

SPRING 2025

EVERY CHILD

CEF of Ireland National Newsletter

Giving thanks for ...



...of ministry

1950 – 2025





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FELLOWSHIP®

Since 1937

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CEF of Ireland is part of the worldwide CEF family, and we have a passion to teach the Bible to children and young people in an engaging and relevant way, through our direct ministries, training, church partnerships and resources. We want children to enjoy our ministries, but more importantly, we want to teach them deep truths in a way they can understand. Our vision is that every child, in every county, would be in the word of God every day.

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Welcome!

The following words were quoted at a church service recently, “whenever people pray things happen.” Heather and I, along with our co-workers, have proved these words to be true.

We trust that as you read this newsletter you will be encouraged as you see how God has answered prayer on behalf of our workers.

As you read the various articles you will notice the word “volunteer” mentioned a number of times. Our mission is built on faithful and loyal volunteers. For the past 75 years, dedicated volunteers have been teaching the children and young people in camps, clubs, and Youth Challenge. They have also been generously supporting the work financially and spending valuable time in prayer.

For the work to continue in the future, we need more dedicated and loyal volunteers.

Would you be free and available to help?



David & Heather Cowan
National Directors Designate



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Our financial policy is to “ask God and tell his people”. As we seek the Lord’s provision and share our needs with you, please find the relevant details below if you’d like to support us financially:

Online: www.cefireland.com/give

Standing Order: To set up regular giving, forms are available at www.cefireland.com/give or by contacting our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)

Bank Transfer (Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland) To give via bank transfer, please contact our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)

Phone: You can give a gift by card by calling our National Office on 028 9073 2263

Post: Gifts can be sent to our National Office along with designation instructions (if applicable). Cheques payable to ‘Child Evangelism Fellowship’. Gift Aid declaration forms available at www.cefireland.com/giftaid or by contacting our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)

MINISTRY CHANGE IN MONAGHAN

In January 2022, Andrew and Beulah McMullan moved from local area work in Monaghan to join the Western European leadership team. Now without a worker, many people prayed that God would provide someone to stand in the gap to reach the 14,000 children of the county.

God answered, and Emma Reid arrived, having served in Mid Ulster for four years. Over the years Emma served in the county, God blessed the ministry, and many children and young people heard the great news of the gospel through CEF ministries.

A big life change was to come in 2024, when Emma Reid became Emma Annett! Marrying Colin, a farmer from Lagan Valley, brought a move to the Lagan Valley area. In God's providence, this enabled Emma to take over area ministry from David and Heather Cowan, our National Directors Designate.

Once again, Monaghan finds itself without a CEF worker, but we praise God that ministry is still ongoing! A small steering group of volunteers has been formed, with the goal of seeing ministry continue to grow until God raises up someone else to serve full-time in the area.

Please pray for this group, that they would know God's help and strength as they reach the children of Monaghan. Pray for plans for ministry over the next few months. Pray especially for their goal to have two camps in the summer (Juniors and Inters), that lots of children would book in and that they would have enough leaders.

Finally, please pray that God would touch the heart of someone to go and serve in Monaghan full-time. Could you be the answer to your own prayers?



Please pray for the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland, and thank God for CEF ministry there over the past 75 years. The work has often been hard, and the labourers few but the harvest is plentiful!

A NEW CHAPTER FOR LAGAN VALLEY

Elaine Doran, Local Committee Member

‘... I am the Lord, I do not change ...’
Malachi 3:6

The Lagan Valley area has experienced a massive change in the past year because, for the first time in our history, we have our first vacancy. David and Heather Cowan left in spring 2024 to transition into their new role as National Directors Designate.

As a committee, whilst we rejoiced with how they had experienced God’s leading, and gave thanks for their tremendous legacy, we were anxious about how we would cope and how the various ministries would be maintained. The summer work ahead felt especially daunting!

However, it has been wonderful and humbling to see how God has undertaken in every detail as the vast majority of ministries have continued almost seamlessly.

David and Heather Cowan had guided us through an extremely detailed handover in which they specifically outlined what was involved practically in each area of the ministry.

We then decided to divide ourselves into various teams responsible for each area of ministry. Therefore,

with the aid of our willing, faithful volunteers and the help of our Almighty God, the area work has continued through Junior and Inters camps, JYCs, GNCs, the monthly Zoom prayer meeting and the weekly prayer text.

Prayer has truly been answered, and we are thrilled that after almost a year’s vacancy, God has provided a new worker. We are delighted that Emma Annett joined the area in January.

As we reflect on this past year we, as a committee, have been given a valuable insight into the different ‘hats’ a worker has to wear.

We hope that we will be an encouragement to Emma in our area’s new chapter as we trust our unchanging God for all that lies ahead.



Give thanks for the ministry in Lagan Valley, which began in the late 60s, with Tom and Edith Boyle serving as the first Local Directors.



**It's wonderful to be able
to look back and thank the
Lord for all he has done!**



PARTNERING ACROSS THE IRISH SEA

Simon & Hannah Snodgrass,
Local Workers (Scotland)

We truly could not do ministry without partnerships; partnerships with churches, local believers, and schools. However, one of our favourite partnerships is with a summer Momentum team of young adults from CEF of Ireland. Since our first summer of ministry in 2022, a team has come over from Northern Ireland to help us run a week of 5-Day Clubs in the Central Belt of Scotland.

In 2022, we started with a team of four and had three clubs, with only two having children. Then in 2023, we grew to a team of seven with three clubs, all having children (about 30 children were reached in total). This past summer we've grown to a team of ten, with four clubs. All had children in attendance and about 50 children were reached during the outreach week!

Over the three summers we've also grown from two church partnerships to four, and have the potential to add a fifth club in summer 2025. It's a great week and we look forward to it every year! Simon is out all day with the teams, leading and teaching,

while Hannah stays busy with the girls, providing meals, and organising the practical end of things. The Lord provides every year with a church hall for the team to stay at, free showers at the local leisure centre, a second car for us to borrow, and dry weather!

It's wonderful to be able to look back and thank the Lord for all he has done! In addition to the encouragements during the summer, we have seen the Lord use our small part in the summer to help build the ongoing ministries the partnering churches carry out during the year! May the Lord continue throughout the year to bring to the minds of the children reached his truths, and open their hearts to his salvation.



We thank God for the witness of more than 15 missionaries sent from CEF of Ireland to CEF of Britain over the past 75 years.

SHORTFALL

IN IRELAND & ACROSS EUROPE



From the early days of CEF of Ireland, an importance has been placed on missionary vision. While our focus for the past 75 years has been on reaching boys and girls in Ireland—it has never stopped there! Over the years many have endeavoured to support this missionary vision through their prayers, financial support, and going.



The 1960s saw Roy and Ruth Harrison sent from CEF of Ireland to serve in France. Many in Ireland prayed for and supported them in their work there and later in their roles in European leadership. Today the work in South-West Europe (which includes France) still needs prayer and financial support. Each month €6,550 is required to meet the shortfall for workers' support in this area. **Would you pray that God will supply this need? Or could you be part of the answer to this prayer?**



Give to European Shortfall

The missionary vision that saw Roy and Ruth leave to serve in mainland Europe is still important to the work in CEF of Ireland. Today the National Office in Belfast processes gifts for many workers across Europe from individuals in Ireland with missionary vision.

The work of Child Evangelism Fellowship has always operated on a policy of 'trust God and tell his people', and we can testify to the faithfulness and goodness of God throughout the past 75 years because he has always supplied our needs.

We are so thankful to the Lord for the strong, consistent support of our local workers and areas. However, there is a shortfall in the general operational account of CEF of Ireland. This account is used to support the ministry in the National Office, Multimedia Department, Seaview and Oceanview camp centres. It is also used to support missionaries in financial difficulty and other general projects that arise.

We believe that everyone involved in the ministry of CEF has a vital role. From local workers, the staff in the office, prayer partners, volunteers and financial supporters, everyone is working together to bring the message of the gospel to children for the glory of God.

The monthly shortfall is around £10,000 per month in this general operational account. Would you prayerfully consider giving a one-off gift, or, if the Lord has laid it on your heart, could you partner with these essential ongoing ministries on a more regular basis?



Give to Irish Shortfall

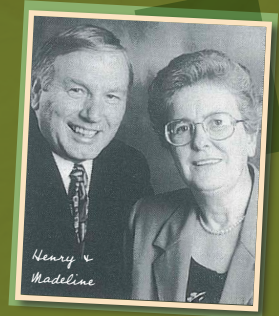
We are so thankful that the Lord has met our needs over the past 75 years. We are also so thankful to each one of you that he has worked through. Without your support, CEF would not be able to reach the many boys and girls in Ireland and we could not maintain our missionary vision. We continue to hold to our policy of **trusting God and telling his people, knowing that he will provide.**



As we approach our 75th year of ministry in Ireland, we want to take time to reflect on God's goodness to us over the years. Some of you have been with us on this exciting journey from the earliest days, others joining more recently. However long you've been involved, and in whatever capacity, we trust you'll rejoice with us that "thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

REFLECTIONS FROM HENRY & MADELINE BERRY, NATIONAL DIRECTORS

FROM 1994–2010



Upon reflection, it was our honour and privilege to serve the Lord as National Directors of CEF of Ireland for 16 years. We sincerely appreciated the fellowship, dedication and ministry of our Assistant National Directors, Regional Coordinators, National Office staff, workers, missionaries, as well as various committees and countless volunteers.

We are so thankful for all the children and the young people who were reached with the glorious gospel of Christ and for those who experienced salvation blessing.

The opening of Oceanview Camp Centre in Rossnowlagh, Co Donegal was a marvellous occasion in October 1996.

Throughout the year 2000, CEF of Ireland celebrated its 50th anniversary

during which many events took place to glorify God for his faithfulness and blessing. At this time we had nearly 100 workers, missionaries and office staff. The Wonder Book, a 64-page gospel booklet for children, was distributed to every home in Ireland.

The sterling teacher training programme, effective youth ministries, missionary outreach and the production of quality literature were also greatly used by the Lord, as well as the programmes in local areas.

We praise and glorify God for the many lessons he taught us through his Word, confirming Psalm 119:90, that his "faithfulness endures to all generations."

CEF EASTER CONFERENCE

PRESSING ON

18th–21st April 2025
Portrush Presbyterian Church

DIARY DATES

18th–21st April 2025
Easter Conference

5th May 2025
National Office closed

17th May 2025
Equip Conference, Dublin
www.cefireland.com/equip

Could you help?

Over the past year, we've become aware of a serious issue with the steep bank between Seaview and Kilkeel harbour. Subsidence has caused a significant portion of land to move to the bottom of the bank, and while Seaview is in no immediate danger, we need to fix the issue as soon as possible. However, the total costs will be at least £60,000.

This is one of the most significant unplanned expenses we've ever had in the mission. If you would like to give towards this work, please visit www.cefireland.com/seaviewproject or contact our Finance Office (finance@cefireland.com / 028 9073 2263).



Thank you!



FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Emma Annett (née Reid) on her marriage to Colin at the end of December and pray God's blessing on them as they adjust to married life. Emma has also moved to the Lagan Valley area, not just to live but also as their full-time worker. Remember her as she meets many new people and settles into this new role. Pray also for the steering group in Co Monaghan as they seek to maintain the CEF work there.

We were sad to see Andrew Forson leave at the end of January, after working in the Finance Office for the last two and a half years. Pray that the Lord will bless him as he begins a new job with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and also that a suitable replacement will be found for his role in the National Office.



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