

Slow & Steady



Children's Bible
Fellowship



Fall & Winter
Newsletter



— Slow & Steady —

CBF has embraced a more Slowed Down approach to Spirituality. Learn more about this Newsletter's theme on pages 3-4.

— Mission in Motion —

Our Mission has a steady drumbeat forward. The methods may have changed, but the mission has remained. Catch up with our ministries on pages 7-10.

— Partners in Action —

Paul Thompson shares his 51 year connection with CBF. For opportunities to connect see pages 11-13.

— Gratitude & Memorial —

This month we remember our Hope friends, Ronnie & Elliot Goldsmith who have gone to be with Jesus. page 13-14.



In Loving Memory of Ronnie and Elliot Goldsmith



Thank You!

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing

– 1 Thess. 5:16-17 –

We are incredibly grateful for you, our community of partners. Your support expands the impact of discipleship to NYC Youth and the Special Needs Community. Thank you for selflessly providing your resources, talents, and time at CBF.

You are the very heart that moves the mission forward.

There will be many opportunities in the coming months for relational discipleship happening on campus and in NYC:

- ◆ Monthly Hope Celebrations
- ◆ One-on-One Hope Days
- ◆ Virtual Hope Bible Studies
- ◆ Youth Connection Trips & Retreats
- ◆ CBF Challenges, and much more!

Continue to pray for the people and programs as the Love of Christ is shared, and for the spiritual seeds not only to take root, but to grow ever deeper.

To see a few snapshots of the mission in motion head to www.cbfnyc.org/fallwinter.

Thank you for partnering with CBFNY!

3 & 4	=====	<i>CEO</i>
5 & 6	=====	<i>Staff</i>
7 & 8	=====	<i>Hope</i>
9 & 10	=====	<i>Youth</i>
11 & 12	=====	<i>Partners</i>
13 & 14	=====	<i>Gratitude & Memorial</i>



Do you want to become a CBF Partner?

Pray ● Donate ● Volunteer

To become a CBF Financial Partner like our friend Paul Thompson, donate to us directly online or by check, simply follow the directions below!

- ◆ Pay by Check to Children's' Bible Fellowship 250 Nimham Rd., Carmel, NY 10512
- ◆ Donate online at www.cbfny.org/donate or scan the QR code below with the camera app on your smartphone to donate directly with PayPal.
- ◆ **To connect with us go to www.cbfny.org**



Reading the title of our newsletter, you may have a question "Why slow and steady?" Slow and Steady is embedded in CBF's collective experiences of misplaced expectations of timing and performance. When I came to CBF, I had a different mentality than the one I live by today. I was going to out-work, out-think, and out-do anyone or anything with the expectation of having an immediate impact on the mission. However, as time moved forward, God had a different plan. All my rushing around, trying to make things happen in my power and timing led to a great crash. My thoughts of ministry were a complete failure, and I learned a few things through my experience of having a misplaced expectation of life and ministry. I learned that my words or my works can't fix people and that God wants to do his work in me before working through me. Real love comes from an overflow of the heart. That overflow of love does not come quickly; but, from a deep-abiding journey, experiencing the love of Christ. Jesus says, *"He is the vine, and we are the branches; apart from Him, we can do nothing."*

Waiting on God to work through time or a Slowed-Down Spirituality is now a CBF distinctive. To get to a slowed-down spirituality, God needed to bring me to a stop. To do that, he allowed my closest relationships to crumble and for my performance in mission to be fruitless. God then began a slow process of restoration. One of the first steps on this slower journey was to embrace God's limits on my life and to stop trying to earn my value through activity. I had to learn why I believed I needed to earn my value, and why I felt so unvaluable. I had to let God heal these deep insecurities by finding deep security in Him.





NY CBF | Partners

Dear Friends of Children's Bible Fellowship of N.Y,

I was introduced to CBF In 1972. At 16 years old, I came to serve in the Hope B section of summer camp as a counselor in training. I returned in 1973, now a high school graduate, as a counselor at Hope B summer camp. Near the end of summer, Uncle Win mentioned there was a need for maintenance help at Hope Town. I inquired about the need and stayed on for nine months as a maintenance assistant to Mr. Bob Miller.

Fast forward 48 years, 1 wife, 5 children, and 16 grandchildren to 2020. I felt inclined to reach out to CBF and learn what had transpired during those 48 years. After phone conversations with George and Sean, I visited the campus in June 2020 and learned how the ministry had adapted to Government Mandates and Requirements. The ministry has adapted well and still ministers in The Bronx section of New York City, and has a new ministry called CBF Challenge.

Time has taken a toll on the buildings and grounds at the Carmel campus, and much updating is needed. When I saw the need, I made 3 trips to camp in 2020, 3 in 2021, and 4 in 2022 to assist wherever possible. I live in western Pennsylvania, and the trip is 7 hours each way, but every one has been a joy to make. I have seen how, when funds permit, the staff and volunteers improve buildings to meet updated codes and needs. I chose to become a monthly supporter of the ministry and encourage friends of Children's Bible Fellowship to do likewise.

The ministry made an impression on my heart in 1972, that is still alive and well 51 years later, praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~Paul Thompson



I now see, belief is built through time as I experience God's grace each day, not in striving, but, in trusting Him. I now understand better, the man who said, "*Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief.*" Slowly and steadily, God is growing me to a greater place of belief. I hope you will connect with God's slow and steady ways as you read the other stories in this newsletter. Enjoy!

~ Sean Stewart



NV | Staff

CBF



As the Partner Development Director, relationship building is a big focus with staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. One of my "partner" focuses this past year was my husband of 34 years.

Rob and I are involved in several service-related activities; but, we don't tend to serve together. When the kids were younger, and he was working for the NYPD, this was necessary with our varied schedules. This past year I had a greater desire to connect and share our lives in and out of ministry more. About a week into this petition, my husband had a traumatic injury causing him to be airlifted to Danbury Hospital. As I fell apart in the hospital parking lot that evening, I remember angrily praying, "This is NOT what I meant!"

We were downsizing our house of 30 years and moving onto CBF's campus. The new home needed considerable work; we had our daughter's wedding preparations; our responsibilities at CBF and church. This accident occurred five weeks before the wedding and one week before an event I was organizing at CBF. When asked how I was doing, or what I needed, I remember saying, "My biggest problem was accepting the reality of changed priorities."

God raised up family, friends, coworkers, and total strangers for His purposes to be accomplished. My task-oriented self learned to let go and embrace the gift of limits. It hit home when I apologized to my daughter for not being available for the last-minute wedding plans, and her gracious response was, "We could've been planning a funeral right now, mom; I'm good with however it works out." The CBF event, the wedding, and even our commitments were accomplished, deadlines were met, details worked out, and most importantly, connections deepened. The

themselves, and share our personal journey with Christ and how we have been challenged ourselves.

Essentially, the scenario is the potatoes, and the debrief is the meat. After one of our challenges last month, I had the privilege of leading 7 teens in a debrief. We had an incredibly thought-provoking discussion concerning "What is truth?" and "What is a narrative?" These aren't your typical questions for a 15-16-year-old, after their experience with the challenge they were intrigued with those questions. While discussing narratives, one of the girls became more interested in the idea of the false narratives we tell ourselves, and live by. She asked, "But wouldn't that be my truth, Mr. Codi?" This led us into a discussion of subjective truth and if they believe in objective truth. She explained, because of her upbringing and experiences she had a hard time believing in objective truth and asked, "Well what about you Mr. Codi? Do you believe in objective truth?" Out of this brought a perfect opportunity to share the gospel. That's the purpose of CBF Challenge. Creating a gentle space for discussion on the internal workings of our heart, to contest our "truths" and "narratives" Ultimately, slowly but surely, strengthening our relationship with these teens and leading them deeper into their journey of discovering our Lord.

~ Codi Bement



NY CBF | Youth



two most important connections, that grew in this time were with my husband and with God.

If you had asked me before this experience, I would've told you that I strive to live a surrendered life to Christ. But, the struggle to switch gears showed me that I am not there yet. It has been 32 years in my walk with Christ, and I am still caught by surprise when God chooses to teach me something about His timing, His provision, and my trust in Him.

~Fran Reid

The CBF distinctive of a Slowed Down Spirituality is being lived out at CBF despite the worldly idea of success that has leaked itself into our Christian culture. As the famous proverb from Aesop's fable, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, goes "Slow and steady wins the race." Yet the ideal for many churches, non-profits, and even individuals is that we need to be the fastest, smartest, and most clever in our approach to gain the most souls saved and people presented with the Gospel. Our approach as individuals and ministry at CBF is different. We practice a slowed-down approach to spirituality, which is essentially practicing our spiritual rhythms with consistency and intentionality, seeking true intimacy in our relationship with the Lord. Out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit, we seek discipleship, authentic fellowship, and relationships with our focused communities through a myriad of methods. A pastor once said, "the gospel moves at the speed of relationships," and we take this to the heart of our ministry.

Through this slow and steady paradigm, we have continued the evangelism and discipleship of youth over the last few months by growing our partnership with Elevate NY - an organization whose mission is to build long-term, life-changing relationships with youth, equipping them to thrive and contribute to their community. Because of the like-minded nature of our approach, our relationships with the staff and teens have thrived. For example, we are one year in a program named CBF Challenge, which, quickly defined, is interactive narrative adventures where individuals internalize gospel-based principles through experiential learning. Over these last few months, the teens have participated in a trilogy of scenarios to work through puzzles, trust exercises, and map quests to discern truth through distractions, false narratives, and much more. All of this is to challenge their understanding of themselves, their idea of and need for community, the effects of sin in our world, and their great need for Christ. Each scenario ends with a debrief concerning these or similar issues; which allows us to ask the more difficult questions they may not have asked





CBF Hope events are oftentimes the birthplace of deep, transformative moments. In many ways our Hope participants teach us fundamental truths about the kingdom of God. Truths about belonging, compassion and love, which grow slowly over time. Monthly Hope Celebrations have been opportunities for our participants to come together as a family, to worship the Lord, and engage at their own pace, no longer left out, or left behind. We have introduced a new Virtual Hope Bible Study happening twice a month led by Wes and Hannah, which allows relationships to grow through personal interaction in-between direct contact events. Scheduled Hope One-on-One Days are intentionally focused on community and belonging. These Days enable our staff and volunteers to have opportunities to connect and meet with participants where they long for community most, in their own neighborhoods. Through deepening relationships with our Hope participants, we have learned some core principles about God's purposes for slow and steady living.

Healthy growth is only possible when we slow down and focus on the essentials. Our Hope community understands this process well. They contend daily with God-given limits, often leaving them on the sidelines in a world prioritizing speed and performance. We have learned to see their limitations as a blessing forcing us to slow down, listen more, and be consistent in discipleship.

This past November was a difficult time for our Hope family. Our beautiful friend, Ronnie, passed away after a long battle with her health. Ronnie was one of our beloved Belsky friends who tried never to miss an opportunity to be a part of CBF Hope events. She was also a very special friend of mine for 27 years. After losing her husband, Elliot, in the early days of the

pandemic, our relationship moved to a different level. Ronnie was all alone in her grief and confusion. With her family out on the west coast and a raging pandemic shutting down in-person gatherings, our nightly phone calls became a lifeline for Ronnie. Little did I know that it was a lifeline for me, too. Ronnie taught me to slow down, to put aside my agenda for awhile, and listen with my whole self. In that sacred space, God used Ronnie, with her limitations and needs, to heal deeply broken places in my heart. She listened to me in ways in which I truly felt heard, appreciated, and, most importantly, wanted. With Ronnie, I belonged. I began to see myself through her forgiving eyes. She loved me as I am. For my authentic true self, baggage, failures, and all. Just as Jesus does.

~Anne Chavarro

