



CBE *Impact*

**EMBRACING THE
UNEXPECTED**

JOINING THE JOURNEY

**GOD'S SURPRISING MEANS
FOR GROWTH**

AND MORE...

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
SPRING 2019**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2

CEO PERSPECTIVE

3

MINISTRY UPDATE

6

EMBRACING THE UNEXPECTED

8

CITY PLANNING UPDATE

9

SURPRISED BY GRACE

10

SPECIAL THANKS

CEO PERSPECTIVE

I've been using a personal journal to help me be honest with God for the past few years. As I recently reviewed some entries, I noticed a consistent theme. During difficult times my perception of reality has been 'off'. I viewed hardships and pain as unwanted intrusions in my life. Within my personal life and at CBF I have struggled to realize how God was working and I would quickly become depressed and confused. Yet I also noticed another pattern in the confusion. Words of encouragement, unexpected finances, and God inspired connections were there as reminders that great disappointments, hardships and pain are markers of God's renewal process.

The theme of renewal after great hardship can be found all throughout the Bible. Take Joseph's story for example: the betrayal, slavery and wrongful imprisonment could've spelled the end for Joseph's life journey and faith in God. Instead, God used Joseph's hardships to bring salvation to his family and the nation of Israel. When I look at the culture around me, it is easy for me to see circumstances that appear to be disintegrating. If I focus on these circumstances I begin to feel depressed and overwhelmed but, by looking to God in this time I can see the truth--that God is at work once again using unexpected means and people as a center for his renewal. As you read through the stories in this newsletter I invite you to join CBF's journey and experience God's miraculous grace through unexpected means and overwhelming love in unexpected places.

Sean Stewart
CEO

Special Notice:

CBF has begun hosting open board meetings. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to come. Meeting attendees will be able to hear directly from board members and CBF Staff about upcoming events, ministry decisions and other pertinent information.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 14th 9am

MINISTRY UPDATE

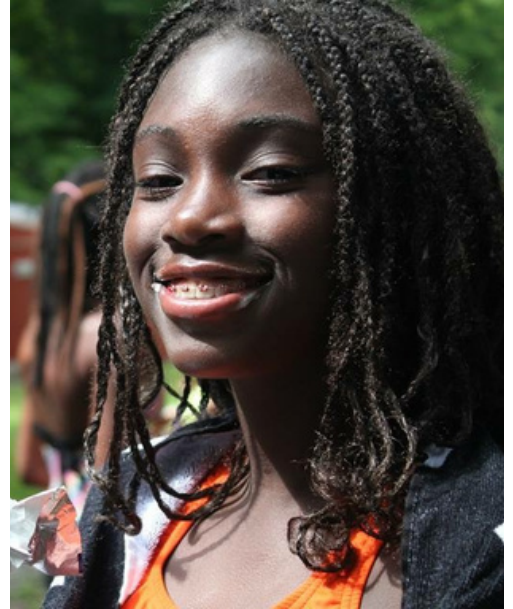
Among the leaders at CBF we often say, "We cannot give what we do not possess." As we look to make strides toward starting programs in the city I think it is fair to consider the question, "What do we have to give?" I've been asking myself, 'what will we do when people from the neighborhood don't like us? What if there are people who can't afford to feed their family but we're too focused on the spiritual journey? How do we protect women from abusive relationships? What about kids stuck in the vicious cycle of gang life?'. The lack of solutions for many of these pressing issues have caused us reservations regarding going forward. A few weeks ago I sat in Sean's office and we navigated through my internal reservation towards doing ministry in the city. I worried that we couldn't bring 'solutions'. With Yoda like wisdom Sean said, "Isn't that opposite of our values?" He went on to explain that entering into ministry with worries and anxieties about fixing a borough, a community or just a single home is against our core values. Our call as a ministry is to give from our most broken and vulnerable points and let God orchestrate the rest.

MINISTRY UPDATE

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Like most I suffer from the compulsion of justifying my existence with the value I create. I struggle with the thought that if I walk into the Bronx with anything, then it better be to do something great and noteworthy. I want my name to be beside something worth mentioning. Yet ministry from a place of perceived strength is a sure setup for catastrophic failure. God has not called us to be great but to be broken for the sake of opening the door for others to be broken. The weight lifted from my heart and mind knowing that God does not want or expect me to be anything other than a broken vessel that allows the grace he has given me in my broken place to pour out to others. This by no means discounts the workload before us. We do have to till the soil and there is always infinitely more to do than can be done.



There are many we walk alongside who battle with depression and anxiety. There are those who struggle with the pangs of addictive and compulsive behaviors. We serve the fatherless, the neglected, the financially broken and those who have been cast aside by society as 'lesser than' - 'those people.' When I stop long enough to just exist before God he shows me all He is and all He has covered by Jesus' blood. I've come to realize that I am 'those people.' My struggles may look different but my internal needs are the same. The only thing we can bring as a mission are souls anchored in the savior's love, our story of redemption and willingness to give whatever God has given us.

We pray not to serve from the anxious spirit of Martha that is overly preoccupied with performing for our Lord. Instead, we seek to develop, like Mary, a heart that waits on God and rests in His words of encouragement. As a community we are growing in the skill of silencing our internal tumult to hear His prophetic voice. We are learning to take rest in our identity in Christ and believe that God looks upon us and says, "You are my beloved [child], and with you I am well pleased."

- John Martinez



SPRING2019

A New York Adventure

Summer 2019

Volunteer and Staff Opportunities

Youth and Teens

Special Needs

Urban Ministry

Join the Journey

845.225.2005

www.cbfny.org/jointhejourney



EMBRACING THE UNEXPECTED

Growth and Maturity through Unexpected Means

Over the many years that I have known the Lord I have learned that the main thing He requires of us is willingness. With a willing heart He can use us in ways that we would not have expected and great things can be accomplished.

About a year and a half ago the Lord presented me a challenge to take on. There is a young man with cerebral palsy on staff at CBF who requires daily care. He had someone who was caring for him, but that young man got married and could no longer be his caretaker. It would require providing meals and some physical care and I had never cared for someone with a disability before. Having lived alone for quite a long time this would mean giving up my routine. I wasn't sure if I was willing to make time for another person in my life. Would I be willing to share my meals and TV time in the evening with someone else?

In the time that has passed I have found that I enjoy our time together and we like to watch some of the same shows. He has helped me to learn more about sports since he is an avid fan and since he lives in the apartment next door to me it is easy for us to go back and forth. There are also times when this is a struggle for me. I have had to adapt my daily schedule to accommodate his needs and if I need to be away for a time I have to arrange for someone to help him. In addition, helping another person with their personal care is not easy and there are physical needs that we both had to become comfortable with addressing. The Lord has helped me to put my own feelings aside in order to care for him with an attitude of grace. It's amazing how the Lord has given me a real love for him, taken away my discomfort and helped making him feel comfortable become my priority. God has taken my willingness to embrace this unexpected opportunity and has met me in it. He has blessed me with a true friendship and has shown me that I have the capacity to love and give to someone who needs my help. We have come to a place where we can share our lives openly and challenge each other to draw closer to the Lord. Our struggles are different, but facing them and growing more healthy spiritually is a need we both have. I am humbled that He chose me to serve Him in this way.

- Paula Weinbaum

Nursing Opportunities



Paid and Volunteer
Opportunities for
Licensed RNs and LPNs
to partner with CBF for
Summer Ministry

Call: 845.225.2005 or Visit: cbfny.org



CITY PLANNING UPDATE: NOTICE ABOUT ELEVATE

SURPRISED BY

GOD'S UNEXPECTED GIFT TO THE BROKEN *Grace*

My life has never been like a fairy tale.

There are no exciting tales of hardships turning neatly into joys and blessings. Instead, it has been marked by deep tragedy, trauma over abuse, lost innocence, grief over failed expectations, and mourning over lives taken too soon. I liken the experience to a ship battered and broken apart at sea - pieces scattered everywhere in the raging waters. Even as a believer, though I knew the truth of God's word and His promises, I felt adrift - alone. I longed for the joy I heard others talk about but found it fleeting at best. Each new wave of loss would swallow up my joy and leave me even more alone in the darkness. St John of the Cross spoke of this 'Dark night of the soul' as a period of spiritual desolation where all sense of consolation is removed. It is a very dark and scary place. Everything in the world cries out to avoid it at all costs. That's exactly what I tried to do. In all the avoiding, denying, and rationalizing I did to protect myself from more pain, I lost ME. The ME God created me to be. It is only now - that I'm older and too tired from it all to keeping 'running and doing' for God that I can finally sit in the darkness and BE with Him. It's in the dark night of the soul that I have experienced God's grace the deepest. The chains of anxiety, fear and grief are slowly being broken, their power over me being nullified by God's acceptance and grace. I am HIS and I can hold His hand in the darkest places. I am not alone. This knowledge becomes even more important as we work with kids, teens and the special needs community in the South Bronx. I know all too well the fear and loneliness caused by feeling adrift from God in the storm. Many of the families we minister to have experienced their own personal "shipwrecks". The grace the Lord bestows on me as I journey through dark places is the same grace we are called to minister to others - to tangibly let them know they are not alone in the storms of their lives. It is by finally walking into the pain and allowing myself to feel that I have begun to find freedom. The tragic losses: Mom, Pop, my little sister Teresa, my brother Anthony and so many more, that once engulfed me in grief and remorse, remind me now of Jesus' victory over death and the promise of tomorrow. God daily surprises my mourning with the joy of His salvation and promise of eternity. He is turning my feelings of loss, loneliness and shame into a deeper, more abiding love for others engulfed in their own pain. As God sees me as His beloved then I too can see others through His eyes. The unraveling of my heart and emotions is not over--nor is it easy or neat. There will be many more dark nights of the soul. Grief, anxiety and loneliness will be rocks I often crash up against. But God's grace stands as a beacon in the storms ready and waiting to guide me back home if I'm willing to hold His hand in the storm. I know that I am blessed by his grace and the opportunity to share this grace with others.

- Anne Chavarro

Psalm 42:7-8

SPECIAL THANKS



We give many thanks to the volunteers who helped make our 2019 Winter Camp a success:

*Grace Bible Church (Catiwissa, PA)
Messiah College (Mechanicsburg, PA)
Rachel Wickliffe
Joseph and Sarah Joubert*

We give special thanks to CenterPoint Church (Long Island, NY) for helping with establishing our library and assisting maintenance staff with projects in the dining hall and Falcon dorm.

The Mission staff is grateful for the staff members of Joseph Belsky House (Brooklyn, NY) who opened their doors and allowed us to put on a special New Years' Event for Hope Guests and Paul Sweeney for his aid in upgrading our guest residences.

≈ HOW TO HELP ≈

Since the 1940's, Children's Bible Fellowship has been dedicated to sharing the gospel and training up future leaders. Here are some ways you can support the mission.

Pray



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

Give



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

Volunteer



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

For more information:
www.cbfny.org/get-involved

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