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The Origin of Child Evangelism Fellowship

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CEF Singapore News

Mr Jessie Irvin Overholtzer

Someone has said that a fellowship is two fellows in the same ship going in the same direction, working together to reach their destination.

Eighty-three years ago (1937), Jessie Irvin Overholtzer picked up a pen and signed incorporation papers which made the new organisation "Child Evangelism Fellowship" a nationwide missionary enterprise.

In spite of the enthusiasm of its president and board of directors, there were many reasons why the young Fellowship might not succeed: its leaders was already 60 years old, ominous political crises in Europe signalled World War II, and there had not been a precedent for anything like the interdenominational work among children that Mr Overholtzer was proposing.

But today the story is heard around the world – over four decades of bringing children to Christ, a global outreach which began in the heart of a man sensitive to God's leading and sturdy in obedience.

Growing up in a religious family, Jessie at the age of 12 was convicted of his own sin and sought counsel from his mother. He was told, "Son, you are too young." It wasn't until Jessie was in college that he heard the Gospel and trusted Christ as his Saviour.

Later as a pastor, Jessie Overholtzer discovered an amazing statement in a set of Charles Spurgeon's writings:

"A child of five, if properly instructed, can, as truly believe, and be regenerated, as an adult."

It was this comment by Spurgeon that awakened the soul-searching questions in the heart of the young pastor – questions which led him to 'experiment' in child evangelism and eventually to find his lifetime ministry.

Mr Overholtzer learned the importance of obedience to God's command and he was surely the man that God gave a burden, a vision and a plan, and then enabled him to carry it out. Later he wrote that, "By the very nature of the call which the Lord gave me, it became crystal clear that God was going to do a mighty work for the salvation of children in these last days."

The fact that there was a supernatural prayer burden for the children of every land indicated that this blessing was to become worldwide. No such prominence or scope for a work primarily for children had ever been known.

It was in 1936 that the name CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP was officially decided upon. Dr Paul W. Rood was appointed the first Chairman, and the slogan, "Capture the Children for Christ", was chosen, and "The Statement of Faith," written originally by D.L. Moody and A.T. Pierson, was adopted with a slight change for CEF.

Article 1st published in Child Evangelism Fellowship News July/August 1985 MC(P) 61/5/85

**REACH
THE NEXT
GENERATION
FOR CHRIST**

"A child of five, if properly instructed, can, as truly believe, and be regenerated, as an adult."

Charles Spurgeon

Teaching Children Effectively 1 / October 2019

TCE 1 course equips me with all the skills and knowledge necessary for evangelizing and teaching Bible truths in a logical, systematic and practical way.

Through step-by-step guidance and ample examples and demonstrations, we are familiarized with the gist of the Gospel and the main goal of teaching the Bible lessons, memory verses, and the technique of conducting lesson-related activities in a way such that everything works together to achieve the aim of evangelizing and building up children in God's truth.

TCE1 is undoubtedly a powerfully effective course in training children's workers. Highly recommended!

*Sofei
True Way Presbyterian Church*

I attended TCE 1 from 1 October to 19 October 2019. It was with lots of apprehension and reservation at the beginning as I thought that I am not that good with children. The intensity of the course forced me to quickly rush out of that thought. Assignments came fast and furious. Nonetheless trainers were methodical in delivering the lessons and helpful in guiding the trainees with the assignment. A big thank to the trainers.

The syllabus includes teaching children how to memorise Bible verses, preparing and presenting Bible lessons, establishing the Good News Club and all the in between like how to relate the Bible story to the child, counselling the child on salvation, teaching the child to pray, teaching music etc. Also included is the use of wordless books to lead a child to Christ.

Going through the course has equipped me with the techniques to teach children how to memorise Bible verses and to deliver a Bible lesson more effectively. Most importantly I was reminded that it is God who is doing the teaching through me. So I shall have no fear.

I would say that I am more confident now and ready to do my part for the boys in the 57th Singapore Company Boys' Brigade.

*Mak Wai Yen
Glory Presbyterian Church*



Asia Pacific Regional Conference

Every three years the countries in the Child Evangelism Fellowship Asia Pacific region will meet for a time of celebration, fellowship and learning together at the Asia Pacific Regional Conference. This year (2019), we met at Myanmar from 23 to 27 September. More than 20 countries were represented and CEF Singapore sent 16 delegates to the conference. About a total of 294 people were present.

As one of the senior staff from CEF Singapore, I witness how God has brought together a team from

Singapore to the various conferences. To-date, this is the greatest number of Singaporeans present at the conference.

The keynote speaker, Dr Morgan, was an excellent speaker. He spoke from 2 Corinthians 4 and encouraged all CEF Staff not to give up their ministry and to press on to what God has given to each one of us.

On a personal note, I caught up with some of my friends from the different parts of the region while others were

too busy with meetings. I praise God for His work through all the staff of CEF Asia Pacific especially in Myanmar as we witnessed how God provides them their needs to take the gospel to the little ones.

Lorita



TCE Alumni Gathering

Congratulations to CEF, Singapore for having succeeded in organizing the 1st Alumni gathering that saw several batches of TCE graduates. Lots of thoughts were put into the planning and I thank the organizer for their concerted efforts. The gathering was an opportunity to get together and fellowship, see where we have grown and how far we have gone in our outreach to children. It is also an opportunity to discuss among like-minded brethren and be encouraged by one another.

It was wonderful to hear everyone's sharing. How they became a child of God themselves; how they started in the children's ministry and how effective they became

after TCE. I was very encouraged to hear the testimony of a sister who shared that she failed in her "memory verse" practicum even though she thought it was easy and how it humbled her and made her trust God to know what's best for her. God surely knows what's best for us.

I'm glad I attended the Alumni lunch. The sharing/testimony in itself was worth coming for. I fervently pray that CEF will continue to be blessed as they have blessed others.

To God be the Glory!

Rosie Solomon

I almost did not attend the alumni gathering held at the CEF office on Saturday, December 7.

Having worked till very late the night before, I was not sure that I would wake up early enough to go to the 10 a.m. meeting. But I did make it and I was glad - for the fellowship was sweet, as always. Is it because we all work with children, a sort of camaraderie among laborers in the same ministry? Or is it just the CEF spirit that its staff members and volunteers can talk and laugh together and share one another's burdens and be encouraged to keep on keeping on in the work? Whatever the reason may be, it had been a morning well-spent, for me.

Thank you, folks at the CEF office, for organizing this gathering and putting together a good program

with songs and devotion, sharing and testimonies, and games and great food!

Sharon



Reaching out to children

Rachel, the CEF's National Director, was invited to the Mission Month of Cherith Baptist Church on 11 August 2019. She shared four aspects of mission, namely know (awareness), pray, give and go to a group of children ranging from kindergarten to primary 6 students.

Through her engaging and lively lesson, the children gained a deeper understanding of mission- what is mission, why we need to pray, give and go. The children learned that the mission is for all ages- young or old, rich or poor, all can be used by God to tell the good news to others. Rachel wrapped up the lesson with a craft to help children remember the lesson.

We are thankful to God for the time and effort of Rachel to present

God's heartbeat to our children. And we pray that God will continue to bless and to do His work through CEF.

Jean / Cherith Baptist Church



Bethany Evangelical Free Church's Children's Sunday School had the pleasure of enjoying worship and story telling by Lorita and Anna from Child Evangelism Fellowship, Singapore on Sunday 22 December 2019. Anna led the children in songs about Christmas, sharing on the theme of having room in one's heart for Jesus even though there was no room for him to be born one cold Christmas night. Lorita shared about the birth of Jesus Christ with the children in an interactive manner, using games and role play to recreate the Christmas story. The story helped the children understand the significance of Jesus Christ coming to earth and identify the conditions of their hearts and whether they were ready for Jesus Christ.

We pray that the children's knowledge of God's love will be strengthened through this special reminder of Christ's birth.

Ng Yui Yun / Bethany EFC



Truth Chasers Club SM

The Truth Chasers Club is a correspondence programme for children. We have a series of lessons for different ages. It can be a good complement to any existing outreach to children in the community and schools, serving as a follow-up and discipleship tool.

This year, CEF Singapore began this program when we received responses from children who wanted to know more about Jesus after reading CEF publication "Meet the King".

I am put to take charge of reading and marking the lessons sent back to CEF, Singapore office.

On 23 November, we organized the first Truth Chaser Club gathering. One child has completed the primary level 6 lessons. Another child wrote to us that she received Christ as her savior on 29th November 2019.

All praise and glory be to God for His working in this child's life!

Next year, the Truth Chaser Club Party will be held in every school break.



It is our prayer that more children will get to know our Lord Jesus.

Yim Ling



A story to share with children: The Chocolate

One day, Jake and Lucy were playing at home. They had built a secret club house. It was a lot of fun.

"I'm going out for a while," Mom said. "There is a box of chocolates on the table. You can each take one chocolate. But don't take more or you won't be able to eat dinner." When Mom had left, Jake and Lucy went to the dining table. They saw a box of delicious, round chocolates on the table. They each took one piece.

"Yummy!" Jake said. "I love chocolate. I wonder if I could just take one more piece," Jake said. Oh no! Jake took another piece of

chocolate. Then he took more and more. He called Lucy back to the table.

"Come on," he said. "Mom won't know."

So both Jake and Lucy continued popping chocolates into their mouths. Very soon, there was only one piece of chocolate left in the box.

Just then, Mom walked in through the front door. Excitedly, she put down two packets of fish and fries on the table.

"Look what I got for you!" she said. Then she looked at the almost

empty box of chocolates, and the guilty looks on Jake and Lucy's faces. Mom shook her head in disappointment.

"You should have listened to me," Mom said. "I went to buy your favourite dinner. But now you are too full to eat it. I hope you learnt your lesson. Next time, don't be disobedient."

Jake and Lucy felt bad for disobeying their mother. Plus they had a big stomach ache from eating all that chocolate. PLUS PLUS, they were too full for their favourite dish! If only they had listened to her!

Why is it important to listen to your parents when they tell you to do something?

We should not disobey our teachers, our parents or God. They love you and want what is best for you.



**Reaching Children
WorldwideSM**

*Child Evangelism Fellowship®
is a Bible-centered,
worldwide organization
composed of born-again
believers.*

*It is the world's largest mission
agency for children,
reaching tens of millions of
children each year!*

A Ministry that Cares about Evangelizing Children

CEF financial needs

Our financial records are divided into two funds: General Fund and Staff Support. The General Fund covers all daily operational costs, employer's CPF contribution and staff expenses (except salaries) while the Staff Support covers staff salary. As at November 2019, our expenses total is \$155,000.00 and our income (including love gift offering and sales of literature and resources) total is \$113,000.00. So, as at November 2019 our net loss is \$42,000.00.

We are asking that you would please consider supporting this ministry financially. Our policy is "Ask God and Tell His People." We are obediently doing this and trusting Him for the rest.

You may consider to support our ministry financially as a onetime gift, monthly gift, quarterly gift or half-yearly gift.

Here are some ways you can give to our ministry:

⇒ By Cheque:
Make Payable to "Child Evangelism Fellowship (S) Ltd"

Mail to: The National Director, Blk 164 Bukit Merah Central #04-3647 Singapore 150164

⇒ By Bank Transfer
ATM transfer to our UOB current account:
931-344-024-5

Please email us at info@cef-singapore.com about your transaction detail so that we can acknowledge receipt.

CEF needs more workers

We are praying to the Lord that He will send out more laborers into the harvest field to reach more children with the Gospel (Luke 10:2). We need more co-workers in Singapore. Perhaps you are an answer to our prayers.

Will you join us in reaching the children in Singapore? We have many ways you can serve together with us.

⇒ Prayer partners: Spending time to intercede for the children of Singapore and the workers called to bring them the Gospel.

⇒ Volunteers for ministry works: Serving alongside with CEF staff in reaching the children. Use the wide variety of skills and experiences God has given you in a way that will help children come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour!

⇒ Volunteers for administrative works: Serving alongside with CEF staff in the National Office

If you want to be involved in reaching children with your different gifts and talents, please contact us!

We are looking forward to you coming on board.



WHAT'S UP!

⇒ **True Chaser Club: Lunar New Year Party**

18/1

⇒ **Easter Children Program Workshop**

29/2

⇒ **Academy of Sunday School Teachers (ASST) in English**

24/3, 26/3, 28/3, 31/3 & 2/4

⇒ **Academy of Sunday School Teachers (ASST) in Chinese**

主日学师范学院 (师范)

21/4, 23/4, 25/4, 28/4 & 30/4

Please contact us if you need further details or visit our website.

Looking forward to seeing you in the training classes!



Wishing you a Blessed Lunar New Year!