

# Seasons of Change



Children's Bible  
Fellowship

**NY**  
**CBF**

Quarterly  
Newsletter



**— Seasons of Change —**

Join CEO, Sean Stewart, as he shares a story of childhood fears and the spiritual transformation that's helping him find freedom and trust in God. Discover his journey on pages 3-4.

**— Legacy of Faith —**

Board member, David Tuttle reflects on four decades with CBFNY, from gospel meetings in Speonk to building projects and lifelong friendships. Read his story on pages 5-6.

**— Seasons of Growth —**

Jack MacKay and Codi Bement give updates on ministry growth at CBF and share on seasons of personal challenges. Dive into their inspiring journeys on pages 7-10.

**— Seasons of Service —**

Volunteer Darnel Parker highlights the joy of serving with CBF and how this season has strengthened her family's faith and commitment. Read more on pages 11-12.



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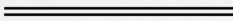
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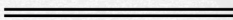
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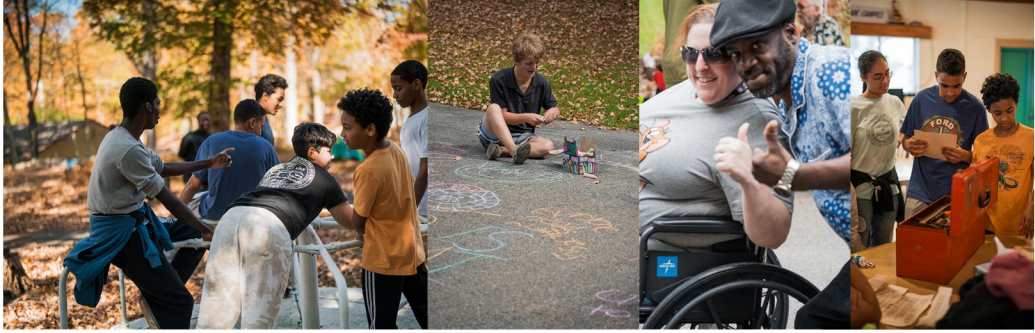


# NY CBE || CEO

This newsletter's theme is "Seasons of Change." The season of change I want to focus on is a season of spiritual transformation. Transformation happens for me when I let go of my fear and embrace God in what He has for me. To do this, I must examine my story, know my fears, and be willing to face those fears using God's power. When I was 7 years old, I remember my parents holding one of the weekly cub scout meetings at our house. As this meeting wrapped up, I was standing in the entry area and I could hear my dad talking in the kitchen to one of the adults about taking some of the boys home. There were a group of boys sitting on our green and brown plaid couch. It was the 70's and yes there was shag carpet and earth tones everywhere. The boys were all dressed in their cub scout uniforms, laughing and joking around as you might expect from young rowdy boys.

In the next few moments, I knew there was something wrong when one of them was pointing at me while they held their hand over another's ear to tell something hilarious. Their mocking actions and the next words were annoying, but this seemed like something I could shrug off. Literally 10 feet in front of me were human persecutors, a fact of life I was plenty familiar with by this age. "We know a secret," one blurted out as my dad walked into the entry area to find his keys and get ready to leave. My mind froze for just a moment, "Could they know a real secret?" "Couldn't be," I told myself, but they were so confident. Then they said the magic words, "We're going to tell it to your dad" ... I felt the tension in my chest, then in the pit of my stomach. "Do I take the bait and seem concerned or blow it off and let them play their cards?" With my dad watching, I walked to the couch, leaned over, and asked, "What's the secret?" They were not bluffing. The words whispered in my ear were things that only two people in all the earth knew. I had been betrayed by someone who I thought was completely





trustworthy... Somehow in the push of needing to get the boys home, over the next moments the secret was not shared as I rode along sitting in the back seat of our Ford Maverick. For the entire ride anxiety had taken root in my stomach. Once the last boy was dropped off there was an awkward silence, just the sound of the motor droning on and the clack of tires on each crack in the pavement. Then the question came from my dad, “What was it that you didn’t want shared by the boys?” ... In this moment I told the biggest lie of my young life.

For the 40 years that followed I lived and believed I couldn’t trust anyone with the real me. I hid and controlled every drop of information until I had closed off most of the major relationships in my life. The devastating impacts of my protective actions create unscalable walls for my wife as she feels unloved, for my children as they suffer from my selfishness; and my family of origin who are now cutoff. When I stay in an untrusting place, my relationships can only be shallow. To really live, I am embracing a season of change. In this season I must choose to risk greatly and pursue adventure. Part of this adventure is to be known, and risk being unloved. My hope is that everyone who encounters the ministry of CBF can embrace a season of change and begin to find freedom in Christ as well as to live in the love and purpose God has for our lives!

~Sean Stewart







# NY CBF | Board

I grew up with CBF all around me. From a very young child I was aware of Uncle Winn’s ministries. He was my grandmother’s neighbor and utilized her house in Speonk for his beach ministry, which he eventually bought for this purpose. I can remember being involved in gospel meetings with the neighborhood kids around the age of 7 or 8.

It was through Uncle Winn’s Sunday School service at Eastport Bible Church, that I came to know the Lord. Our church worked hand in hand with the ministry. We would go into New York City to do street evangelism in the Bronx. It could be some tough neighborhoods, but Uncle Winn and Jim Wickliffe knew the city well, and if things were getting dangerous, they’d gather us up and head out.

But they had a real heart for those kids. CBF was taking shape and Uncle Winn was friends with Jack Zertson, who was founding Word of Life around the same time. They both felt the need to minister both physically and spiritually to the lost and parentless kids of NYC.

Working with CBF in those early days was more like spending time with a family friend. When a need arose and I had the right skill for the job, I went. I worked driving nails and sawing boards right alongside my dad and brother when we could spare the time from our duck farming for special projects up there. My wife, Lorin’s dad was involved in helping Uncle Winn as a builder, and her sister, Susan, was a camp counselor. We were all connected in one way or another.

Jim Wickliffe and his wife lived next door to my grandmother in Speonk, as well. At the time my dad had a medical condition that required receiving “living blood” as they called it then. Jim went into the city and gave his blood for my dad. That’s how we originally met.





When Jim Wickliffe took over for Uncle Winn in the 80's, I worked as his project manager. We would discuss a building need and how it should be done, then I would find the supplies and labor either donated or at very low cost to get the job done. Duck farming in Eastport, Long Island was still my primary focus, but over 40 years we managed to build/renovate/or seriously repair 34 buildings. This was about the time Jim asked myself and Ray Eckoff (Ray had a welding business in LI City where he made truck bodies) to join the Board of directors. It's been 30 years as a board member struggling, celebrating, and praying over the impact CBF has on those they serve and keeping them in the black.

My family moved from Long Island to PA in 1989. It was no longer profitable to be a duck farmer on Long Island. We kept it up for a few more years from PA, but decided hogs and crop farming was our future. I continued to participate in CBF building projects and board meetings until my health began setting limitations. It has been a generational journey walking through many seasons with CBF.

~ David Tuttle







# MY CBF Volunteer

When Matt and I look back at our past, we can point to many peaks and valleys—seasons of change in family, work, church, and ministry, which brings us full circle to today at CBF. From past ministries supporting the people of Consuelo, Dominican Republic, to working with food pantries in New Haven and Fairfield, our hearts have always been focused on service and hospitality. This is because of what God has done in our hearts. We are servants of Christ to all of God’s people, and along the way, we have made many lifelong relationships. Now, CBF is our next season.

In 2006, we moved our family from Long Island to New England. This brought challenges and change. We had no friends or family in New England and three young children, but trust and faith remained. Our trust in God grew as we moved through changing seasons. We found a new life and church where we raised our children and met Codi, who has been a wonderful mentor and friend to our family. After many years serving in various ministries, the Lord brought more change, calling us into a new season—one we didn’t necessarily want. Yet, God often leads us out of our comfort zones to strengthen and fulfill us. We are thankful and honored to be in this season, once again trusting in God’s way, every step of the journey.

With transitions often come unexpected changes. In February 2024, an unexpected shift at work left me questioning God. What was Spring bringing in this new season of life? Because of our continued relationship with our brother in Christ, Codi, we visited CBF as guests in April, choosing to put our trust in the Lord’s way rather than our own. We instantly felt the love and found a home in CBF’s ministries. The new friends we have made make us feel loved, welcomed, and eager to help. Each month at the Hope Celebration, we are excited to volunteer and build relationships for God’s Kingdom. It brings me so much joy to see



our friends there.

I had the privilege of spending an evening with a group of ladies at CBF. Hearing about their day-to-day lives opened opportunities for all of us to grow closer. I will treasure the invitation to share my life experiences with them. My family now sets our calendar around the Hope Celebration weekends because we don't want to miss the fellowship with our new friends. Even our young adult children are eager to serve the Lord and the people at CBF, sharing stories of the fun times they've had at CBF events. Whether it's gathering around a bonfire, doing trust exercises with a partner, or hiking on a scavenger hunt, it has been incredible to watch our children grow closer to the Lord through service. It's an answered prayer we all cherish. We see the Lord's hand upon the growing faith within our family, the volunteers, and the attendees. CBF has been an amazing season of change for us, and we are grateful to be part of what God is doing here.

Seasons are beautiful when we sit in them and see the wonder of the Lord! Trust in the Lord brings us peace. Psalm 104:19 ESV: "He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting."

~ Darnel Parker







# **NY** | **GIVING** **CBF** | **TUESDAY**

## **We have a special opportunity GivingTuesday December 3, 2024!**

*This GivingTuesday, a few generous donors have challenged us to raise a goal of \$50,000, an exciting first for us!*

Your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50k. Seeing the impact of CBF's ministry, these donors are challenging **you** to help us reach this goal and make an even greater impact together.

### **How to Participate:**

- ◆ Donate online: [www.cbfny.org/givingtuesday](http://www.cbfny.org/givingtuesday)
- ◆ Send your gift to: Children's Bible Fellowship  
250 Nimham Road, Carmel NY 10512
- ◆ Please be sure to include "GivingTuesday" in the memo to ensure your gift is matched.

**Your partnership matters — double the impact with us!**



# NY CBF | Partner Impact

## Financial impact:

- ◆ \$400: provides programing for one individual for the year.
- ◆ \$1200: sponsors 3 individuals and ignites growth in outreach.
- ◆ \$2000: sponsors 5 individuals and pours gasoline on the fire

## Personal Impact:

*"...My involvement with CBF started when I was 8 years old....It helped me connect with God by praying, and speaking openly and honestly with God..."*

-- Elizabeth Monegro, CBF participant

For more impact stories like Elizabeth's visit our social media:

- ◆ **Facebook:** Children's Bible Fellowship of New York
- ◆ **Instagram:** @CBFNY

## Long Term Impact:

- ◆ CBF's regular monthly donors build a foundation that sustains the mission.

**Thank you for your faithful support and prayers!**







# NY CBF Youth

Change is something we all experience, often when we least expect it. Some seasons of change bring joy—marriages, the birth of children, graduations, new jobs. Other times, the changes are more difficult—loss, sickness, pain. But through it all, one thing remains constant: God is with us in every season, no matter what we’re walking through. We are never alone, and I have personally witnessed that truth during my own difficult season of change these past few months. Recently, my wife and I were faced with the harsh reality of mortality when a family member’s cancer unexpectedly returned. This news brought about a whirlwind of cross-country road trips, unexpected responsibilities, and a reprioritization of our lives that we simply weren’t ready for. Yet, even in the midst of hardship, we have seen God’s hand at work. He has surrounded us with His people—our closest friends and family—just when we needed them most. I’ve been reminded that in every season, God is present, guiding and comforting us, often through the love and support of others.

Since June, we’ve also experienced significant change in the ministry. We’ve continued our regular Elevate Connection Days at CBF, where we had the bittersweet opportunity to say goodbye to our graduating seniors. It’s been a privilege to start smaller CBF Discipleship Days, focusing on relationship-building with students, offering extra time to pour into their lives before the new school year begins. Even as some of our seniors move into the next chapter of their lives, we’re excited to continue hosting those who remain in NYC for education and work, ensuring they have a community to lean on.

We’ve also welcomed multiple churches to campus for CBF Challenge Days, helping them grow their discipleship and fellowship



programs. It's been a joy to see how these events are enhancing our ability to point students toward healthy churches in their neighborhoods.

What has stood out to me the most through all of this is how the greater transitions in life—whether personal or in ministry—can shape our perspective on the world. This year, we saw a class of students graduate who have consistently been part of CBF since I joined the staff. Watching them grow, listening to their hopes and dreams for life after high school, and sharing the truth of the gospel with them has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

In every season of change, whether filled with joy or challenge, I know that God is working. As we step into the next season, I'm grateful for the ways He continues to reveal His presence and purpose, both in my life and in the lives of the students we serve.

~ Jack MacKay







At CBF, we don't just talk about the mission—we live it. Here's what CBF has meant to our friend Erwin, in his own words:

“CBF has been an incredibly fun experience. Every time I go they are genuine, kind people who put thought into the activities. After every activity, they always find a way for us to take a lesson out of it and, more importantly, dig deeper into our faith if we are Christians since not everyone in class is. Overall, the experiences that I've had have been nothing but top-tier fun times, and I would love to go again!”

~ Erwin, CBF Participant







# NV CBF || Hope

As I sit surrounded by the changing leaves, I can't help being reminded of the beauty of seasons. The fall reminds me of how the old must give way to the new, echoing the transformations we experience in our personal walks with Christ—periods of waiting, pruning, and growth. Reflecting on my own journey, I realize how much has changed since I left my pastoral role and arrived at CBF. It was a difficult season for me, coming from a place where I had both experienced and caused pain within my church family. I was broken—riddled with guilt and shame, carrying the weight of unhealed wounds. Although one of the things that initially drew me to CBF was the opportunity to be real with those around me. I found myself hiding, masking my pain, and keeping everyone at a distance. I felt unworthy of love—especially Christ's love.

But in God's perfect timing, there comes a moment when He shifts the seasons in our lives, and we face a choice: do we stay in our winter, or do we lean into the promise of spring? Do we hold onto the brokenness that we believe defines us, or do we trust in the truth that our identity is found in Christ alone? For me, that transition has been gradual, but I'm starting to feel the warmth of a new season breaking through. Though the world around us prepares for winter, I can sense a spiritual spring emerging in my life—a time of new growth and healing in places I thought were too deeply set to change.

This past summer has been a beautiful reflection of this new season, not just in my personal life but within our Hope community as well. We hosted retreats, and overnights filled with connection, fellowship, and new adventures. From swimming in the lake to CBF Challenges, our participants had an amazing time, and more importantly, we shared it all in the presence of the Lord. Wes has continued to lead our virtual Bible study through the book of Luke, and



our one-on-one events and gatherings have continuously provided real belonging for so many who have been overlooked by society.

Just as the Lord is bringing about a new season in me, I believe He's doing the same for our ministry as a whole. We've been forging new partnerships, including exciting discussions with The Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists to offer programs for their special needs students. We are expanding our reach, creating opportunities for these students both in their school and here on our campus, and bringing the love of Christ into their lives in new, tangible ways.

As we move forward into the winter months, I am filled with hope for a season of new beginnings and growth that will bear much fruit in the future. This is not just a season of change for me, but for our entire community, as we continue to walk alongside those who need to know that they are seen, heard, and truly belong. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Your prayers and support are what make this work possible. Let's embrace the seasons of change together, trusting in the One who makes all things new.

~Codi Bement







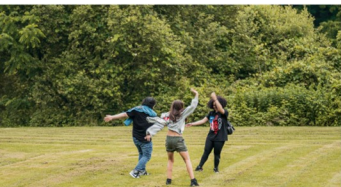
Community is at the cornerstone of the mission at CBF. Here's what it has meant to be a part of that family from our friend Kathy, in her own words:

“CBF has helped me to get comfortable going outside and interact with people since COVID had us isolated. The first time I came up, I had a serious anxiety attack, and I was shown so much love, patience, and compassion. I've gotten so comfortable here that a morning trail walk has become part of my routine. I'm thankful for staff that are open to learn and teach. I'm thankful for volunteers that sit and have conversations with us while sharing a meal or activity. I'm grateful for people that treat my daughter and me like humans, like God's children, with love and understanding. The CBF family is helping my faith and trust grow to being “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

~Kathy Beltran, CBF Participant











**NIV**  
**CBE**