



CBF Impact

Now Live Him

URBAN YOUTH

**FINDING GOD IN THE
CHAOS**

SPECIAL NEEDS

FAMILY

UPDATE

DONOR IMPACT

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CEO PERSPECTIVE

As we move into the summer season, our theme will be “Now Live Him”. In Colossians 2 Paul tells the church we have received Christ Jesus, School is over, it is time to start living Him. My greatest failure in my faith was to have an intellectual understanding. I knew how to give the right answers, but I didn’t know how to live out my relationship with Christ. Much like Paul, I was working from a position of religious rules and zealotry. Paul found in his journey, that all he had relied on in the past was rubbish.

I liken the intellectual part of my faith journey to a front porch relationship with God. He was welcome to sit on my nice porch for a pleasant conversation, see the pretty flowers, and look at my well-manicured lawn. But He was not invited inside, that was still mine to manage. The door was always closed tight and locked with shame.

To “live Jesus” meant I had to invite him in the front door and immediately expose myself as a hoarder. There, he saw my idols and smelled the stench of my selfishness. In my interior life I was still managing all my sin issues in complete denial as they grew.

Along the journey, I met fellow hoarders who were willing to share the depths of their issues and struggles with sin. They pointed to Jesus as the one who cleaned up their mess. As I saw myself in their stories, my denial dropped. Jesus met me there and asked, “Will you let me cleanup and get rid of your mess, you know you can’t do this alone?” When I said yes, he began piling stuff on the front lawn for all to see and asking, “Will you let go of being significant, and being wealthy, and being smart, and being a self-made man, and fantasy, and desire”? As Jesus got to the bottom of the pile the stench from the rotting garbage of my life made me vomit. I still don’t understand how He could stand to be there, but He was. Jesus was like a master gardener who knew exactly what to do.

The amazing part of all of this, the rotten parts were composted and spread around as fertilizer to replenish the soil. As time moved forward, new growth began to spring up everywhere. God kept using his power to take my greatest sin and shame to grow His kingdom and His glory. Each day my inner being is filled with His presence, he continues to clean out the old and fill anew with Him. I now know what it means to Live Him!

Throughout this Newsletter are many more examples of others Living Him, my hope is through these lives you will also identify and connect with our theme to “Now Live Him”.
--Sean Stewart CEO

(Front Porch Skit with Sean & Jared)



Donor Corner

By Ernie Gaugler

My family has a long history with CBF. When I was a young child my church partnered with Camp Hope and Camp Joy, back when Uncle Winn was the director. I attended camp as a teen, and my wife, Carol, was a volunteer in her teens. Carol and I were at a young people's retreat one year and I can remember Uncle Winn taking the time to sit on the sofa and visit with us and then praying for us. I can't tell you what he said back then, but the fact that he cared enough to connect with us, to show Christ's love....that made an impression. A short time later when Carol and I were ready to be baptized it was natural to do so at camp...in the shallow handicap pool!

I have interacted with CBF with work days, retreats, and as a supporter over my adult life. Living in Queens, one neighborhood over from the South Bronx, my heart aches for the lost there. CBF's service to this area has been very special to me and my family. The importance of what CBF is doing in building relationships and sharing the gospel in life-on-life settings is what motivates me to connect the future generations of my family with this organization. We recently had a work day with my grandson and his young adult group doing some roofing and painting. There is no greater joy than to see those you love in His service



(Ernie - a recent workday at CBF repairing the Joy Dining Hall roof.)

Opportunities To Get Involved

As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10

To register for projects or programs go to:
cbfny.org/supportus

---Laminate Flooring-----Tree Removal-----Roofing---
---Firewood Cutting and Stacking-----Program Help--
---Firepit Construction---Indoor/Outdoor Painting---
---Grounds Clean Up---#Just Listen---Housekeeping
---Upside/Down Warrior Training---Cooking---Admin-

How To Help



Please keep the mission and its partners in prayer as we grow where God has planted us.



Gifts of resource and finance are always welcomed by the mission.
Visit:
www.cbfny.org/donate
for more information.

Make checks payable to:
Children's Bible
Fellowship
250 Nimham Road
Carmel, NY 10512



Consider donating your time and skills during one of our upcoming events.

For more information see our website at:
www.cbfny.org/supportus

Elevate -Anne Chavarro

March 2021 began the same as it always does in New York: cold, blustery and gray. Though the air was still damp and cold the signs of Spring's glorious renewal was evident all around. COVID 19 cases began a steady descent downward in the city and 'Spring-itis' started to affect the Elevate students. A cold Winter coupled with online learning left them longing for open spaces and 'in person' interaction. It was with much 'joy and fanfare' that we welcomed Elevate students back in March to campus events.

Youth today have many 'voices/narratives' demanding their attention. The temptation to cultivate a specific image of themselves for others dominates their social media driven world. Confusion and distrust fuels anxiety about the future. Most of the students we have connected with through Elevate campus events are hungry to find space to cultivate what we call 'the real'. They are seeking truth and how to live in a world of confusion and contradiction. They may not realize it but they are looking for someone to follow.

As it was during Jesus' ministry, many leaders are more concerned with promoting their personal image and preserving their status rather than living in truth (Matt 23:1-12) *"Everything they do is for people to see," Jesus said of them. We may not relate to loud public prayer or extra-long tassels, but in the age of Instagram and livestreams and influencers, for many of us, this "insult" may hit pretty close to home"* (Bridgetown Church Podcast)

"Hypocrisy" is cited as the number one reason for the staggering number of pastors' kids leaving the church/faith. Youth in the Bronx are struggling with the same questions - are the adult examples in their lives aligning their 'talk' with their 'walk'. Often, we forget the impact our lives have on others' - especially youth. Now, more than ever before, to 'Now Live Him' becomes essential.

CBF has been intentional about creating a physically, emotionally and spiritually safe environment for city youth to explore faith. We realize the importance in walking out our own relationship with Christ with transparency and honesty. Elevate campus events allow us to "Live Him" as we share our journey of faith with students. They are invited to come as they are and to ask hard questions about culture, faith and the world around them. Essentially taking a 'scratch and sniff' test to see if we are real.

As we share how and why we "Live Him" students feel safe enough to share who they follow and why. We continue to pray that as we build deeper bonds of friendship, community, and trust that they will be willing to follow as we follow Christ. Ultimately, "living Him" for themselves.



Our Hope Family



When I think of our Hope community, I think of family. They are more than 'ministry' and/or outreach. Each and every Hope participant and the families who love and support them teach me about the depth of God's love. They are an integral part of the body that is often overlooked and forgotten. Hope Celebrations are joyful events yet never shallow. As we learn to communicate and share with them how to live out Christ in their daily lives, we learn of the deep hurts and struggles they often navigate alone.

During small group discussions last month, I asked our young ladies' group (19-35yrs) what were some of the things that caused them not to 'Hear Jesus'. One by one they shared about hurts, fears and anxieties along with their limitations. But, it was Shonte's response that resonated the most with my heart. Shonte has Downs Syndrome and struggles to communicate because of a stutter. She is beloved in her family and has a simple love for God. Her response: 'Sadness'. When I probed more, she shared that she feels 'sad because her father died when she was younger'. I too struggle with hearing God when I'm sad. When I shared my heart with Shonte her main thought was how to comfort me. She, along with the rest of the Hope community love simply yet whole heartedly. I am supremely blessed to be able to have them as my forever friends.

Hope Celebrations are also steadily becoming not just a place where we share our lives and faith with the Hope community, but a springboard for volunteers to find a place of service and belonging at CBF. Each Celebration this Spring has brought new volunteers that are looking for ways to plug-in and build community with our Hope Family. We welcome our partners to come and grow with our Hope family as we Celebrate Christ together.

-Anne Chavarro



Staff Update

We are blessed to have Joe and Sarah Joubert serving at CBF once again. The following are a few thoughts from Joe:

I've been a follower of Christ for a long time. As long as I can remember. But, this season of my life God is bringing me into new depths of his love.

For the past few years I've served as a worship pastor at my local church. I found myself, like so many pastors, being at a place where I was "doing" for God instead of "being" with God. The scripture that means so much to me, and brought illumination to the condition of my soul was 2 Corinthians 9:10:

He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.

I found the word to be true that when I slowed down and stopped "doing" for God I was filled with godly sorrow. My goal was to be the best Pastor for my congregants, and to appear blameless on the surface while hiding my own hurts and hang ups.





Growing up my family life was bathed in great trauma and sadness. I would often seek healing for a season or counseling for a season; but, this cycle would find me right back to ministering past how I felt. This year I felt that the Lord wanted something different from me. He was calling me to break the cycle that wasn't working and to take a more intimate walk with him and repent. To acknowledge my hurts and hang ups, and to begin a real path of healing and growing.

I'm thankful for CBF because this organization is a ministry that focuses on being with the Lord. We live in a culture that emphasizes experience and program. Hear me out, as a worship pastor, I understand experience in the well-executed program. But, I'm so thankful for this season in my life because I'm surrounded by people that execute great program yet understand that none of it matters without the presence of God and the movement and inward working of His spirit in the individuals' life.

I'm reminded of the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42. Martha wanted the program to be perfect. Martha needed every "t" to be crossed and every "i" to be dotted. But, Mary understood the hard facts, that it was more important to sit at the Master's feet and to be a healthy follower of Christ than it was to be distracted by the things and demands of life. I realize that I have been journeying through life distracted and rushed when all I really want to do is spend more time at Jesus' feet.



Kingdom Builders

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



Mary & Lynn

Martin



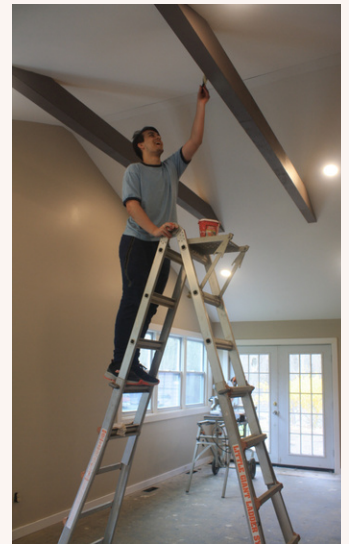
Maspeth Group



workday



Rob & Charlie



Thompsons



**Thank you to all
who gave your time
and talents to help CBF with our
Spring projects!**



Leptondale Workday



Troop 86 shines again! Boyscout EagleProject



**Thank you to Sean Perez and the Troop 86 volunteers
for the 3 handmade benches**



