



Overview of the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund

Since 2001, the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund has raised funds and collected donated supplies for the spiritual teaching of needy children. It is involved in 36 countries throughout the world. 1,000 to 2,000 Bible Learning Kits have been distributed yearly through channels coordinated by CBM link men worldwide. The kit includes a Children's Bible, Bible learning supplies and teaching lessons, and school supplies to support their Sunday Schools. Bibles in native languages are available on request. Financial assistance, scholarships and clothing allowances have been provided for thousands of children and young people to attend Bible schools. Used clothing has also been sent to children who attend Sunday School. Homeless and disabled children have been adopted, leading to a number of baptisms. The program continues by the grace of God and with the support of individuals and ecclesias throughout the world.



The annual program is in its eleventh year sending supplies to following countries: Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad, Tobago, and Barbados. The Save the Children Fund provides Sunday School and CYC lessons, supplies, year-end prizes, clothing, and food, all of which is by sea in 19 barrels. The Fund also provides monies for youth camps and inter-island travel to allow those children of our ecclesias to share fellowship and forge new friendships which contribute to the development of ecclesial and Sunday School growth. Sunday School Outreach programs in Jamaica and Guyana have resulted in increased attendance by attracting neighborhood children and giving them lesson books, Bibles, supplies, and appropriate clothing. The local children are encouraged to attend and feel a part of the Sunday School, and some come from nearby orphanages -- lunch is provided at the ecclesias before they disperse.

History of the Fund

Brother David and Sister Louise Birchall (pictured) of the London Ontario Ecclesia, are coordinators for the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund (CSTCF), supported by the London Ontario Ecclesia.

David & Louise have no children of their own, but many years ago decided that they would endeavor to help Christadelphian children in regions of need around the world. In the beginning, it was mainly by means of Sunday School lessons and craft materials, plus financial assistance to help youth get to Camps. In recent years, in the barrels of material that are sent out annually, the CSTCF has included second-hand & new clothing, plus food staples. This aid has been via Bible Missions into areas like Russia, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. This organization is in turn supported by ecclesias in North America (CBMA & CBMC) with supplies and funding. It is really a mammoth work that is supported by many, for many.



Enthusiasm for the Work



Ecclesial members, especially sisters and young people, have expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves and to reach out to those who are in need both spiritually and financially. Young people have initiated bake sales and fundraising drives, while newly married couples have found that traveling to youth camps and contributing to the success and efforts of the programs have enhanced not only their married lives, but also given them a purpose to serve in ecclesias that are so large in number that they rarely get the chance to be fully utilized in something that benefits others. "The people had a mind to work" because they had a purpose for the work in Nehemiah's day -- the same holds true today.



One example of that enthusiasm came about from the purchase of an ecclesial hall which included an 80 year old, very dilapidated house. The mutual decision of the ecclesia was to clean up the grounds around the house which were seriously neglected. In the process of cleaning, they found among the bushes three stones with the words *Faith, Hope* and *Courage*. A little girl 6½ years old stood beside Louise and said "Auntie Weezie, I think God is trying to tell us to fix this house. We can do it, can't we?" After getting over the initial shock of such a profound

statement from such a little person, Louise's answer was "You know, I think you are right. Let's get inside and make this house work for the children's charity." The charity at that time was operating out of unheated storage sheds. With a little work, a lot of prayer and combined efforts, the CSTCF "home" was born. The whole effort is by the Grace of God and the help of the London Ecclesia's membership of 20 who constantly support the fund through work days with little or no warning. We thank all those who have valiantly supported the dream, and pray for the continued success of the fund.

How Can You Get Involved?

First and foremost we ask that you pray with us for the continuance of Christadelphian Save the Children Fund. Funds donated through your ecclesia or the CBMA / CBMC organizations that are earmarked "Christadelphian Save the Children Fund" will be forwarded on. You can send donations directly to PO Box 25651, London, Ontario, Canada, N6C 6B3. Donations within Canada will receive a charitable donation receipt.

Efforts are underway to expand the library for Sunday School and CYC distributions (ages 3 - 15+). If you are able to donate any new or used Christadelphian Books, please contact the CSTCF at 1-519-668-7081 or CSTCF@rogers.com for information on sending books to the US Post Office Box or for a direct shipping address in Canada.

The Christadelphian Save the Children Fund is also expanding it's Sunday School Awareness Program and is seeking new or slightly used clothing for children ages 5-16. Please contact the CSTCF for approval and usage needs before collecting and shipping the any clothing.

CSTCF always needs financial support and the Children Helping Children program is a great way for local Sunday Schools to get involved. Fund raising drives withinin your ecclesia or CYC like bake sales, car washes, Sunday School coin jars, collections, "Helping Hand Programs", or "sponsor a Sunday School" all raise awareness and benefit those children in need.



Stacks of packed kits ready to ship to the Caribbean Sunday Schools.

An Opportunity to Do More

One of the most profound statements about the program came from Maxim, a young person from the Tel Aviv ecclesia, who with the support of the Fund traveled from Israel to Wales to attend the Youth Camp there. He woke up the morning after arriving at camp and stated "no

bombs going off overhead, no noise, no fear.....just peace". How can any one of us not feel heightened enthusiasm to serve when some of our ecclesial families are threatened by war, hunger, spiritual deprivation, and isolation -- children never knowing that they are loved from someone, somewhere across the world. God provides us all the opportunities, but what we do with them is up to us. We pray that He finds us all up and doing when our Lord returns and we dance in the streets of Jerusalem with the children that we have helped by our side.



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