



Alberta



# Child Evangelism Fellowship



Saskatchewan

"It is not the will of your Father...that one of these little ones should perish." - Matthew 18:14

## One of These Little Ones!

Dear Friends,

November 26, 2019

Matthew 18 is a cornerstone passage for the ministry of Child Evangelism. Seven times in this chapter you will read a phrase referring to children and as Jesus talks to His disciples He uses **a little child** (verse 2) as an example to them. He goes on to say, **unless you**



**are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.** (verse 3). In verse 4 He continues with **whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.** In verse 5 He says, **Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.** Then later, in verse 10, Jesus says, **do not despise one of these little ones.** Jesus goes on to say in verse 14, **Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.**

Jesus' perspective on little children is truly evident and He challenges His disciples to view them in the same way!



Back in 1957 when Mom and Dad started the ministry in Saskatchewan, they sought to take this message to

every child they could and were constantly looking for opportunities to reach boys and girls for Jesus Christ.

For over 60 years in Saskatchewan and 30 years in Alberta, the message of the good news of the gospel has remained central in every club program and every lesson the children receive in the mail.

There have been some changes over the years in the methods and programs but never a change in the message! In the beginning years, Good News Clubs were at the heart of the CEF ministry with homemakers being trained to teach clubs in their homes each week to reach the children in their neighbourhoods. Back in the 60's, 70's and 80's one of those moms was Dorothy Currie. For over 40 years she hosted a Good News Club in her home at 611 Fifth Street and over 1,000 children came and heard the gospel message.



In the late seventies, almost all the Bible schools in Saskatchewan were involved in sending out students trained by CEF staff to teach clubs in the surrounding cities and towns. As more and more moms worked outside the home, the number of clubs declined and so did the number of children being reached. In the late

90's Sharon and I developed Club DJ under the ministry of UB David & I'll B Jonathan. As CEF has promoted reaching neighborhood children with Club DJ. We have seen exciting growth as local churches reach boys and girls in their communities with the same gospel message. Club DJ provides an exciting way to not only reach boys and girls for Jesus, but actually connect them to a local Bible-believing church.

The 5-Day Club ministry, which was begun by a CEF chapter in Eastern Pennsylvania where my Mom was involved as a teenager, quickly caught on and continues to be a central part of the ministry of CEF to this day. As I looked at the statistics over the last 30 years, it is clear that there would be tens of thousands of children who have been reached in Saskatchewan and Alberta alone over the years, and enough to fill several football stadiums if you could gather them all together.

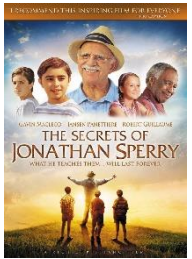
Back in the 60's and 70's, children gathered at Sunday afternoon rallies. This picture will give you a bit of an idea of the impact of this ministry if you could gather together all the children reached through the clubs each year.



We are always looking for new ways to take the gospel message to the children. The last few years we have presented an opportunity for churches and families to hand out CD's to the boys and girls at Halloween. It was exciting to see the excitement of children as they received a CD at our home. When we placed a CD in with their bag of candy, it was pretty evident that the CD seemed to be a bigger highlight than the candy in the bag. This year over 6,000 CD's were handed out and several individuals and churches have asked for more CD's for the Christmas season!



In 2011, after watching the movie 'The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry', we launched the Jonathan Sperry Project and had approximately 100,000 DVD's go out including 1,000's through the 5-Day Club ministry. It was an exciting opportunity to take the gospel message right into homes across Alberta and Saskatchewan along with a gospel of John.



In 2015, we launched the Hide'em Bible Project and within a year had raised enough money to purchase the first 5,000 Bibles which are already in the hands of boys and girls, not just in Saskatchewan and Alberta but throughout North America. This past year we ordered our second 5,000 Hide'em Bibles and already hundreds have gone out. At the front of every Hide'em Bible is the plan of salvation using the Wordless Book colors just as they were used back in the beginning.

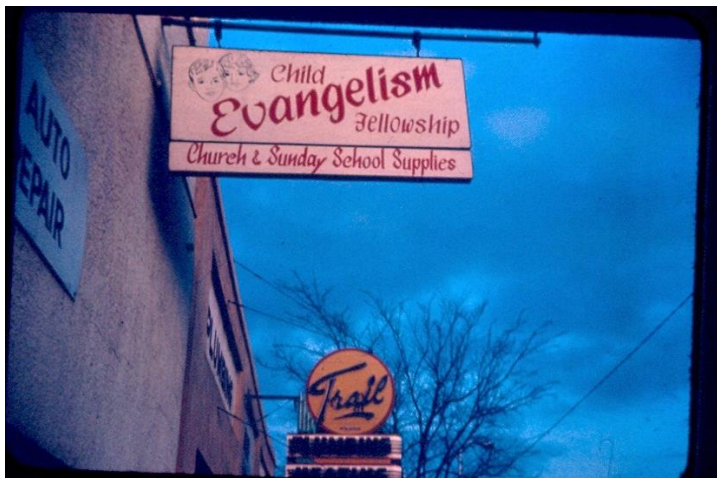


For over 60 years CEF of Saskatchewan has sought to disciple the boys and girls they reached through the clubs through another club in the mail. When I was a boy it was called the Christian Book Club and incorporated Mailbox Club Lessons along with free Christian books which had a questionnaire. Once



children read the book, they could complete the questionnaire and mail it in to our office and keep the book. Although the name of this club has changed to UB David & I'll B Jonathan, the children still receive free Christian books and Mailbox Club lessons through the mail just as I did as a young boy.

One of the things that has changed from time to time has been the location of the CEF office. Here in Saskatchewan, my parents started out living and working from my grandpa and grandma Buhlers home until they were able to get their own place at 1043 Gladmer Park. Not long after it moved to Dewdney Avenue in Regina as the ministry continued to grow.



In the late 60's, it moved to 1843 Broad Street and further developed an area of ministry called Sunday School and Church Supplies. Then in 1974, it was moved again to 151 Deergrove Crescent in my parents' home to save costs and continue to provide and grow ministry.

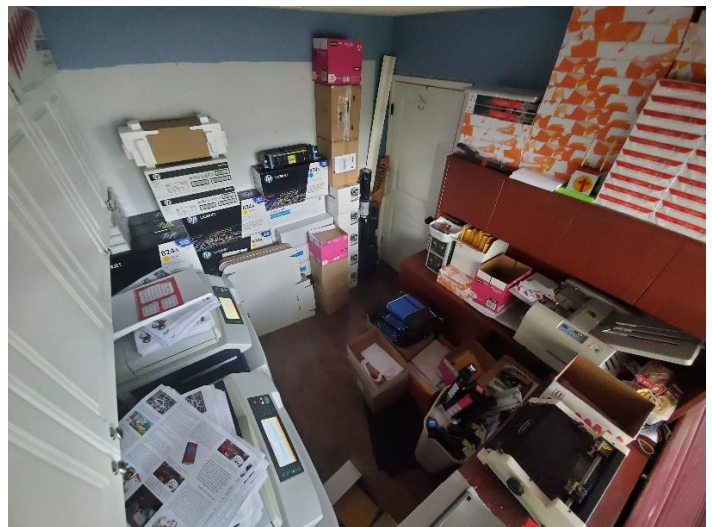
In 1979, the office moved to its current location and has been there ever since. It has actually been there for 40 years and seen the ministry grow with new opportunities in almost every area of ministry. When I became the Provincial Director of CEF of Saskatchewan in 2002, we kept the office at my parents' place but we also began to develop more office space in our home. Since 2002 the ministry has continued to grow with new ministry opportunities developing along the way.

In 2012, CEF of Alberta joined with the ministry of CEF of Saskatchewan and I became the Provincial Director of both provinces. Although they have remained as separate charities we have grown the ministries of both provinces from our office here in Regina.



Between my parents and Sharon and I we tried to provide the needed office space but as the ministries continued to grow, it has become more and more apparent that something needed to happen. It has come to the place that we have taken over most of our main floor and often the space even at my parents' place was almost too full to operate.

As the ministry has grown, we have often asked, "What are we going to do with the growing need for space?" Below is a picture of just one of the rooms on our main floor we refer to the printing room. Sharon has even converted one of the bedrooms upstairs to an office. Seven years ago, we thought God had provided the answer for our need, and then for some reason, it did not happen. We found ourselves continuing to do what we had been doing, reaching boys and girls for Jesus Christ with the space that had been provided.



The following pictures are from our front entry and dining room table which we often were unable to eat at because of all the printed material on it.



Then on September 7<sup>th</sup> I received the following message from our oldest daughter Sheena:

“Dad. This one is crazy! Over 12,000 sq. ft. in Sedley!” along with a link to a real estate ad. We clicked on the link and this is what we saw:



To find out the rest of the story you will need to read the next letter included in this mailing that outlines what God has done and how He did it! It is truly amazing **“since the events took place so suddenly.”** God bless you for your part in this ministry and we would value your prayers in the days ahead.

Jerry Durston  
Provincial Director

**Donate**



**Donations may be made online at any of our websites!**

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## Upcoming Events

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### Upcoming Events

*Move to the:*

*UB David & I'LL B Jonathan Building*

*707 Prairie Avenue*

*Sedley, Saskatchewan*

*December 2, 2019*

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*If you would like more information on any of our ministries, please visit one of our ministry websites.*

### Websites:

*CEF of Alberta – [www.cefalberta.org](http://www.cefalberta.org)*

*CEF of Saskatchewan – [www.cefsask.org](http://www.cefsask.org)*

*5-Day Clubs – [www.5dayclubs.com](http://www.5dayclubs.com)*

*Club DJ – [www.clubdj.com](http://www.clubdj.com)*

*Jonathan Sperry Sponsor a Town Project –*

*[www.jonathansperryproject.com](http://www.jonathansperryproject.com)*

*Quiz Meet – [www.quizmeet.com](http://www.quizmeet.com)*

*Hide'em Bibles – [www.hideembible.com](http://www.hideembible.com)*

*Summer Missionary Sponsorship Program*

*[www.summermissionary.org](http://www.summermissionary.org)*



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1.800.561.5315

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# U.B. David + I'LL B. Jonathan

*Developing young people after God's own heart*

74 Marquis Crescent, Regina Saskatchewan S4S 6J9

Another Memorial Stone:  
707 Prairie Ave. Sedley, SK

## Exceedingly Abundantly Beyond!

Dear Friends,

November 25, 2019



It is hard to know where to start with this amazing story of God's faithfulness. For years I have been collecting memorial stones, and this story is another example of such an event that can only be explained with God at the centre of the story. I will try and include as many of the highlights as I can.

It is amazing to see how God does things, often not the way we think things should happen. In 1989 David and Jonathan was founded by my father Vaughan in Regina. It quickly spread to Calgary and across Canada as a discipleship program for boys and girls as well as teens and adults offering correspondence courses through the mail. In the 1990's, lessons moved online in the early days of the internet and continue to have lessons completed world-wide.

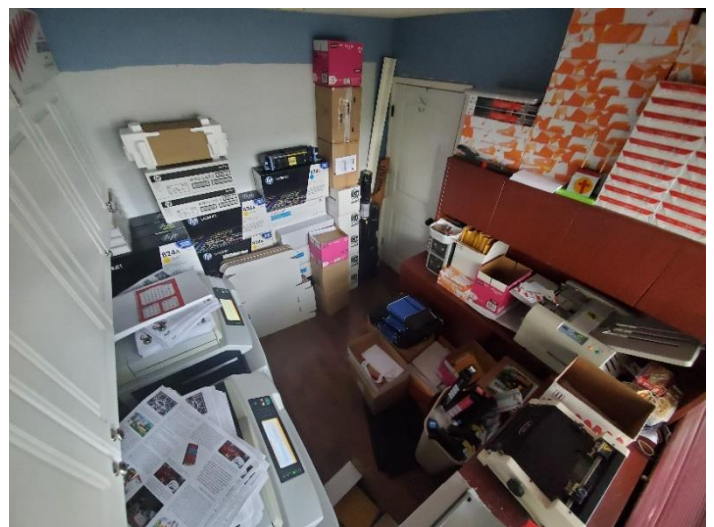
In the fall of 1995, UB David & I'LL B Jonathan was offered a church property to use for the ministry and, within a couple of months, were given the Faith Chapel building to use as one of the headquarters from which to correspond with those enrolled in the David and Jonathan program.



The gift of this property was a huge blessing and we will forever be grateful for the blessing Faith Chapel

was to this ministry. For 24 years lessons came and went from the basement of this church with 1,000's upon 1,000's of boys and girls as well as many others being disciplined through the mail. For the last 20 years, David and Jonathan has rented out the upperlevel of the building to a Calgary church to help cover the overhead costs. Little did we know the impact the gift of Faith Chapel would have on the future ministry of David and Jonathan and, yet I believe even in this, God was preparing to unfold another amazing story of His faithfulness.

Earlier this year it was decided that we needed to close the Calgary office and amalgamate it with the Regina office to save costs mostly in overhead. It was a hard decision but one that seemed to be necessary. At the time of this decision we did not know where we would move everything to but believed God would go before us.



As the ministry has grown, we have often asked "What are we going to do with the growing need for space?" We continued to take over more and more of our house and many times throughout the busy seasons of ministry have taken over the whole main floor. (The



previous picture is just one of the rooms on our main floor we refer to as the printing room.) Sharon has even converted one of the bedrooms upstairs to an office. Seven years ago, we thought God had provided the answer for our need, and then for some reason, it did not happen. We found ourselves continuing to do what we had been doing, reaching boys and girls for Jesus Christ with the space that had been provided.

Little did we know that on September 7<sup>th</sup> God was going to start us on a journey that would happen so very quickly. It began with a text from our daughter Sheena:

**“Dad. This one is crazy! Over 12,000 sq. ft. in Sedley!”** along with a link to a real estate ad. We clicked on the link and this is what we saw:



We were having lunch with Sharon’s family in Brooks, Alberta, the day after Sharon’s dad’s funeral and when we saw the picture we were like, **“Wow!”** and then just as quickly went on with our conversation, not really thinking about it again until we were on our way home on September 8<sup>th</sup>. On the way home I said to Sharon, **“Maybe we should have a look at that property in Sedley. It doesn’t cost anything to look and if it seems like it will work, I think we will know!”** We had looked at a couple of properties before but nothing ever seemed to be right.

When we got home, I made a phone call to the realtor and on September 9<sup>th</sup> we and our family went out to see the Sedley property.



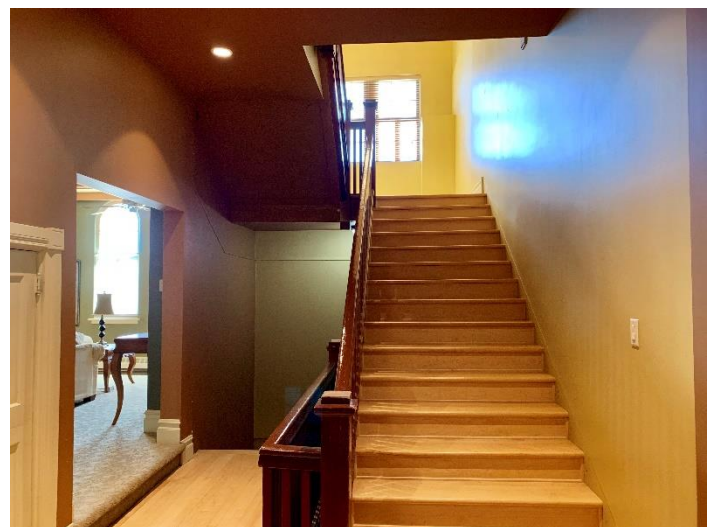
We walked in the front door and the immediate response was, **“Wow!”** As we entered the building the first room was the living room and again, we were shocked.



The kitchen was just as amazing and we began to wonder how could such a property even exist.



As we went down the hall, we came to one of two sets of staircases on either side of the building.





As we continued down the hall there was a door at the far end and three rooms on the left that would be perfect for offices just off the main entrance.



On the other side of the door we walked into a room that was approximately 30 X 60 and immediately thought about our Summer Missionary training and Coordinator Retreats.



As we walked through the building, we were amazed at all the work that had been done. There were four suites which included kitchens, living rooms, and one or two bedrooms each. One suite could easily be converted to a large volunteer room/boardroom with a kitchen and bathroom off of it.

In total there were 19 bedrooms in the building and we were overwhelmed with what we saw. We had just walked through over 12,700 square feet on two floors but knew there was over another 6,000 square feet in the basement.

It was not as finished but immediately we could see the potential. There was a garage entrance for shipping and receiving, which was huge, along with a large area for a workshop for Club DJ crafts.



As we walked down that hall, we saw a room about 20 X 60 feet to our left which would be perfect for our printing and publishing of all our materials.



It was becoming very clear that this might just work and be God's answer to the needs of the growing ministry opportunities. As we talked to the realtor, we learned that the owners had done extensive work on the things we could not see like upgrading all the electrical and the plumbing as well as redoing the roof. In the boiler room we saw two new boilers and learned from the inspector that she had put two new boilers in the building and that they were the cadillac of boilers.



On the back of the building was a new deck and railing as well and so many other things that I can not even write about.



When we arrived home, we were all just stunned at what we had seen and the overwhelming response from everyone was that this could work! About a half hour after looking at the building I received an email and it was titled this: **Believe This is Your Philosophy** and then it read: **“FAITH GETS THE CONTRACT**

**“When God is going to do something WONDERFUL,  
He begins with a Difficulty.  
If it’s going to be something VERY WONDERFUL,  
He begins with an Impossibility,  
if the Lord has a GIGANTIC task to be performed,  
FAITH gets the contract”**

At the bottom of the email she wrote: **“I’m sure you have situations at present that would fit this challenge.”** I did not recognize the email address and had to look to see who sent it; it was Lois Sutcliff from Estevan; she had no clue what we had just looked at that night, but God knew!

As we began to proceed, we knew God would have to sell the property in Calgary as the Sedley property was advertised for \$749,000.00. We had very little money and were sure the bank would not even think about giving us a mortgage.

We also felt that if we were going to undertake such a move it would need to happen by the beginning of December as it was the only time we would have a window of time to make such a move. We contacted the church in Calgary and they were excited about the opportunity to buy the property there in Calgary but wanted us to determine a value for it. I contacted a friend in the building business in Calgary, and he said he would go have a look at it and give me an idea of the value. He called me back the next day and said that the lot was worth at least \$720,000.00 as it was so close to downtown Calgary and developers were tearing down houses to build new multi-million dollar homes.

Our desire was to keep it as a church, as a lighthouse, in the community so we asked the church if they would buy it for \$720,000.00. They put in an offer within a few days and we accepted their offer. Things were moving quickly and we were amazed to see God’s hand.

We then put in an offer on the Sedley property for the \$720,000.00 with a possession date of December 2, and asked for ALL the furniture in the building as we did not know how we would furnish it. She counter offered at \$735,000.00 and said we could have all the furniture as well as the bedding, dishes, towels, lamps, artwork, etc. She basically wanted to walk away with just her personal belongings. WOW! This was now becoming more and more amazing! We accepted her counter offer and moved ahead in faith fully believing that God truly was in the act of doing something **exceedingly abundantly beyond** more than we could have ever asked or thought of. **(Ephesians 3:20-21)**

We have now already packed up the office in the garage at 74 Marquis Crescent which is my parents’ home. We packed up the Calgary office last week and this week are packing up our own home which we have lived in for over 30 years. As I said to Sharon, **“If God is going to Sedley then so are we!”**

There are going to be lots of adjustments and for the first time in almost 35 years Sharon and I will go back to renting. Our rent for the suite in Sedley will help cover the bulk of the overhead costs so that there will be no added costs to the ministries.

Although this is going to be very stretching for the ministry, we are so very confident that God is in it. There are going to be a few projects as we move in to finish a few of the rooms such as the resource room for printed materials, printing room, and the training room, as well as about \$20,000.00 needed for the difference between the two properties which includes closing costs. I want to thank you again for your part in this ministry and trust you too are encouraged in the God whom we serve!

With grateful hearts,

Jerry Durston

President

UB David & I’LL B Jonathan Inc

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