



## Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

### Devotional

### GOD'S THREE-FOLD COMMAND TO EACH OF US

*"My beloved brethren, **BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABUND-  
ING** in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in  
vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

God has called you into His work to evangelise and feed the children. There may be times in your ministry when you feel disappointed, or tired, or even confused. So, at the end of this great chapter on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, Paul brings to all of us, who are in the work of the Lord Jesus among children, three commands and one promise.

**1) BE STEADFAST** with regard to the problems which come from WITHIN. The word "steadfast" means "firm in purpose" or "firmly fixed". One good definition of a steadfast person is that "he or she is convinced that what they are doing is right and refuses to change or give up."

- Children's workers must be steadfast and **FIRM TO THEIR CALL** to work with children. There may be times when the children have been difficult and unruly, or there may be times when your finances were low, and you have been tempted to give up.

**You must not do so. You must be steadfast, and stay firm to your call and keep going, knowing that the God Who called you will give you strength and supply your needs.**

- Children's workers must be **FIRM TO THEIR DOCTRINAL BELIEFS**. You must not allow anything or anyone to wean you away from those precious truths which have been your mainstay for years.

**2) BE UNMOVABLE** with regard to the danger and opposition which comes from WITHOUT. The word "immoveable" is self-explanatory. An immovable person is a person who cannot be moved. Opposition to what you are doing can be very subtle or it can be very obvious. Some want you to stop or change your ministry. But you must be like Paul when he said in Acts 20:23-24 that in the face of chains and tribulations he was determined not to falter. He said "none of these things move me". **Is someone or something trying to move you away from what God wants you to do? Be immovable.**

**3) ALWAYS ABUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.** Steadfastness and immovability are necessary, but they are not enough on their own. Paul reminds you to be really involved and ABOUND in the WORK of the Lord, to progress, to develop, to be busy, to do more and to do it better. Abundance means "full up" or "overflowing". If you are steadfast and immovable and abounding He will give abundant results in your work. It is interesting that the word "abundant" also carries the thought of "joy."

**God will give you abundance and joy in your ministry if you are steadfast, immovable and busy.**

**THE PROMISE** God gives to every children's worker who is steadfast, immovable and busy in His work, the promise that their labour will not be in vain (not be without results) provided it is done "in the Lord" and under His guidance.



Did you know that the word **"help"** appears 233 times in the Bible. And that it is always understood and portrayed as an act of kindness, support and assistance.

The word **"help"** is mainly used in Scripture with regard to God. **"Behold God is my Helper."** (Psalm 54:4) **"My help comes from the Lord."** (Psalm 121:1)

**"Having obtained help from God I was obedient."** (Acts 26:22) We are so thankful for the **help** God gives us for our lives and ministry. But the word **"help"** is also used as a God-given responsibility to us as believers. We are exhorted to **"help the weak."** (1 Thess 5:14)

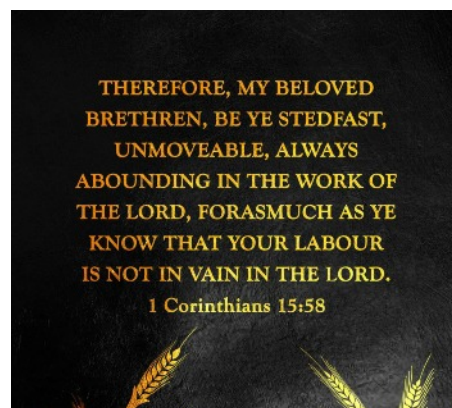
The word **"help"** is even listed as a gift of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:28) The Holy Spirit **helps** us to **help** others. Paul requested the Philippian believers **"to help these women who laboured with me."** (Phil 4:3)

Two uses of the word **"help"** in Scripture have played a major part in my life.

- Joshua's reminder to the 2 ½ tribes of their commitment to cross over the river and **help** the other 9 ½ tribes to conquer the promised land.

- The Macedonian's plea to Paul to **"come over into Macedonia and help us."**

As a result, we used the word **"assisting"** ("helping") in the name of our organisation. We welcome you and want to **assist** you and **help** you in your life and ministry



We have been studying the book of Proverbs in Mini Mag for the last five months and learning all the teaching about children written in that book, by a wise man, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We were amazed to find so much wonderful teaching. In this issue we will complete our studies in Proverbs by examining what Solomon teaches us about PARENTS and their responsibility to their children.

**First of all** Solomon emphasises the importance of parents teaching their children, by encouraging the children among his readers to listen to their parents' teaching, and especially to the teaching of their father. (1:8, 13:1, 15:5) He also underlines the importance of parents teaching their children by giving examples of how he, himself, taught or would teach "his son". (2:1, 3:1, 4:1-6, 10-14, 6:20, 21, 7:1, 2,) and how he encouraged the children to listen to him and obey him. He goes on to tell the children the blessings they will receive from God if they do. (3:2, 4:10, 6:22, 7:2) We should teach children what God has commanded them to do, in His Word, and He promises them is that the path of wisdom will bring long life.

**Secondly, and especially,** in 4:1-6 and 10-14 he summarises what he is teaching, or would teach, his "children." He writes that he will teach them "good doctrine", the way of wisdom, and the right paths of life for them to follow (a good example for us). He also promises them that they will have a long life if they obey what he teaches them to do. He adds that the children will be

especially blessed if the one who ministers to them is a person of integrity. (20:7)

**Thirdly,** in many verses Solomon emphasises the need for parents to discipline their children if they have done something wrong. (13:24, 15:5, 19:18, 22:15, 23:13, 14, 29:15, 17) He uses words like chasten, discipline, correct and rebuke, but he also advocates strongly "the use of the rod". (13:24, 22:15, 23:13, 14, 29:15.) We, today, should always be ready, if necessary, to chasten correct or rebuke, in love, a child who has done something wrong; but in many countries parents are forbidden by law to smack a child, -even their own children. A wise and loving verbal rebuke can be very effective and result in the needed correction.

We finish with a wonderful verse in Proverbs about children which has been a help and an encouragement to many parents and children's workers. *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 22:6) Here is a simple exposition of that verse:

► **"in the way he should go"** Choose, on the basis of God's Word the way which would be best for him.

► **"Train him"** The word "train" means "introduce him to" and "instruct him in" that way.

► **"when he is old he will not depart from it".** He may depart from it before he is old, but if he has been thoroughly trained, he will return to it even in the last moments of his life.



## KEY QUESTIONS ASKED

## BY CHILDREN'S WORKERS

**Question:** Should I teach my children about creation and that God made our world in six days? Should I also teach them about evolution?

**Answer:** The answer to both questions is a very strong YES. We should definitely teach our children often and clearly that God made our world, including the first man and woman, in six days, just thousands of years ago. And He did so out of nothing. Firstly, because it is a basic biblical truth on which many more truths depend, and secondly, because they are being taught at school and elsewhere that this is not so, and that mankind has just evolved from nothing, and by themselves, over millions of years. They need to know the true answers to questions like "Where did we come from?" or "How and when did our world come into existence?"

The basic truth of creation is that God created our whole universe, including the sun and all the stars and planets, and our world with all the first life on it, out of nothing in six days. How do we know this? How can we be sure? The only person who knows what happened in an incident like a car accident is the person who was there and saw it happen. Others might talk about it and give their theories, but the only person and the only witness we can depend upon is the one who was there. God saw what happened, in the beginning, at creation, because He was there, and because He was responsible for it. He saw it all happen. No-one else did. He also asked Moses to write down in the Bible what happened during those six days, and He told him exactly what to write. So that we

could know what happened. Who are we to believe? It is hard for us to UNDERSTAND that God just spoke, and all these wonderful things came into existence, one after the other. But we BELIEVE that He did so and that He created everything from nothing. **God always tells the truth, and I believe Him and the account He led His servant Moses to write in the first two chapters of His word, the Bible. This truth that God is the great Creator shows us how very POWERFUL He is. Nothing is impossible for Him.**

But we, as teachers, need to recognise that there are many in our world who do not believe the truth of God's creation. They do not believe that God created our earth, our universe, the first animals, birds and fish and the first people in six days. They believe in what they call evolution. They trace life back many millions of years ago, and starting with some little cell (although no one knows where it came from) which, over the following years, developed or evolved little by little, in its own strength, until it became human beings with bodies, brains, digestive systems and personalities. No one else like God was involved. We, as simple people, prefer to believe that our universe, our world, and we ourselves, were created by a loving powerful God Who designed, and gave us, our bodies, brains, digestive systems and personalities according to His will. We can all truly say "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), and we can all obey God's command to "Remember your Creator". -especially when you are young (Ecclesiastes 12:1)



In issues 48 and 49 of our series focussing on saved children, we taught them how to pray. We trust that you found those two issues helpful. In this issue, I am suggesting something you could do with your children which could take them a step forward in their Christian lives. My suggestion and recommendation is that you periodically devote a section of your teaching hour to a prayer meeting in the Club itself with the children taking part in it and praying audibly.

You could start by reminding the children how important it is for them to talk to God in their own homes, perhaps kneeling beside their beds before they get in and go to sleep. "God hears you and will answer you". But it is a special blessing to meet with others and pray together. The Lord Jesus said that "*when **two or three** gather together in My Name I am there in the midst of them.*" (Matthew 18:20) "So I thought we should have a little prayer meeting in our club to-day, and we know that the Lord Jesus will be here and listen to us. We will close our eyes, and I will pray very briefly, and then any of you who would like to pray out loud can do so. God will bless you as you pray and especially so if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour.

I am going to give you a little time to think about what you will say. I think that to-day we should think of two important words. THANKS, is the first word to remember. Is there any one thing you

would like to thank God for. Think for a moment. PLEASE is the second word. Is there someone you would like to pray for? Or is there something you would like to pray for? Think for a moment. Just use simple words and keep your "thanks" or your "please" short so that everyone has a chance to take part. You don't need a special voice. Just speak normally. It is good to close your eyes and bow your head as you pray or as you listen to others pray."



If you find that the children are not taking part because it is so new to them or because they are shy, try something different the next week. Start by explaining how important it is to **THANK** God for so many things. Show a picture of food and ask if one of them would thank God for the food they eat. Follow that with pictures of a home, a church, the bible, and a cross (the death of

the Lord Jesus) asking that one of them should thank God for what is on the picture. Then secondly you could do the same using pictures and asking if a child would ask God to **PLEASE** respond to what is portrayed.

You could let them know that there are children who meet together on their own and pray together. You might also let them know that if they ever wanted to do this, they could get together before or after Good News Club for 10 or 15 minutes, and that you would leave them on their own.



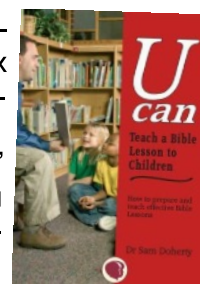
**YOU WILL FIND HELP  
IN THESE ACEW  
PUBLICATIONS**

Did you know that we have written and published six "U-can books". Together, these six 100-page books form and provide a mini-library for teachers of children.

"U-can Teach a Bible Lesson to Children" would help you know more about what you have read in this Mini Mag about lesson presentation.

The other five titles are "U-can Know God's Plan for Children," "U-can Evangelise Children," "U-can Lead Children to Christ," "U-can Help Christian Children to Grow," and "U-can Counsel a Christian Child."

These books would be a special help to those who are starting their ministry to children, although experienced teachers would also benefit from them. They are all available, free of charge, at our website [www.cefbookministry.com](http://www.cefbookministry.com).





## ILLUSTRATIONS FOR CHILDREN

1) Rosie loved to sing and she always enjoyed Good News Club because it gave her the chance to learn and sing new songs. One week, the teacher taught them a new chorus which had a nice tune and the words were very good. It went like this “God is still on the throne and He will remember His own. His promise is true. He will not forget you. God is still on the throne”. The teacher explained what this meant—that God was very powerful and that He would always look after them. They started to sing but Rosie got mixed up and instead of singing “God is still on the throne” she sang “God is still on the phone.” Everybody laughed. But the teacher said “Don’t laugh. Because what Rosie sang is also true. God is “on the phone” in a sense. We can call to Him. He is always there when we call to Him and He always answers. The line is never too busy, there is no interference or noise on the line and you don’t need a telephone.” Why not talk to Him to-day. You don’t need a telephone, and you can speak to Him at any time about anything.

2) One morning, a missionary in Africa saw someone walking towards his home. It was a man dressed in skins and leading a goat by a rope. When he came near the

missionary, he asked him “Have you got the book?” “What book?” asked the missionary. The stranger replied, “The book that gives the good news”. The missionary went into his house and brought out a Bible in an African language. The man dressed in skins said, “Where does it give the good news about God’s love?” The missionary turned to John 3:16 and read “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” “That’s it” the man said, “Give me the book and I will give you the goat,” and away he went on his journey home with joy on his face and without the goat., He had got the good news. Have you got the good news? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus and received eternal life? You don’t need a goat.

3) Some years ago, a ship was lost in the Indian Ocean. Just before it sank, the sailors got into the ship’s lifeboat. They knew where they were. And they knew there was a small island hundreds of miles away. But how could they find such a small island so far away? They travelled for weeks through good and bad weather, living on the fish they could catch and small amounts of water. And then, suddenly, they arrived at this little island. How did they do it? It seemed impossible. The answer was that they had a compass. This compass gave the sailors the right direction and they just followed it. Without the compass they would have been lost. Did you know that God has given us a compass to show us the way to Heaven. This book, the Bible, is your compass. You will get in it all the directions you need for your journey.

### ***75 Years and Still Learning:***

#### ***The author’s experience and the lesson he learned***

This is a lesson which is clearly taught in Scripture. (Read James 2:1-4) It is also a lesson which I learned from my wife, Sadie, in the early days of CEF of Ireland. In those early days we were still a small and struggling organisation. We had almost no financial support, no full-time workers and a tiny office in our capital city Belfast. Sadie looked after the office and its small stock of literature and visual aids on a part-time basis. One morning, a man came into the little office. He was well known in Belfast as a rather eccentric Christian, who paraded around the city centre carrying billboards with bible texts on them. Most people ignored him, but he was faithful to the ministry God had given to him. He had seen the name of CEF outside our little office, and, one morning, he came in to see who we were and what we were doing. I feel that many people, including myself, would have been quite brief and even hurried in our response to him. He was apparently quite poor and did not seem like a prospective donor or helper. But Sadie spent the whole morning with him, showing him our literature piece by piece, and sharing our plans to reach children in Ireland with the Gospel. They had “a cup of tea” together, he thanked her for her help and left, with his billboards, just before the office closed. That evening Sadie shared with me her meeting with her visitor, and neither of us thought any more about it.

## TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY

However, the next morning, when Sadie returned to the office, there was an envelope in the post box with a letter of thanks from her visitor, and a cheque for 30,000 pounds sterling (in present day currency). In his note he asked that we should use it to build up our literature and teaching aids and use it to expand our ministry, especially in the recruitment of full-time workers. Several months later, he gave us a cheque for the same amount. Later, he gave us two houses and two mobile homes to sell, and he bought us our first vehicle to enable one of our new full-time workers to travel around the country and promote our work. Sadie and the rest of us had not known that DAVID FERRAN was a very wealthy man, and God used him to set Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland on its feet, for it to reach many thousands of children with the gospel and for it to become one of the biggest parts of worldwide CEF. And I learned the lesson from Sadie to treat all my contacts the same way, and not to ignore or give very little time to those who did not seem able to help the work. (Read James 2:1-4 again to see this principle portrayed and add Hebrews 13:2). You never know who God will call and use to fulfil His plans, as He did with dear David.

The Mini-Mag is written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan and Kenneth Martin.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author’s 75 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at [TFACEW@aol.com](mailto:TFACEW@aol.com)

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