

Children's Bible Ministries

"Mummy, I want Jesus to come in to my life." Mrs McRae didn't know how to answer her six year old daughter Joy, so told her "Wait until daddy comes home from his trip, and we will talk to him." But the next day Joy asked again, "Mummy, why can't I have Jesus come into my life?" Her mother felt challenged by God to talk with her and lead her in prayer to confess her wrongdoing and receive Christ.

Joy's very clear commitment and the evidence of it that followed was the launching pad for Charles and Beryl McRae to enter a lifetime of ministry to children. After attending training by CEF missionaries from America they were appointed as CEF Directors in Auckland from 1950. They presented the gospel in Sunday Schools, Children's Clubs, large Rallies and Camps.

In 1963 they formed an indigenous New Zealand work – Children's Bible Crusade. The McRaes, along with Bill & Jean Morley conducted children's holiday camps and travelled the country running after-school missions and teacher training in the evenings. After the McRae's left for the Philippines in 1974, God began to multiply the New Zealand team, led by the Morleys. Holiday camps were run at Raglan, Helensville and Paraparaumu and numerous lessons were published to meet the need for good teaching material.

In 1990 both Charlie and Beryl died serving God in the Philippines, and in 1994 the name was changed to Children's Bible Ministries. Since then the work of CBM has expanded throughout Asia and Africa.

Bill and Jean Morley are International Directors, while the overall directorship of CBM has passed on to the third generation with Rev Mike Buckley leading the organisation.

CBM now has 70 staff in New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and India, with the largest number in the Philippines where there is a children's home, elementary and high school, a large work with children having various disabilities, and a training and resources team.

In other countries CBM works in partnership with local and national organisations, supplying training to impart Biblical vision and practical skills for ministry to children. We also supply teaching resources. "Life Changers" is a fully visualised, life-related teaching curriculum for 7-14 year olds which has been designed for non-Western cultures. It has now been translated into many major languages, and is produced at the headquarters of CBM in Auckland and printed in India.

An annual four-month international training course is held in New Zealand to train people from many countries who are involved in a leadership role in ministry to children.

The objective of CBM is to be a 'toolmaker' to the body of Christ. Firstly, we produce and supply teaching material – the 'tools' to put into the hands of workers. Secondly, we train the workers how to build skilfully and Biblically with these tools through one day, short-term or longer-term teacher development courses. "It is better to build children than repair men."

Alongside this, New Zealand CBM staff also minister directly to large numbers of children in the local mission field through holiday camps, schools, clubs and churches, seeking to reach them with the gospel, and to lead them into a growing relationship with God.

As a non-denominational organisation, CBM serves people from a very wide variety of churches. And as a non-commercial ministry, CBM depends upon donations from Christians who have a heart to effectively reach the children of New Zealand and the world.

CBM does not send people from New Zealand to work overseas on a full-time basis, as our strategy is to equip nationals to do the work in their own countries. Staff from NZ travel regularly to these places to offer the necessary training. However, young people or others wanting exposure to Christian work overseas can visit CBM's 'Hebron' Headquarters in the Philippines, where they minister to children in a variety of settings. For many, such visits have had life-changing results. Young people will also gain a real insight into what God can do in the lives of children (and also be challenged in their own faith and expectations) by attending CBM's school holiday camps at Raglan, as volunteer leaders.

The principal way in which churches (or individuals) can be involved in missions through partnership with CBM is by providing one-off or regular funding for a project of their choice. Here are some of the options available:

- (a) Staff support in NZ, India or Philippines
- (b) General ministry costs in NZ, India
- (c) Training and travel costs of international team
- (d) Sponsoring overseas students to attend the international training course
- (e) Translation and printing of Curriculum into further languages
- (f) Child support in the Philippines children's home

We can provide ideal children's ministry materials for missions' teams travelling from NZ. We also greatly appreciate prayer support, and can update prayer groups with current news and needs.