

WAYNE-PIKE CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP, INC.



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Bob Longenecker, *Director* + Audrey Ingram and Sarah Halloway, *Ministry Assistants*

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Dear friend,

“...Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal” (John 12:24-25).

These words became true for Jesse Irvin Overholtzer, a pioneer and faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ; called and sent forth during the Great Depression to go and share the gospel of salvation with boys and girls across the land.

“A great burden came upon me for these unreached boys and girls,” he wrote, “especially in the Bay cities of California where a million people lived”—along with him and his family. “Beginning in my Judea I longed to encompass the world with an outreach for children.”

He looked for opportunities to lay his life on the line in humble service to the Lord, while watching and praying for a plan to implement his burden for unreached children. God always has a plan; it was his part to find it.

Years of praying and seeking were about to pay off. It was at the height of the Great Depression. Banks were closing and soup lines were lengthening. Mr. Overholtzer asked the Lord to renew his call to child evangelism so he would know beyond question that it was “of the Lord and still in force.”

“In great agony I was led to pray from country to country for the children like the prophet Jeremiah in Lamentations 2:19, ‘Arise, cry out in the night...pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord; lift up thy hands toward Him for the life of thy young children that faint for hunger in the top of every street.’”

The power of our Lord began to manifest through His servant. Mountains of impossibilities were being cast into the sea! Every piece of ground was gained by trial; however, piece by piece God was forming the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship International, from which we now have CEF of EPA.

Thinking of the worldwide work and what still waited to be accomplished, he wrote: “How wonderful to know that no matter how strong are the forces who possess the land to be conquered, if the thing to be undertaken falls within the scope of God’s promises, through prayer it can be done. We are dealing with the living God. He is able. He keeps His every promise. But His promises must be claimed in prayer.”

Here is one of his favorite verses—“Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it” (1Thess 5:24). With all the shutdowns from the Corona virus, you might be wondering, “What can I do?” “How can I help?” Here is a quote from Dr. Jeff Davis, retired CEF of EPA state director, continuously shared with us at our meetings; “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.” Seek the Lord Jesus in prayer; He will launch you out.

In sincere prayer for all! *Audrey*