



Since 1937

**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®  
*Reaching children worldwide™*

*Neil's*  
*News*  
**June 2011**

## Preparing the Ground



A few weeks ago Sweden hosted the World Championships in ploughing. Competitors from across the globe were all hoping that at the end of the two days they would be named the world's No.1 ploughman. Although their participation was only for show, they all knew the importance of good ground preparation. Without proper preparation of the land, the seed will not germinate and grow; and without proper germination of the seed, there will be no harvest. Therefore good preparation is vitally important if we are to expect an abundant harvest.

At this stage in my ministry in Sweden I feel that my role is to '**Prepare the Ground**'. This preparation is both needful for me and for the work of CEF. The 'parable of the sower' in Luke 8 reminds us about the importance of the seed, 'which is the Word of God,' finding good ground. When it does, it will bring forth a hundredfold. At the moment things seem to be moving fairly slowly, with no harvest and indeed very little sowing. Yet I trust that in future days I will be able to look back and see how important these days of ground work really were.

### Preparation at Kilchzimmer

The past few months have given the opportunity to be back at the CEF European Headquarters. The IOT 1 (Instructor of Teachers) course is designed to help current CEF workers know how better to engage, encourage and equip other Christians in the work of reaching children with the Gospel.

The second occasion was for a multi-media summit where we were taught how to develop our God-given creative talent to produce quality material that will bring glory to Him. One highlight for me was that Michel Rhodin, a contact from Sweden, was able to be with me on this trip. He and his wife Naomi have been working for several years producing children's TV programmes and recently they have felt exercised to go into full-time evangelism to children. Michel and Naomi are a very gifted couple and are currently considering and praying about taking the 3 month 'Children's Ministry Leadership Course' in Kilchzimmer. Would you please pray along with us that the Lord will prepare the way for them and their four children?

## Preparation in Northern Ireland

It was a great privilege for me to bring 14 people from the Sandeslätt Christian Fellowship here in Sweden over to Northern Ireland for the Easter weekend. They were truly very blessed days with lovely weather, nice outings, attendance at the CEF and Faith Mission Conferences, and most of all warm fellowship with the Lord's people. One member of the group summed it up like this:

*"I feel a bridge has been built between Northern Ireland and Sweden;  
a bridge which I hope many in the future will pass over."*

These words encouraged me and I certainly hope that they will come true. I owe a great debt of thanks to many people at home who made these few days so special for the entire group. May the Lord bless you richly for all that you have given.

## Preparation in Language School

On Friday 10th June I finished my first year at language school and I am glad to be able to tell you that I have passed the basic level of 'SFI' (Swedish for Immigrants). It was such a relief to know that I had passed and I feel a foundation has been laid for the future. I know many of you have been praying for me and my language studies and I trust you will be encouraged that the Lord has answered your prayers. There is certainly a long way to go, but I do feel that the first 'furrows' of Swedish are beginning to break open for me.

## Preparation in the Christian School

In my December letter I shared about an opening into a local Christian school as part of my practical experience in the language. I am glad to say that relationships developed between the staff and me so that I could continue helping even after my allotted time. A few weeks ago I was able to speak to class 4 (11 year olds) for 50 minutes on the life of Christ. Another encouragement was to be invited on a trip with Class 9 as they celebrated their graduation from the school. Along with the leadership here in the Sandeslätt fellowship, I have been praying and considering how we can have more of a presence in the school in the future. This may be a long way off, but I certainly feel that good preparation has been made.

## Preparation in the Summer

With language school finished I look forward to having a change for the summer. On the 21st June I leave Gothenburg to drive 2,000km north to Lapland to teach at two weeks of CEF camps organised by Ida Johnston and Kirsti Veiby. I would value your prayers for the journey and as I teach every morning with a Norwegian interpreter.

On the 29th July I will travel to Germany with around 250 teenagers from Sweden for an 'OM' youth conference. This will be my first time at 'Teenstreet' and I am a little nervous; but I look to the Lord that He will prepare the way for me, that He may be pleased to use me in the lives of these young people, and that meaningful contacts can be made for the future.

Neil Harkness  
[neilha@cefireland.com](mailto:neilha@cefireland.com)

*Thank you to all for your love and prayers.....  
Neil*