

An Overview of Child Evangelism Fellowship®



Since 1937

CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Reaching children worldwide™

✦ **Who is Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)?**

CEF is a Bible-centered, worldwide fellowship of born-again believers. Founded in 1937 by the Rev. Jesse Irvin Overholtzer, *CEF* is headquartered in Warrenton, Missouri, and is the largest evangelistic outreach to children in the world. *CEF* has a presence in all 50 states and most countries of the world. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers work side-by-side with *CEF* to share the Gospel with children around the globe. *CEF Press*® publishes materials in more than 100 languages.

✦ **Who is CEF of North Carolina?**

The North Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship International ministers to unchurched and church children in North Carolina. Currently, *CEF* is active in 30 of the state's 100 counties through five different ministries, including the *Good News Club*® (*GNC*®) held in elementary schools.

✦ **How is CEF of funded?**

A faith-based, 501(c)(3) organization, *CEF* relies solely on the gifts of God's people. *CEF* is supported by churches, individuals, foundations, and corporate sponsors. *CEF Sandhills* receives no funds from the state, national or international *CEF* ministries. Our financial policy is to **ask God and tell His people** about ministry needs within our state.

✦ **Can we really teach the Bible in public elementary schools?**

Yes! See the 2001 Supreme Court case synopsis on page 10.

✦ **How can CEF serve you and your church?**

- By offering a three-way partnership between your church, your community, and *CEF*.
- By partnering with you to motivate, support, mentor, and encourage the people in your congregation to minister beyond the walls of your church.
- By opening channels of communication with county school boards, local school principals, community centers, military bases, and youth detention centers.
- By offering strong curriculum and common-sense training (what is common-sense training?) to equip your people to reach the next generation.

✦ **How can you help us continue on the mission of reaching the next generation?**

- Join us in praying for the salvation of members of the next generation.
- Place *CEF Sandhills* in your church's missions budget.
- Adopt a local public school to host and conduct a *Good News Club*.
- Invite *CEF* to be part of your missions conferences/events.
- Invite a *CEF* missionary to speak at your church.
- Bring awareness to your community by participating in *CEF* community events.
- Host a *CEF* community informational meeting or training session.
- Tell other pastors and Christians about *CEF* ministries.

Benefits of Partnering with Child Evangelism Fellowship®

Partnering with CEF:

- ✦ Provides a fun and impactful way to mobilize church members of all ages for missionary outreach opportunities in your community.
- ✦ Gives your church visibility in the community and among other churches.
- ✦ Builds trust and relationships with unchurched children and families.
- ✦ Establishes a safe haven for unchurched families—giving them somewhere to turn when needs arise or when they are looking for a church to attend.
- ✦ Helps your congregation maintain a vision for lost souls through verbal reports, sharing prayer needs and praises, and bulletin inserts regarding club activities and testimonies.
- ✦ Trains and develops *new* volunteer workers not only for your *Good News Club* but for your church's children's ministry and mission teams.
- ✦ Increases the outreach of your children's ministry program.
- ✦ Provides contact with new families (of *Good News Club* participants), whom you can invite to special church activities.
- ✦ Facilitates the spiritual maturity and leadership growth of team members through their ministry involvement in neighborhoods and schools.
- ✦ Leads to church growth.
- ✦ Allows your church to be a blessing to children, their school(s), your community, and the nation!



Next Steps to Partnership with Child Evangelism Fellowship®

Next steps to hosting and conducting a *Good News Club*:

1. **Meet with a *Child Evangelism Fellowship* representative for planning.**
2. Pray as ***CEF* introduces the *Good News Club* to the local Board of Education or Superintendent.** If the school board has not already given equal access to the public school facility, a *CEF* representative will begin the process of opening the doors. The law approves equal access, but opening a school requires meetings, phone calls, and the presentation of legal documents. This is preliminary legal work that *CEF* does on your behalf—thereby creating solid working relationships within your school system. Such relationships are of great importance as you progress in your ministry.
3. **Assemble an after-school *Good News Club* team.** One passionate person in your church will take on this task. This passionate person—the *GNC* coordinator—recruits a minimum of eight to 12 team members to lead the *Good News Club*. As the *GNC* grows, you may need to add more volunteers. To keep a *GNC* running smoothly, a ratio of one volunteer to seven children is best. Assembling a team must take place before the next step (meeting the principal).
4. ***CEF* schedules a meeting with your club coordinator and the school principal.**
Your *CEF* representative will set up a meeting involving *CEF*, the *GNC* coordinator, and the school principal. It will include discussion and logistical planning for conducting the *GNC* in the school. The meeting will be facilitated entirely by *CEF* but is a very important **FIRST** step for your church to establish a good working relationship with the principal and school, if you don't already have one.
5. **Fulfill yearly training requirements.** *This required training provides everything you need to host and conduct a GNC.* Before working in a *GNC*, all team volunteers must:
 - Complete an online (*CEF* Sandhills) volunteer application form which includes the following:
 - Confidential Screening Form
 - Background and Reference Check Authorization
 - Agree to and sign the:
 - ✦ Statement of Faith (cefonline.com/statementoffaith)
 - ✦ Doctrinal Protection Policy (cefonline.com/wca)
 - ✦ Child Protection Policy (cefonline.com/policy)
 - Agree to use the provided *CEF Press*® curriculum.
6. ***CEF* staff will visit, mentor and encourage your club.** A member(s) of the *CEF* staff will observe your *GNC* to encourage you and help you minister more effectively, ensuring that the *GNC* program is conducted uniformly throughout the state. It is important that volunteers use the methods they learned in their *CEF* training so that their ministry is effective in helping children hear and understand the Gospel message. These methods are time-proven and easy to implement.

Financial Commitment to a Good News Club

The Cost Involved in Partnering with CEF to Host a Good News Club

The estimated annual cost to host a *Good News Club* is:

Our Costs for all training, all materials and ministry support \$1200.00/club*

Snacks (these are optional) Cost is about one dollar/student for each club meeting.

Please Note: CEF Sandhills is focused on ministry. If the cost is a problem, we will work with you.

When officially partnering with a host church, CEF:

1. Creates the bridge between your church and the school.
2. Provides the school with legal documents.
3. Provides required yearly training and background checks for the *GNC* team members.
4. Provides a \$3 million liability insurance policy for all volunteers.
5. Provides a year's *GNC* curriculum and summer resources.
6. Provides opportunities for continuing education, some for possible college credit (TCE).
7. Provides six-week "series" trainings and workshops in some chapters
8. Provides ongoing communication and support for the *GNC* team.
9. Provides a professional *GNC* banner/sign for school open houses (when in accordance with school policy, a registration booth/table may be set up to recruit children to join the club).

Cost Breakdown:

The items below are included in your partnership

- Training for team members
- Background checks
- Liability insurance (\$3 million coverage)
- Curriculum (print or PowerPoint versions)
- Children's tracts and Bibles
- Professional banner/sign
- Shipping
- Local Missionary and state support
- CEF of North Carolina /National Office
- Summer 5-Day Club kit
- Holiday Party Lessons/Kits (Christmas, Easter)

Logistics and Promotion of a Good News Club

Logistics

✦ **What does an after-school Good News Club schedule look like?**

The club is fast-moving and usually operates for 1½ hours one day a week. Club days follow the school's calendar—meeting for 24 weeks during the school year, typically September through April.

✦ **What do Good News Club volunteers/teachers do?**

Responsibilities for each *GNC* team position can be found on page 13 of this packet. These descriptions are basic. Additional positions may be needed as the club grows.

✦ **How do children sign up for a Good News Club?**

ALL Good News Clubs must use the official, pre-prepared CEF Registration Form for participant signups (see sample on page 12). A CEF staff member will customize this official legal document for you after the meeting with the school principal (see step 4 on page 3); it may not be altered in any way. The church is responsible for making copies of the blank registration forms on bright yellow paper. The distribution of the sign-up registration forms is based on the school's particular policies and procedures for all other after-school clubs.

✦ **What about liability?**

Because child security is of utmost importance, all volunteers who serve in any capacity in GNCs are covered by a \$3 million liability insurance policy. This policy is renewed yearly and reflects the growth in our volunteer base. Each school year, all teams and schools are provided with this policy, which is covered by the church/CEF financial partnership fee. This policy is the strongest one available and is possible because of the *CEF* national child protection policy.



Logistics and Promotion (*Continued*) of a Good News Club

Promotion

Church Promotion

God works in so many wonderful ways at *Good News Club*! You can encourage the faith of your church by sharing through a variety of ways, such as:

- ✦ Newsletters
- ✦ DVDs or video presentations
- ✦ Brochures
- ✦ An information table in your church
- ✦ Weekly church bulletins
- ✦ Regular *GNC* presentations during your services
- ✦ Oral testimonies and prayer requests
- ✦ Year-end programs or banquets, that invite *GNC* kids and their parents to your church campus and provide opportunity for outreach and ministry!

School Promotion

It is important and easy to promote *Good News Club* at your school. The same policies apply to *GNC* as for any other after-school Club. For example:

- ✦ Some clubs set up a table at an open house before the school year begins.
- ✦ Some club leaders attend a parent meeting and briefly (two minutes) share information about the *Good News Club*. Set up a table with registration forms so parents can register their children.
- ✦ Some clubs gain exposure at school and show support of the school by setting up a booth or game at the school's fall festival.
- ✦ All *GNCs* should be prepared to hand out registration forms and flyers at each weekly club meeting! *GNC* kids are your BEST promotion!



Statement of Faith, Doctrinal Protection Policy, and Worker's Compliance Agreement of Child Evangelism Fellowship®

Statement of Faith

We believe:

- ✦ *That all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God*, by which we understand the whole book called THE BIBLE; that it is inerrant in the original writing; and that its teaching and authority are absolute, supreme, and final. We believe that the Holy Spirit guided the holy men of old in all they wrote. (2 Tim. 3:16; Deut. 4:2; 2 Peter 1:21)
- ✦ *The Godhead eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*. These three are one God, and have the same nature, attributes, and perfection. (Rom. 1:20; Matt. 28:19; Deut. 4:35; John 17:5)
- ✦ *In the personality and deity of the Lord Jesus Christ*, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, truly God, and truly man. (John 1:1, 14; 10:30; Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:30–31; Phil. 2:5–7; 1 Tim. 3:16; Col. 1:19)
- ✦ *In the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit*, the source and power of all acceptable worship and service, the infallible interpreter of the infallible Word, who indwells every true believer, and is ever-present to testify of Christ—seeking to occupy us with Himself, not with ourselves or our experiences. (John 15:26; Acts 5:3–4; 1:8; Rom. 8:26–27; 1 Cor. 2:12, 14; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 12:13; John 16:13–14)
- ✦ *That man was created in the image of God, after His likeness, as stated in the Word of God, but the whole human race fell in the fall of the first Adam*. Not only was his moral nature grievously injured by the fall, but man totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses, and subject to the power of the devil. “The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:7–8, KJV). Therefore, man cannot see nor enter the kingdom of God until he is born again by the Holy Spirit. We believe that no degree of reformation, however great; no attainment in morality, however high; no culture, however attractive; no humanitarian and philanthropic schemes and societies, however useful; no baptism or other ordinance, however administered, can help the sinner to take even one step toward Heaven. Rather, a new nature imparted from above, a new life implanted by the Holy Spirit through the Word, is absolutely essential to salvation. (Gen. 1:26–27; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1–3; John 3:3, 6–7; Titus 3:5)
- ✦ *That Jesus Christ became the sinner's substitute before God and died as a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the whole world*; that He was made a curse for the sinner, dying for His sins according to the Scriptures; that no repentance, feeling, faith, good resolutions, sincere efforts, or submission to the rules and regulations of any church can add in the very least to the value of the precious blood or to the merit of that finished work wrought for us by Him, who tasted death for every man. (1 John 2:2; Heb. 2:9; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 3:25; 4:4–5; 5:8; Col. 1:13–14, 20–21)
- ✦ *In the resurrection of the crucified body of Jesus Christ*; that His body was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that He ascended into Heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God as the believer's high priest and advocate. (Luke 24:39; Acts 1:10–11; Eph. 4:10; Heb. 1:3; 1 John 2:1)
- ✦ *That Christ, in the fullness of the blessings He has secured by His death and resurrection, is received by faith alone*; that the moment we trust in Him as our Savior, we pass out of death into everlasting life, justified from all things, accepted before the Father according to the measure of His acceptance, loved as He is loved, and made one with Him. At the time of acceptance of Christ as Savior, He comes to dwell within us and live out His life of holiness and power through us. (Heb. 9:15; John 5:24; Rom. 3:28; 4:3, 23–25; Eph. 1:3; John 17:23; Gal. 2:20; 4:6–7; 5:16; Acts 1:8)
- ✦ *That the Church is composed of all those who truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior*. The Church is the body and bride of Christ. We believe every believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, and having thus become members of one another, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry, and loving one another with a pure heart fervently. (Eph. 1:22–23; 2:19–22; 1 Cor. 12:22–27; 1:10–13; Rom. 12:4–5; Eph. 4:3–6; 5:32; Phil. 2:1–5; Gal. 5:13–15)
- ✦ *That all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ are called into a life of separation from worldly and sinful practices*, and should abstain from such amusements and habits as will cause others to stumble, or bring reproach upon the cross of Christ. Believers are created in Christ Jesus unto good works. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10, KJV). (1 John 2:15–16; Rom. 13:14; 14:13; 1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 2:10)

- ✦ *In the evangelization of the world:* that the supreme mission of the people of God in this age is to preach the Gospel to every creature; and that special emphasis should be placed on the evangelization of children. (Mark 16:15; 2 Cor. 5:18–19; Matt. 18:14)
- ✦ *In the personal return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,* that the coming again of Jesus Christ is the “blessed hope” set before us, for which we should be constantly looking. “Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20, ESV). (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16–17; John 14:1–3; Titus 2:13; Phil. 3:20–21)
- ✦ *That the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence,* and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be with Him forever in glory. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 16:22, 25; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:15–18)
- ✦ *That the souls of the lost remain after death in misery until the final judgment of the great white throne,* when soul and body reunited at the resurrection shall be cast “into the lake of fire,” which is “the second death,” to be “punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.” (Luke 16:22–23, 27–28; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:5, 11–15; 2 Thess. 1:7–9)
- ✦ *In the reality and personality of Satan,* “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world” (Rev. 12:9, KJV). (Eph. 6:11–12; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 20:10)

Doctrinal Protection Policy

Adopted by CEF International Board of Trustees on May 6, 2002

Child Evangelism Fellowship® continues in its commitment to its “Statement of Faith,” which embodies the nonnegotiable and historic beliefs of evangelical Christians. Within the community of evangelical believers, various distinctive beliefs exist that do not prevent our fellowship in the Lord and our effectiveness as child evangelists. We therefore resolve that CEF workers are qualified by their unreserved commitment to CEF’s Statement of Faith and their further commitment, in all CEF activities, to refrain from teaching or otherwise advocating doctrinal distinctives either contrary to or in addition to the Statement of Faith.

Child Evangelism Fellowship® Worker’s Compliance Agreement

Recognizing the spiritual need of boys and girls in our community and around the world, I would like to assist in the work of *Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)*.

I understand that *CEF* is without specific denominational affiliation, and have read the Statement of Faith and *CEF* Doctrinal Protection Policy. In becoming a coworker with *CEF*, and in order to protect the ministry, I agree not to propagate or practice in *CEF* ministries any distinctive or controversial doctrines, methods and practices that would go beyond the *CEF* Statement of Faith and the approved *CEF* curriculum. These would include but not be limited to such things as modes of baptism, speaking in tongues, interpretation of Scripture by experience, healing on demand, etc. I understand that anyone who does not adhere to this agreement cannot serve with *CEF* as paid staff or volunteer.

In teaching Bible lessons in core *CEF* programs I will use exclusively materials approved by *CEF*.

In offering my services I trust the Lord to make me a faithful servant, and should problems arise between *CEF* and me that cannot be fully reconciled, I will quietly withdraw to preserve the harmony essential to having an effective Christian witness.

By signing below, I indicate: My agreement with the Statement of Faith, and that

- I will abide by the above Worker’s Compliance Agreement, and that
- I will abide by the policies of CEF as long as I am actively involved.
- I have reviewed the Protecting Today’s Child presentation (866-878-4182 or www.cefonline.com/childprotection) in the last 12 months.

If you have a question about a specific policy or to see a complete copy of all policies, contact your director.

Supreme Court Decision and Legal Matters Related to CEF Good News Clubs

Good News Club v. Milford Central School

June 11, 2001

Equal Access: A Brief Synopsis

What was the Court's holding?

Milford Central School violated the rights of the Good News Club under the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Milford would not have violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause (often referred to as "separation of church and state") if it had allowed the club to meet.

What was the Court's reasoning underlying its Free Speech Clause determination?

It was already well settled that the Free Speech Clause forbids government from treating speech differently based on its viewpoint. The Court held that Milford violated this rule. The Court concluded that the Scouts were focused on morals and character from a secular perspective. The Court concluded that the club was addressing the same subject matter (morals and character), albeit from a religious perspective.

What was the Court's reasoning underlying its Establishment Clause determination?

First, equal treatment of religious speakers is not endorsement of religion. Neutrality is neutrality, not favoritism. Second, parents get to decide whether their kids attend club meetings. To the extent children are confused about the school district's connection with the club, that confusion is not constitutionally significant, because kids are not free to act on that confusion. Third, the concern about children's potential misperceptions cannot be considered in a vacuum. Although some might draw an incorrect inference (favoritism) from equal treatment, the Court must consider the impact of a policy that discriminates and excludes the club. Kids would likely perceive a message of government hostility to religion. It is unlikely that they would understand that the discrimination is the product of nuanced and subtle constitutional law doctrines; instead they will infer hostility. Also, an actual violation of constitutional rights cannot be justified by invoking speculative fears that some will get the wrong idea.

Good News Club: Knowing Your Rights

CEF and its *Good News Club* ministry is in an exceptional position to gain access to public schools for meeting purposes. In the seminal case *Good News Club v. Milford Central Sch.* (533 U.S. 98 [2001]), the Supreme Court of the United States specifically decided that Bible clubs such as Good News Clubs must be given the same access to school facilities accorded to any other non-school-related outside group. Therefore, the Court has made clear that a school may not deny a *Good News Club* permission to use its facilities because it is a religious club.

If the school denies the use of the school facilities to the *Good News Club* when other outside groups are allowed access to the school facilities, the school is probably engaging in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination. In addition to the aforementioned case, reference *Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free Sch. Dist.* (508 U.S. 385 [1993]).

If the school denies the use of its facilities, take these steps:

1. Obtain the reason for denial at the time you are denied use of the school or as soon thereafter as possible; and
2. Contact CEF Sandhills at 910-985-2173. If necessary, we will confer with Liberty Counsel about your situation and receive advice about the appropriate next steps.*

*It is impossible to predict all of the scenarios that may occur regarding *Good News Club* meetings in a public school. Therefore, it is essential that you notify us of any possible problems so that we may assist you in your mission. Usually, we can help you resolve these issues with a simple phone call.

Team Ministry Role Descriptions

for Good News Club

Overview of GNC Team Ministry Roles

Team Coordinator (1)

Responsible for recruiting GNC personnel and overseeing the team. Arranges and leads team meetings for prayer and encouragement.

Bible Teachers (1-2)

Responsible for teaching the Bible lesson and Scripture memory verses.

Teacher Assistants (1-4)

Responsible for leading songs, missionary stories, and/or review game. Could also serve in another role, such as Prayer Coordinator, Parent Greeter or Grade Shepherd.

Prayer Coordinator (1)

Responsible for gathering prayer requests from "God Can!" time each week and distributing to all team members and the local CEF director. May also engage church prayer partners for support.

Refreshment Coordinator(s) (1-2)

Responsible for coordinating snacks and bringing them to club meetings. Could also be responsible for any take-home treats/items.

Shepherds

The helper responsible for students of a particular grade/group. Entails greeting them as they arrive, supervising them at snack time, listening to their memory verses, and sitting with them through dismissal time.

Counselors (teachers)

Responsible for counseling children who respond to the end-of-lesson invitation. Anyone assigned to another role may also be a counselor.

Think About It

To preserve our Judeo-Christian heritage, we must reach the next generation with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ!

George Barna of The Barna Group (a research organization focused on the intersection of faith and culture) reports that children's ministries nationwide are the lowest-funded of any church ministry.

How are you reaching children and the next generation in and beyond your local church? Are your people passionate about seeing the unchurched come to know the great love of Jesus?

CEF stands committed and ready to help you and your congregation to develop a plan to reach out to the approximately 80% of unchurched children and their families in your community. With top-notch training and partnerships, CEF can equip you to minister more effectively to children in your own church, public schools, community, military bases, and juvenile detention centers.

A hundred years from now, you and I will not be here. Are we passing the torch to the next generation? Partner with CEF to reach children now. It will be the best investment you can make in the future!

See the next page for contact information so you can begin your partnership today.

When you reach children, you never know who they will become — or who they will go on to influence!

Have you ever heard of Edward Kimball? He was a Sunday school teacher who lived many years ago and taught at Mt. Vernon Congregational Church in Boston, Massachusetts. One of his Sunday school students was D.L. Moody. Kimball went to Holton's Shoe Store, young Moody's place of employment, and led him to Christ. Moody, of course, went on to become one of history's great evangelists.

Preaching in England, Moody reached a businessman named F.B. Meyer. Meyer became a preacher and writer of Christian materials.

A Gospel tract written by Meyer was read by a young man named Wilbur Chapman. Chapman received Christ and later went into the ministry and conducted revivals.

A young baseball player came to one of Chapman's meetings and went forward to receive Christ. His name was Billy Sunday.

Sunday preached revivals all over the country. At one of his meetings a young Jewish boy heard the message and was saved. His name was Mordecai Ham.

As Ham preached a revival in western North Carolina, a young boy came forward to receive Christ. His name was Billy Graham, one of the greatest evangelists of all time.

(Compiled by Dr. Robert Rohm)



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Since 1937

CEF

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