



1957 - 2007

# Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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## Methods May Change; the Message Must Not!

Dear Friends,

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Just last week Levi (14), Luke (6), and I went to Wal-Mart to pick up a birthday present for Shea. We got out of the van and began to walk to the store. I reached out my hand and told Luke that he should hold my hand because the parking lot was full and the cars might not see him if they were backing up. Luke's response caught me off-guard as he said, **"That's a good idea. That way if we get hit by a car we can go to Heaven together, and then Levi can tell everyone where we went!"** I was somewhat surprised how little care Luke had about the things of this world and what would be left behind; instead, he is full of anticipation of what Heaven must be like. I have heard Luke say on more than one occasion, "You guys are lucky! You are older and will get to go to Heaven before me!" Heaven will be a wonderful place! It has often been said about the things of this world that you can't take them with you, but there is something we can take with us and that is our children if they accept God's gift of forgiveness through His Son Jesus. We also have an opportunity to bring many others including family, friends, neighbors, and even total strangers if we would just take the time to give them the gospel.

I was reminded again how imminent Heaven is when we received an email with the news that Mary Amelia has gone home to be with Jesus. It was just a few years ago that Mary taught 5-Day Clubs in Saskatoon at the age of 70, so full of life it was no problem to refer to her as one of the Christian Youth in Action (CYIA). Sharon and I had the privilege of attending her memorial service and as they reflected on Mary's life of ministry it was easy to see that Mary had spent her life reaching out to men and women, boys and girls, giving them the gospel. Many will be in 'Heaven together' with her.

For 50 years Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan has been going out with the gospel message. This summer, just as we did 50 years ago, we used the Wordless Book to give the gospel and the very first page, the gold page talks about Heaven. One of the verses that we taught the children was from **1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 - That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.** This verse reminds us not only of the message of the gospel but also that the reason we believe it is: because it is written in God's Word! For 50 years our message to the boys and girls has remained the same although from time to time our methods have changed.

A couple of days ago Dad, Levi, and I went out for a couple of days to the Durston family farm in Manitoba. During this time we put an underground wire in from the power pole to the big shed. A backhoe with a small bucket came and dug a 3-foot-deep trench for the new power line to go into. About half-way from the shed the operator of the backhoe pulled out a cornerstone with the date on it of 1943. It seemed a little unusual to find this that deep in the ground and when I asked Dad what it was from he wasn't sure at first. A short while later he remembered that Grandpa had a wind turbine to generate power for the farm and that it was anchored deep in the ground as it stood 65 feet in the air. It seemed kind of ironic that we were digging a hole over 60 years later over that same spot and in some ways still for the same purpose, to provide power for the buildings on the farm. It was a picture to me of the ministry of CEF that just as the farm was still using power 60 years later although with different

methods, so CEF was still using the power of God's Word to reach boys and girls for Jesus Christ with the gospel message. Over the years some of our methods have changed but 50 years later we continue to use God's Word as the power to change lives for eternity.

For 50 years we have conducted 5-Day Clubs across this province and tens of thousands of boys and girls have heard the gospel in hundreds of communities and thousands have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. One of the methods that have changed is the opportunity to give the children a CD of the music from the 5-Day Clubs and in the past few years over 10,000 CD's have been given out.


For almost 50 years children who were reached through the 5-Day Clubs and Good News Clubs have received the Mailbox Club lessons to help them to grow in their faith. Hundreds of thousands of lessons have been given out and thousands of children have come to Christ through the Mailbox Club lessons. Another one of the methods that have changed is the ability for children and adults to do these lessons on the internet. Although we continue to do thousands of paper lessons each year there will be over a million lessons completed to date online from all over the world. If you would like to see these lessons for yourself, or begin to do them, go to [ubdavid.org](http://ubdavid.org) and click on 'ONLINE LESSONS'.

For many years CEF conducted Good News Clubs and had as many as 220 clubs each winter. They began in a time when most homes had two parents and moms were at home during the day. It got harder to find Good News Club locations and a few years ago **Club DJ** was developed and has given us an opportunity to reach out to boys and girls as we partner with the local churches in communities across Saskatchewan and Canada. Once again the methods have changed but the message has stayed the same and much of the teaching material that was once used in the Good News Clubs is now part of **Club DJ**. **Club DJ** continues to grow and not only reaches the children in these communities but draws them into the local church. There are already over 800 children attending these clubs each week and our records show that these children are inviting their friends by another 51% which is approximately 1200 children. It has also been exciting to see the number of churches we are partnering with almost double this year as there are a total of **16 different denominations** reaching the children in their communities through **Club DJ**. Our methods have changed but our message is the same as we give the gospel each week and seek to disciple the children to have 'Hearts ♥ That Desire to Please God'!

For 50 years God's people have prayed for this ministry, opened up their homes, provided vehicles for the summer workers, and given financially that the children would hear the message of the gospel. We serve an awesome God and as we all do our part and are available to God to use for His honour and glory, I believe we have not yet begun to see what God will do. There is a verse in Habakkuk 1:5 that I love which says, "**Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.**" It is always exciting when God begins to do things. We give God all the glory for the things He has done over the last 50 years and look forward with anticipation to all that God will do as we seek to follow Him.

We want to thank each of you once again for your faithful part in this ministry to children over the years through your prayers and faithful support and we look forward to all God will do in the years ahead as He guides us each step of the way. Although the methods may have changed a little over the years **the message MUST always stay the same!**

For the sake of the children,



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