

NY
CBF



Renewal



Your guide to Fall 2021

Welcome

Be sure to check out the photographs on each page of our beautiful campus this Fall!

Renewal

The heartbeat of CBF over this season has been renewal. See what we mean on pages 3-4.

Introductions

We have welcomed some new people to our team! Meet these new faces here at CBF on pages 5-8.

Appreciation

Mission is not possible without partnership. Check out the experiences of some of our recent volunteers and donors on pages 11-14

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Donor Corner





CEO Perspective

We are at an interesting period in history. While many around us are talking about the church being in decline and losing relevance, I believe something more significant is taking place. The church is experiencing the beginning of renewal. We kickstarted our theme of renewal in our last partner letter. Why are we continuing to write about this? One reason is that narrative is a bigger driver of actions than facts. Today, there are many competing narratives from secular news and pundits, and the truth is getting drowned in the sea of false narratives. In the church, hope is essential as it becomes difficult to live out our faith in an increasingly hostile culture. Jesus, The Way, The Truth, and The Life is our hope. To gain this hope, I need to align my narrative with God's narrative and be willing to follow Him even when circumstances tell me something different.

For renewal to happen in me, I first have to be willing to admit that I have a problem and that I need the power of Christ to heal. In my journey, circumstances had to get bad before I accepted that I had issues. I struggle with being a control freak. As my controlling tendencies caused chaos in my life, there came the point when the house of cards fell, and I was willing to go to Jesus and rely on Him to renew my life. Jesus says in Matt. 5:3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God."* Getting to a state of brokenness and recognizing the poverty of my spiritual life led to deep renewal. This mirrors what I see in the church today.



As we, the church, move into this time of deep poverty and a sense of powerlessness, God's renewal has already begun. In James 4:6, the bible says, *"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."* As a mission, we are wholeheartedly embracing our brokenness and God's plan for renewal. The impact of adopting poverty of spirit is spilling over into broken communities of the Bronx and the youth we are discipling. Brokenness is even better understood in the community of those with special needs. This place of spiritual poverty is where we find deep relationships with Jesus and meaningful relationships with others, creating discipleship opportunities and growth. In the coming pages, you will see and hear others in the mission as they tell their stories of renewal.

~ *Sean Stewart*



Board Perspective

We have been blessed to welcome some new board members. We are excited for this opportunity to introduce them to you! This month we want you to meet our friend Peter Scalzo.

What motivated you to want to be part of the CBF mission?

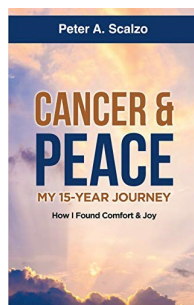
- ♦ I've had a long relationship with CBF going back to Jim Wickliffe; however, never in a capacity to serve. I wanted to be involved through my friendship with Sean and the direction CBF is going with renewal and inner journey.

How do you see yourself contributing to the mission?

- ♦ By continuing my recovery and inner journey. I have been a part of recovery ministry for the last eight years and a cancer journey in the previous 16. Through these things, I have seen renewal happen immensely in the lives of others, and I want to continue to be a part of it.



Check Out
Cancer & Peace
Written by Peter Scalzo
cancerandpeace.com





What does renewal look like to you in your personal relationship with Jesus and what were your catalysts for renewal?

- ◆ After 42 years in the evangelical church, having graduated from a Christian College, Christian law school, raising six kids, an elder at my church, I called myself a poster boy for evangelicalism. On the outside, things seemed great, but I was facing great brokenness and hurt on the inside. Three catalysts for renewal in my life have been my daughter's drug recovery, my divorce, and my sixteen-year cancer journey. My personal relationship with Jesus is marked by Bible study, journaling, prayer, silence, and solitude, partnering with others as they see renewal in their own lives, and having in-depth transparent and honest relationships with others.

What is your hope for renewal in the mission of CBF?

- ◆ I hope as CBF moves into the inner journey and recovery space that God can use us to be partnered with people as they seek profound transformation in their lives, however that looks. Whatever groups they are, I hope to see that happen here at CBF, with Jesus Christ as the great catalyst for renewal in their lives.

We hope you enjoyed getting to know Peter Scalzo! Stay tuned for next month where we will introduce to you our friend and Board member Charles Gonzalez.

Staff Perspectives

Hi CBF Partners! My name is Hannah Biggs and I am a new member of the Hope and Youth programming and Operations staff team. I am from New Mexico originally, but I have been in the Northeast for the last three years. I came to the East Coast to attend Summit International School of Ministry in Pennsylvania. After graduating from Summit in 2020, I worked as a caregiver and as a supervisor at a packaging company. I found CBF through a long time volunteer, Moses Garcia, who lives just down the road from us. I wanted to be a part of CBF when I saw the mission and the vision of the organization in action. I am excited to be involved with the impact CBF has with their inner journey and renewal programs.

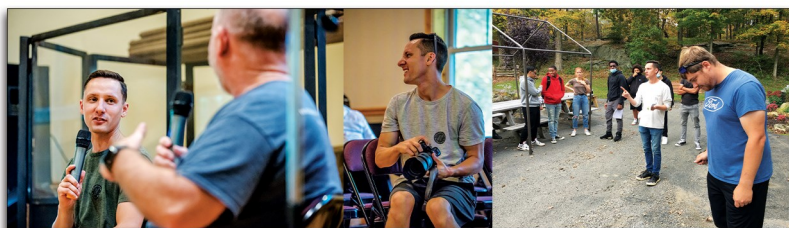
~ Hannah Biggs





Hello everyone! My name is Jack Mackay, and I am the new Director of Youth and Online Discipleship. I grew up nearby, in Connecticut, but I have called many places home since then. My wife Laura and I have been married for five years, most of which we spent in the Midwest. It has been an incredible journey getting to CBF, and we so look forward to the future! Previously, I was the Associate Pastor of Youth at Bethany Alliance Church in Charles City, Iowa. I was drawn to CBF because of my relationship with the staff and their core values. I look forward to facilitating our inner journey programs and engaging with it more profoundly in my own life. I hope to meet and serve alongside you.

~ Jack Mackay



Hope

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness..."

I think of this quote from Charles Dickens, *Tale of Two Cities* often. In many ways, it succinctly captures the season we are in right now. Never in my lifetime have world events appeared so confusing. Yet, as I slow down and look through eyes of faith, the darkness clears. During the chaos, I can see the beauty and seeds of renewal, especially in our Hope community. Many times, disabilities leave families and individuals feeling confusion, anxiety, and despair. Families feel lost trying to navigate educational and medical systems that, at best, are limited and, at worst, do not recognize their needs. The Hope community often shares about being pushed aside. They struggle to understand their intrinsic value and where they fit. Our Hope events have become enriching times of renewal. Hope participants and their families have been able to experience community within the body of Christ. When we come together and see each other through eyes of faith, many Hope participants are engaging in spiritual renewal – some for the first time. Renewal doesn't always look like we expect, especially in seasons of darkness. Nevertheless, our Hope community is a daily reminder that *"God has made everything beautiful in His time"* Ecc. 3:11.

~Anne Chavarria



Youth

What should I do in life? Do I even matter? Would anyone notice if I was not here anymore?"

These questions are constantly in the heads and hearts of the youth of this world. Adolescence is spent looking to understand ourselves and the world around us. This rang true for me. I constantly wondered whether or not I was loved or mattered to anyone else around me. I felt the overbearing confusion of what I should do in life. Being pulled in so many different directions by the world around me, I felt lost. However, there is hope. We matter beyond measure to the Creator of the Universe. Even better, He has a desire to be in a relationship with each of us, personally. It requires a tremendous inner journey, but out of that journey comes renewal. Renewal is possible in the lives of this generation who is so lost in a sea of false narratives. Elevate started with the new school year and our Elevate Fridays kicked off. With the students who came, we witnessed a massive hunger for connection. We cannot wait to continue to share our lives with these teens and grow these relationships. There is hope for this generation, and those to come, and his name is Jesus. *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* Eph. 2:10.

~Jack Mackay



Volunteer Appreciation

Liam Purtill

Liam Purtill chose our campus for his Eagle Scout project. He desired to make one of our hiking trails wheelchair accessible, and he did just that. Liam inspired his team of family, friends, and scouts to accomplish this task.

♦ **What led you to choose CBF for your Eagle Scout project?**

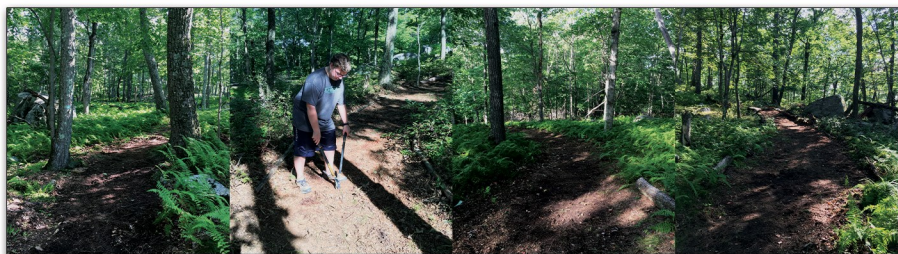
I decided to choose CBF for my project because my Boy Scout troop has a Thanksgiving campout there every year and I wanted to give thanks for them always letting us use their facilities.

♦ **How did you get into the Boy Scouts?**

I first got into Boy Scouts thanks to a friend of mine being part of Cub Scouts and inviting me to a meeting, I really enjoyed the one I went to and decided to keep on with it.

♦ **How do you see your experience with Scouting impacting your future?**

I see my experience in Boy Scouts affecting my future by making it easier to work with others as well as being ready for any unexpected situation.



Thank You

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” - Hebrews 13:16

We would like to give special thanks to all those volunteers who have helped with our Hope Celebrations! They are huge undertakings that have a tremendous impact on our special needs community and their sense of connection to the body of Christ. As volunteers, you not only perform a function but, you also spend time building connections and deepening relationships as you show the love of Christ to those you serve! Thank you!

- Mary Autovino
- Charlie Baker
- Peter & Frieda Caoili
- Rich DiCarlo
- Tara Easton & Daughters
- Eric Ingram
- Jerry & Lynn Irizarry
- Martin King
- Joe Molina
- Andrew Parkhurst
- Hendry Reno
- Jay Sarabia
- Dawn Schulz
- Paul & Deborah Thompson

Transportation; Cleaning; Setup; Kitchen; Crafts; Grounds
Preparation; Program; Music



Donor Corner

When I moved to this area, I wanted to be involved with some kind of missions outreach. I found a church that suited most of my needs but there was no personal missions outreach. I heard a lot about Uncle Winn and "Hopetown" and went there for a visit. I realized our church could easily become involved with the handicapped kids that were living there, so I received permission to start a ladies' missions group. We visited on a monthly basis and each lady that was willing "adopted" a child. The Children were given birthday parties with small gifts. As time went on, the focus of "Hopetown" changed and became CBF. By this time the church had a missions committee, and I became involved in various work projects at CBF.

It was truly a blessing to see these kids swim, play games, sing, and worship Jesus. I felt led to become more involved with them so when Uncle Jim called and said he needed a nurse, I was happy to volunteer. When kids came to the infirmary, I was able to share the love of Christ and listen as they shared their lives and pray for them. I did this for a few years and always went home feeling blessed and honored for the opportunity to serve. It is now 50 years since I first set foot on the grounds of CBF. As I reflect on this unique ministry, I realize CBF portrayed the love of Christ even when it may not have been warranted in human terms. Everyone has value. In a sense we are all broken and need to be renewed by the love of Jesus.



~Laila Thompson



Thank you for partnering with us!

To continue partnering with us there are a few ways you can do that.

Pray, Give, and Volunteer.

To give to CBF, you can either head to our website at
www.cbfny.org/donate
or make checks payable to:
Children's' Bible Fellowship
250 Nimham Road, Carmel NY, 10512.

Giving Tuesday is just around the corner! Be on the lookout for that and more opportunities to partner with us here at CBF in newsletters and web updates to come!



GIVINGTUESDAY

November 30th, 2021