

Real Belonging



Children's Bible
Fellowship



Fall
Newsletter

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Connection





NY CBF | CEO

Real Belonging

A few weeks back I was able to lead a CBF Challenge with the senior class from a Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists that we have built a strong relationship with over the years. I noticed all of the students were looking for a place to fit in. Many had friend groups where they huddled and talked, yet others were outside alone and isolated. I personally remember being in both groups throughout my life. Sometimes, to be included, I would put on a mask of someone other than myself so I could feel accepted. What I didn't realize was when I put on a mask to find belonging, only the mask belonged.

Real belonging comes through Christ. In Him, we are **fully known** and **fully loved**. It is in this place of belonging I can also give the gift of belonging to others. I don't have to jockey for a position in the group, prove myself, or be a different personality. As a ministry, we want to share this gift of belonging in Christ with others so they may experience the joy of being **fully known** and **fully loved**. At the end of our event with the high schoolers, the guidance counselor who coordinated with us told the kids, 'We won't bring you to a place where you are not loved!' This is one of our greatest hopes as a ministry, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:35.

~Sean Stewart







NY CBF | Hope

We are on a mission to redefine what it means to belong at a time when our world seems to turn a blind eye to those who are different. We believe that real belonging transcends comfort zones and embraces everyone, especially those who have been forgotten by society. Our Hope participants are a group often marginalized and left to the periphery. It's not always easy or convenient to engage with them, but at CBF, we've made it our calling to offer them something that everyone should have: real belonging.

For too long, many of these individuals have been tucked away, unseen, and unheard. The discomfort surrounding their unique challenges and needs has sometimes led to their exclusion from the warmth of community. But we're here to change that through the embrace of the Body of Christ. We understand that every individual, regardless of their abilities or differences, longs for love, connection, and a profound sense of belonging. The way we approach this is to share life and love with them, not in spite of their differences, but because of them.

Let me take you behind the scenes of our ministry over the last few months, showing the ongoing journey we've been on since the exhilarating adventures of this past summer and early fall. I've had the privilege of assuming the role of the new Director of Hope. It has been a period of tremendous growth, joy, laughter, and much more in recent months.

In July and August, we hosted two extensive three-day retreats, and the highlight of each event was undoubtedly the CBF Challenges. For those who may be new to our newsletter or need a refresher, CBF Challenge is an interactive, narrative adventure. We crafted adaptive challenges for our Hope guests that pushed our participants not only physically but also mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, resulting in unforgettable experiences.



During this time, I've also been graced with a new friend, Dexter. His passion for the Word and his quest for truth are truly inspiring. Every time we meet, he eagerly requests a new piece of scripture for his personal study. He delves into these passages, seeking insights from both the scripture itself and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It's an incredible journey of faith and discovery that we are embarking upon together.

You see, "Real Belonging" is not merely a slogan for us; it's a way of life at CBF. It means quite literally walking alongside people with special needs, recognizing their struggles, and celebrating their triumphs. It's about creating a community where their voices are heard, their smiles are cherished, and their dreams are supported.

As we live life together, may our commitment to "Real Belonging" serve as a testament to the transformative power of love and the enduring hope that springs from unity in the Body of Christ. We invite you to join us in this mission, to experience the profound beauty of "Real Belonging," and to help us create a world where no soul is forgotten or left behind.

~Codi Bement





NY CBF Youth

As we embrace the transition from autumn, we are thrilled to share the heartwarming stories and impactful moments from our Youth Programs. At the core of our endeavors is the commitment to provide a place where every individual, especially those often overlooked, can find solace, acceptance, and love in the embrace of the Body of Christ. Real Belonging is not just a theme for us; it's a lived experience we strive to create for every student.

Our Youth Programs have been bustling with activity this season, forging connections and creating memorable experiences. We had the pleasure of hosting church youth groups for engaging in CBF Challenge activities. We worked to foster a sense of camaraderie, teamwork, growth, and a greater understanding of who they are in their walk with God. Taking a bold step forward, we piloted our first programs by bringing CBF Challenge beyond our property, extending its reach and impact. We are at the forefront of bringing this transformative initiative to the heart of New York City, embodying our mission on a broader scale.

An exciting development has been our involvement once again in the classroom at Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists (BSSWA), where their Elevate class allows the sharing of our mission with students from diverse backgrounds. We seize the opportunity to impart our testimonies and the message of hope and belonging that lies at the core of our mission.

One of the highlights was hosting the entire Senior class of BSSWA for a day at CBF's campus. Witnessing these individuals engage in activities designed to let them simply be students for a day, have fun, bond as a group, and find moments of silence and solitude was a blessing. The Administration came to us concerned that the Senior class



does not have the unity they have been hoping for. We were honored to have been tasked with helping achieve that desired outcome.

The words of the school guidance counselor echoed in our hearts: "We wouldn't bring you somewhere where you are not loved." Doesn't the trust we have earned from this secular school in our Christ-centered organization show how great our God is? We are so blessed to work with BSSWA and expand our reach to students we otherwise would be unable to see. "Real Belonging" means providing students with a place to be loved and known. It's about creating a community that cares for them, not just by their fellow man but with their creator.

In the tapestry of CBF's Youth Programs, every thread is woven with purpose, creating a vibrant picture of love. Together, let's continue to be a beacon of "Real Belonging" in the Body of Christ.

~Jack MacKay





NY CBF Memorial

Gertrude Emma Mathewson

The CBF family mourns the loss of one of its beloved members, Gertrude Emma Mathewson, affectionately known as Trudy. With 34 years of unwavering dedication to the community, Trudy's passing leaves a profound void. Born on January 15, 1945, in Scranton, PA, she embraced a life of ministry alongside her husband, George R. Mathewson, whom she married on July 28, 1973, in Mishawaka, IN.

Trudy's vibrant spirit and commitment to Children's Bible Fellowship of New York was evident in her multifaceted contributions. As a missionary in Carmel, NY, she poured her heart into creating a welcoming environment for both permanent and temporary staff. Her artistic flair shone through in the meticulous decoration of properties, crafting newsletters, and organizing festive events. Whether it was cooking Thanksgiving meals or orchestrating holiday celebrations, Trudy's passion for creating warmth and beauty enriched the lives of everyone in the CBF family. Her legacy of love, dedication, and creativity will forever be cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing her within the close-knit CBF community.

~CBF Family





NV CBF | Partner

What an experience it has been and continues to be as I consider my role as a volunteer at CBF. As an individual, I have always felt I didn't really fit in, in most places. I actually lost my last volunteer job for trying too hard. Of course, that's my opinion.

When I think of CBF my heart smiles. I have found a place of peace, acceptance, and love for all of God's children. As a child of God, I finally fit in with the many different characters at CBF, a place where there is room for every one of us. My experience here is like none other I've had in my life, a little piece of Heaven, where miracles take place. What a privilege being part of the worship time, the breaking of bread, and the times of playing that we all enjoy.

CBF has also welcomed my dear friends from Dutchess Care Adult Home with open arms, and kindness, and love. Each month, as they load into the church van and travel 30 minutes south to CBF, the joy is overwhelming. Minds at CBF are clear of the troubled world. We're at God's place, and what a blessing God's gift is to the least of us. We become one with God and each other as He has us in His loving arms. My spirit is renewed, my mind cleared, and I feel the true love of God.

I am thankful for CBF and all the special family there that I hold dear.

~Mary Autovino

Matt 25: 35-40 ; Eccl 3:11-13







Get Involved!

If you are eager to make a difference, we invite you to join the vibrant community at Children's Bible Fellowship of New York.

1. Visit our website at cbfny.org/supportus
2. Fill out our convenient contact card. For those seeking a more tailored engagement, explore our individual or group page, providing us with additional information about yourself.

Your involvement matters and we look forward to welcoming you into the CBF family as we continue to create a space of love, and “Real Belonging.”





NY CBF | GivingTuesday

Transform Lives Together on GivingTuesday, November 28th. We believe in the power of collective impact. While \$400 covers a participant for a full year, every contribution, big or small, plays a vital role. Your gift brings hope. Will you help us reach our goal of sponsoring 1000 participants this year?

Ways to Give

- ◆ Online: cbfny.org/givingtuesday
- ◆ Mail Your Contribution to: Children's Bible Fellowship
250 Nimham Road, Carmel NY, 10512

Learn More

Website: cbfny.org/givingtuesday

Facebook: @Childrens Bible Fellowship of New York

Instagram: @CBFNY

"...I shared a profound part of my life with my student. Lives are truly being changed through the work of CBF..."

~ Mr. Haden CBF Partner

