not to be praised by people, but as a way to worship God. This perspective transforms any kind of work, whether it is a job, ministering in a church, or by volunteering.

We thank God for the thousands of volunteers across Europe who dedicate their time to share the Gospel with children and teenagers. They pray, serve, give, host teams, cook meals at camps, and do many other important tasks. Even when their work is not noticed, it is valuable to God and brings blessings to many lives. Every act of service is part of God's bigger plan to make Christ known.

May these words from Colossians encourage you as you serve: God sees, God rewards, and nothing we do for Him is in vain. Let us keep serving faithfully, always focusing on the One we serve.



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Volunteer

/völ"ən-tîr'/

Noun A person who works without monetary reimbursement—but with great reward!



Read about Masha and her friend Milana on page 16.

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INVALUABLE HELP

By Michal Frano and Zbyšek Šikula, national directors of Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Our abilities are limited. But our LORD has unlimited resources and we can ask Him for these resources. He knows about what we need and about the people who we need for reaching more children with the Gospel. Without the precious brothers and sisters who cooperate with us it will not be possible to bring the Gospel to so many children. We are thankful to our LORD for all our volunteers who lead summer camps, organise the Good News Clubs, are voluntary instructors and teach at various *Child Evangelism Fellowship®* courses and seminars. Without volunteers the 5-Day clubs and "Good News Across" projects wouldn't be possible. A lot of office work is done by volunteers.

Always, when I hear the word volunteers, I think about sister Gabriela from my country. She works as a pharmacist and is volunteering for CEF®. She is a chairman of a local CEF committee. She has led a *Good*



News Club in her home for many years and was helping in another GNC. Because of her reliability and character, she was entrusted with leading CEF camps. For many years she has been taking part in the "Christmas Together" project. She says, that the thing she likes most at Christmas is the possibility to bring the Gospel to the public schools. This year we realised that Gabriela has already been working with CEF as a volunteer for 25 years. Many thanks to people like Gabriela. Many thanks to all of you, dear volunteers.

ONLINE VOLUNTEERS

The team of CEF Czech Republic has a lot of dedicated volunteers. Four of them are guides for the online Bible correspondence courses. Their ministry carries great responsibility. They need to check their mailboxes daily and it's not easy to answer the children's questions and comments correctly and biblically. But their ministry brings nice spiritual fruits.

Ten-year-old Adam, who had never heard of God before,



FROM COUNTRY LEADERS

signed up for the online courses recommended by a classmate. He took several courses and was saved. He was so enthusiastic that he convinced his teenage sister to sign up for the courses as well. About eight months later, Adam died in a car accident but his enthusiasm for the Lord had set off an avalanche. His sister, mother, and even his grandmother, who initially spoke out strongly against what Adam was reading and his salvation, also believed. Even after his death, other children he had witnessed to at school signed up for the courses. According to our information, amazingly, eleven people came to salvation.



Last year Adam's sister died of cancer. It is very painful for the family and also for the two guides who corresponded with Adam and his sister. Now they are in daily contact with the mother, who trusted the Lord together with her two children.



WHY DO VOLUNTEERS DO WHAT THEY DO?

POLAND

"I believe that evangelisation of children in the church and also outside the church is very important. Children have a lot of fun at CEF events and I think it is definitely worth participating in them. The children themselves also appreciate them. It was a great reward to hear when one of the boys told me that he would like to go to the club every day of the year. There are children who are always waiting for us, open to the Word of God, willing to get involved in the activities, so it is a great motivation to go out to them, spend time with them and preach the Gospel."

KAZAKHSTAN

"Volunteers consciously realise that this is one of the opportunities to serve God. Most of our volunteers are young people, from churches, with whom we have been friends for many years. There are also adult volunteers who lead children's activities in their churches. Volunteers recognise that the growing generation needs to know, believe and be with Jesus."

SERBIA

"Kids are fun! Who doesn't like to play! As a volunteer, I get to have fun! Kids need love. Jesus loves children (Matthew 19:14). Children need someone who sees that they are made in the image of God. As a volunteer, I get to share the love of God. Kids need to hear about Jesus. As a volunteer, I get to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and the hope and purpose for life found in Him."

BULGARIA

Joanna a final year student majoring in Special Education has been part of the children's camp team for four years now. She also helped in a 5-day club during the summer. She said: "I have always loved children and my childhood dream was to become a teacher one day. When I was little, I loved playing Sunday school at home. I would make up songs that I would write on large sheets of paper and play the role of a Sunday teacher. I decided to volunteer at the camps because I believe that God has put this in my heart to serve among children and youth, because there is a need for people to spread the gospel to the little ones."

IRELAND

Some of the best volunteers don't even realise they are serving—incredible prayer warriors—many of them elderly—who feel they can't do much to help. Yet, their love for children, their thoughtful questions, and their ability to remember and follow up on prayer requests from months before are such a blessing and encouragement. They see God as their only need and deeply desire for children to see Him that way too.



ARMENIA

Nune has a family and a job, but she organises her time in such a way that she can come to camp. At camp, she helps in the kitchen. She often expresses that this is "our camp", and she already feels at home here. She works with great dedication to do all the tasks we ask her to do. She is also one of our prayer partners.

Milena and Lilit, two girls who live in the village where the CEF camp is located, first heard about Lord Jesus at the camp when they were 10 years old. They accepted the Saviour. They have been coming to the camp for four years—this is the only opportunity for them to hear God's Word. They are now young teens. Last year, they helped us with camp preparations by cleaning. Now they dream of when they will grow a little older so they can help us with the camp programs as well.

GREECE

"They love the Lord, they love children, they love the work of CEF as they watched it through the years, they saw the need of children to hear about God, they know otherwise the children will be lost, it's their way to serve the Lord, they love teaching about God."

KYRGYZSTAN

"I get a lot of joy in ministry with children. Children accept the Word of God, ask different questions, and want to know of our God the Father. I have great hope and pray that the next generation with a more fervent heart than ours will serve God the Father. For that to happen, I must pass the Word of God to them correctly and accurately."

NETHERLANDS

Johanna and Susanna have served for many years as volunteers in the multimedia department. Together with the literature team, they correct translated manuals, among other things. They gratefully serve the Lord in this way and also the children's workers and the children.

UKRAINE

"My name is Lyuba, I am 14 years old. From the beginning, I felt that God had called me to help children learn about Him. I am involved in creating ads and design work. It may seem like a technical part, but in fact, each poster, booklet or video carries something more—they help children and adults to see, hear and feel God's love. Even a small ministry, preparing an announcement or creating a design for an event, can be the key to getting someone to hear about Christ. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to be a part of this ministry."

“ARE YOU READY?”

By Linda Corry, Director of Education



I have been asked this question so many times throughout my life in a countless number of situations and contexts. Yet, amazingly, there are a number of occasions I can recall in great detail the places, times and circumstances when this question was addressed to me. One of them was on a sunny January morning in 1984. I was sitting at the steering wheel of the car and the driving instructor sitting beside me asked, ‘are you ready?’ It would be an understatement to say I was nervous but despite this, I was as ready as I could be—I had studied, taken lessons with an instructor and used every opportunity to practice my driving skills. So, with a quiet nod and a ‘yes’—I started the car and moved off. Part of being ready for

something—in our family or work lives, our walk with God or service for Him—involves preparation beforehand.

This was why God commanded Joshua to keep the law that had been passed on through Moses, to meditate on it and not turn away from it as he led the people into the promised land (Joshua 1:7-8). It was why the apostle Paul challenged Timothy to study God’s Word so that he would know how to handle and teach it to others (2 Timothy 2:15).

Perhaps God has been challenging you recently to serve Him in some way and asking if you are ready—to volunteer in the Sunday School in your church or perhaps the Kids Club ministry. Maybe you attended a *CEF* event and were challenged about organising an Easter Club in your neighbourhood or to be part of *5-Day Club* team in the summer. Are you ready? How can *CEF* training programmes help you to be ready? Who better to explain this other than volunteers who attended *CEF* training!





BUILDING BIBLE CENTRED CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES AND TEACHING BIBLE TRUTH IN A WAY CHILDREN CAN UNDERSTAND.

"After the Teaching Children Effectively (TCE) Level 1 everything in my approach with children I teach was changed. I learned how to speak at the children's level, how to teach one central Bible truth in the lesson and to apply it. Above all I learned how everything in the club programme is built around the central truth. I could not express my appreciation for how God has used you to help me reach the children."

Volunteer from Bulgaria

SPIRITUAL GROWTH, MOTIVATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN MINISTRY.

"I came to this course more for my own benefit and spiritual growth and not with any thought to get involved in teaching children. But after the 3rd day of classes I realised God was calling me to reach and teach children. I have already joined a group of volunteer teachers who are teaching a Good News Club."

Volunteer from Romania

ENCOURAGEMENT, IDEAS, INSPIRATION AND RELATIONSHIP.

"I want to thank you for the times I've been able to share with you so far."

ARE YOU READY?

It's all far beyond my expectations. Really. Not only the programme but who you are, how you teach and also how much you have accomplished reaching out to kids. I'm mesmerized ... It's all so good. I take as many notes as I can ... It's a privilege to sit here and absorb!"

Volunteer from Estonia

So, are you ready? You can be—get in touch with the CEF office where you are and find out what training opportunities are available. I trust today will be one of those memorable times in your life when you will look back one day and remember this question being addressed to you as it impacted not only your life but also the lives of children.



EQUIPPING HEARTS AND HANDS

The Literature of Child Evangelism Fellowship

By Bogdan Bassara, Director of Multimedia



The written word has long been a powerful instrument in shaping minds, guiding hearts, and sowing seeds of faith. For volunteers with CEF, literature is not merely a tool; it is a bridge connecting people to the life-changing message of the Gospel. Whether in the form of Gospel tracts, booklets, or Bible lesson materials, these resources serve as both an encouragement and an equipping force for those who dedicate themselves to evangelism.

One volunteer shares, *"I always feel encouraged and motivated when I have the opportunity to share God's Word through the distribution of Christian materials. It's a chance to reach people, even in places I wouldn't expect, and to bring light into a world often overwhelmed by darkness."* This testimony highlights the profound impact that well-crafted evangelistic literature can have—not only on the recipients but also on those who distribute it.

CEF provides volunteers with a wealth of resources designed to make the Gospel accessible and engaging for children. These materials include visually appealing booklets, devotional study books, and Bible lessons that capture young minds and open their hearts to the message of Christ. Through these carefully prepared resources, volunteers are not left without anything but are equipped with the best possible means to share the truth effectively.

The impact of this ministry is tangible. One volunteer recalls a poignant moment: "I vividly remember a moment when I gave a Gospel to a young boy. At first, he seemed skeptical and uninterested, but as he flipped through the pages, his expression began to change. That was a moment when I truly understood the power of God's Word." These moments of transformation affirm the significance of every booklet handed out, every verse read, and every lesson taught.





But evangelism is not without challenges. Another volunteer recounts, *"An elderly family invited us into their yard, sat us at their table, and were very happy that we were sharing the message of the Lord Jesus. But as soon as we left, a man who was very upset that we had left brochures at his gate confronted us. We stayed calm and tried to talk with him, but after a while, we moved on."* Despite obstacles, the assurance remains that the Word of God does not return void, and every act of faithfulness in sharing it is worthwhile.

Beyond the physical act of distribution, evangelism also fosters spiritual growth and fellowship among volunteers. As one participant reflects, *"A hidden treasure in this distribution work is the opportunity for fellowship with your evangelism*



partner, where you can discuss deep topics, encourage one another, and strengthen the brotherly bond." In this way, sharing literature becomes not only a mission to reach others but also a journey of personal spiritual deepening.

Ultimately, the literature provided by CEF serves as more than just paper and ink—it is a vessel of truth, a beacon of hope, and a means of divine transformation. Volunteers are not simply distributing booklets; they are placing into the hands of children and adults alike a message that has the potential to change their eternity. As one volunteer beautifully expresses, *"For me, the joy and motivation lie in fulfilling the Lord's command; this way, I demonstrate my love for my Saviour."* And through this dedication, the message continues to spread, one page at a time.

VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES

This story started about eight years ago in Belarus. We held a Bible club for children from non-Christian families. Many children came. We went from house to house and pasted more than 200 invitations for each meeting. Two friends Milana and Masha came to the Bible club. They were eight years old. This cycle lasted for four years, the children grew up and became teenagers. Milana and Masha continued to come to the teenage services and youth meetings. And now the girls are 14 years old and they are our wonderful helpers—camps, evangelism of children—they faithfully help us. This winter they

helped us and went themselves from house to house and put up Christmas invitations—for another generation of children. We see the fruit of the ministry in Milana and Masha. But more, through their ministry God brought more than 70 children to church for Christmas, who came because of the invitations that were on their doors. We are grateful to God that He gives us the joy of seeing saved children and teenagers who serve the Lord.

Masha and Milana eight years ago. ▲

Milana and Masha today. ►

The Christmas Club where more than 70 children attended. ▼



IRELAND

In Ireland we are blessed to see many young people involved in the ministry. Not only in serving in 5-Day Clubs or as camp leaders in the summer ministry, but it is encouraging to see a number involved in regular *GNC* ministry. In two clubs conducted by *CEF* workers there are 12 different teenagers involved each week teaching, organising games, crafts, and helping in background ministry. In these two clubs over 60 children are being disciplined and taught God's Word each week by teen volunteers.

But it's not just in direct ministry. Rebekah, Alice and Emmy came through the Youth Challenge ministry and now serve in a local committee where there is no worker. They recently encouraged the committee to hold a coffee morning sharing about the work of *CEF* with the area and the local *JYC* helped in serving the food and helping with the background work. In over half of our local area committees you will find young adults who were involved as children and teens and are now serving in the background.

It is such an encouragement to see how God is raising up a younger generation to continue on in the ministry.

LATVIA

Our team understands the importance of involving teenagers in ministry and offers several opportunities for them to serve God.

Angelina is a *Good News Club* teacher. Having attended the *GNC* in childhood, she received teaching about God, salvation and how to apply God's Word in everyday life. Later she completed the *TCE* 1 course and now Angelina leads *GNC* together with three helpers, ages 14 and 15. "It is important to talk about the importance of growth at every meeting. I try to use the knowledge and experience gained while attending *GNC* myself." They attend monthly Training class led by our worker Victoria.

Many teenagers responded to the invitation to help at camp. It was so easy to work with them because they did everything with great joy. God changed their attitude to ministry, gave them diligence and responsibility.

Together with children we prepare evangelistic programs for Christmas and Easter. The children invite their non-believing friends. We discuss and give advice so they are not afraid to do it. This year seven evangelistic programs were held and as a result 16 new children joined the *GNCs*!

TOGETHER WITH HIM

What do you want to be when you grow up?" I am sure you have had this question asked to you as a child and maybe you find yourself asking children too. The answer reveals a lot! I think we have all met children who wanted to be astronauts, school teachers, doctors and bin men. For whatever reason, children do have plans for the future. Some want to be like their hero, or favourite person, others are already thinking about what they like to do. However, in CEF we have often met children who say, "I want to be a missionary" or "I want to do what you are doing—I want to serve God."

It's amazing that there is a place for each of us to serve God. If we stop and think about it, we can say that it doesn't make too much sense. Does the Creator of the Universe need us to be involved in His wonderful plan of redemption? Well, no, He doesn't need us due to some lack that He has because He lacks nothing. He has legions of angels ready and waiting to do His will. He calls us to join Him as co labourers (1 Cor 3:9). He invites us to join with

Him in the greatest "job" ever—we are called to walk worthy of the Gospel, of our calling, of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no greater way to walk! Our lives and what we do can impact eternity as we serve the Master!

In 1 Corinthians 12, we read that our job is like being part of the body. It's the body of Christ. We all have a job to do—the eye, ear, hand—all have a role to play, all are needed in their unique way. In Romans 12, the theme is developed further, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them ..."

God gives each one of us a job to do and the ability to do it! Isn't that amazing?

Do you love to encourage others, pray for the lost, give financially, share your faith, give out tracts, serve in the background... ask God to help you to find your place and serve Him with all your heart, for "It is the Lord Jesus you are serving!" Colossians 3:24

Here am I Lord, send me!



GOD GIVES
EACH ONE
OF US A
JOB TO DO
**AND THE
ABILITY
TO DO IT!**



2,420, *children*

*Compared with
2023 statistics,
2024 had:*



44%
more children
reached



63%
more Christmas
clubs



91%
more volunteers



225%
more camps

646

reached

By God's grace and mercy, **700,000 more children** heard the life-changing message of the Gospel last year than in 2023.

2024

AT A GLANCE:

GOOD NEWS CLUBS

11,428

5-DAY CLUBS

1,511

HOLIDAY PARTY CLUBS

3,897

CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUBS

28,770

CAMPS

5,091

TEACHERS TRAINED

46,753

PRAYER PARTNERS

44,709

NATIONAL MISSIONARIES

90.9%

PLUS 1 MILLION+

PIECES OF LITERATURE
DISTRIBUTED IN 2024



A DIFFERENT TYPE OF VOLUNTEER

By Harry Robinson, Shortfall Coordinator

When I think of volunteering in the context of *CEF*, I confess that I immediately think of the areas many of the articles in this issue of *Onmission* are highlighting. We have volunteer teachers, evangelists, prayer coordinators, committee/board members—many opportunities to serve.

However, I miss one. Those who give to the ministry, do so voluntarily—not under compulsion, but from generous and loving hearts. We serve an outrageously generous God, who willingly (voluntarily) gave His Son, for us—and lavishes upon us every blessing in Christ. As we think of Him, our hearts are drawn out in worship and we are moved to action, in willingly giving.

Many have been this special type of volunteer, over the past several years, as we have presented the need for meeting the Shortfall, which many of our national missionaries have in their support needs. **Thank you.** God is blessing us

and the Gospel is going forward as you faithfully volunteer in this labor of love.

Mobilising volunteers is key to *CEF* ministry going forward on every front. We need more teachers, more who will faithfully pray and more who will serve locally and globally. We also need more who will launch into the joy of giving—so that others, whom the Lord is calling, can be in full time ministry. Will you pray that more people will join this special band of volunteers?

The need is great—so will be the encouragement as we see more responding to the generous Lord we serve.

100 percent of all gifts to

Shortfall go to help those *CEF* workers most in need, that month. What a wonderfully effective way of giving to the ministry. As workers are helped, the Gospel goes forward, and God is glorified. That is a cause worth volunteering for!

Would you like to learn more? Contact me at harry.robinson@cefeurope.org.

Blessings, Harry





To read more about the need, please visit our summary of Shortfall at partners.cefeurope.com or use this QR code.



GIFTS FOR SHORTFALL CAN BE SENT TO:

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 € Account: CEF Europe (European Shortfall)
 IBAN: CH55 0024 5245 9257 2162 Q
 BIC: UBSWCHZH80A



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for many Good News Clubs in Kosovo please pray for open hearts around Kaqanik where ministry is very difficult, some children walked out of the Christmas Club.
 - Pray for wisdom and creativity for our teams across Europe as they work on translating materials for summer ministries.
 - Please pray that God will raise up prayer and financial supporters for new workers enabling them to focus on establishing ministry in their country.
 - A church leader in France has asked for a *Teaching Children Effectively* Level 1 to be held in his home in September. Pray that the team will know God's guiding in this, and that God will touch hearts to attend the course.
- We have many workers and family members with health issues, please pray that God will be pleased to heal them, and that they will know His strength daily.
 - We thank God for the work in Lapland, pray for Sarah that she will be encouraged in the work and that she will know God's protection around her and the ministry.
 - Praise God for the 730,000 *That's Strange* tracts distributed at Easter in many countries across Europe. Pray that God will use these "paper missionaries" to reach many precious souls with the Gospel.
 - Praise God for every volunteer who faithfully gives of their time to support the work of CEF whether prayerfully, physically or financially, they are a vital link in the ministry.

Pray for the upcoming events:

16 – 23 MAY
CEF International
Conference, USA

8 JUNE – 29 AUG.
CMLC, Romania

17 – 28 AUG.
CMLC, Kyrgyzstan

27 OCT. – 8 NOV.
IOT 1, Romania

10 – 22 NOV.
IOT 2, Romania