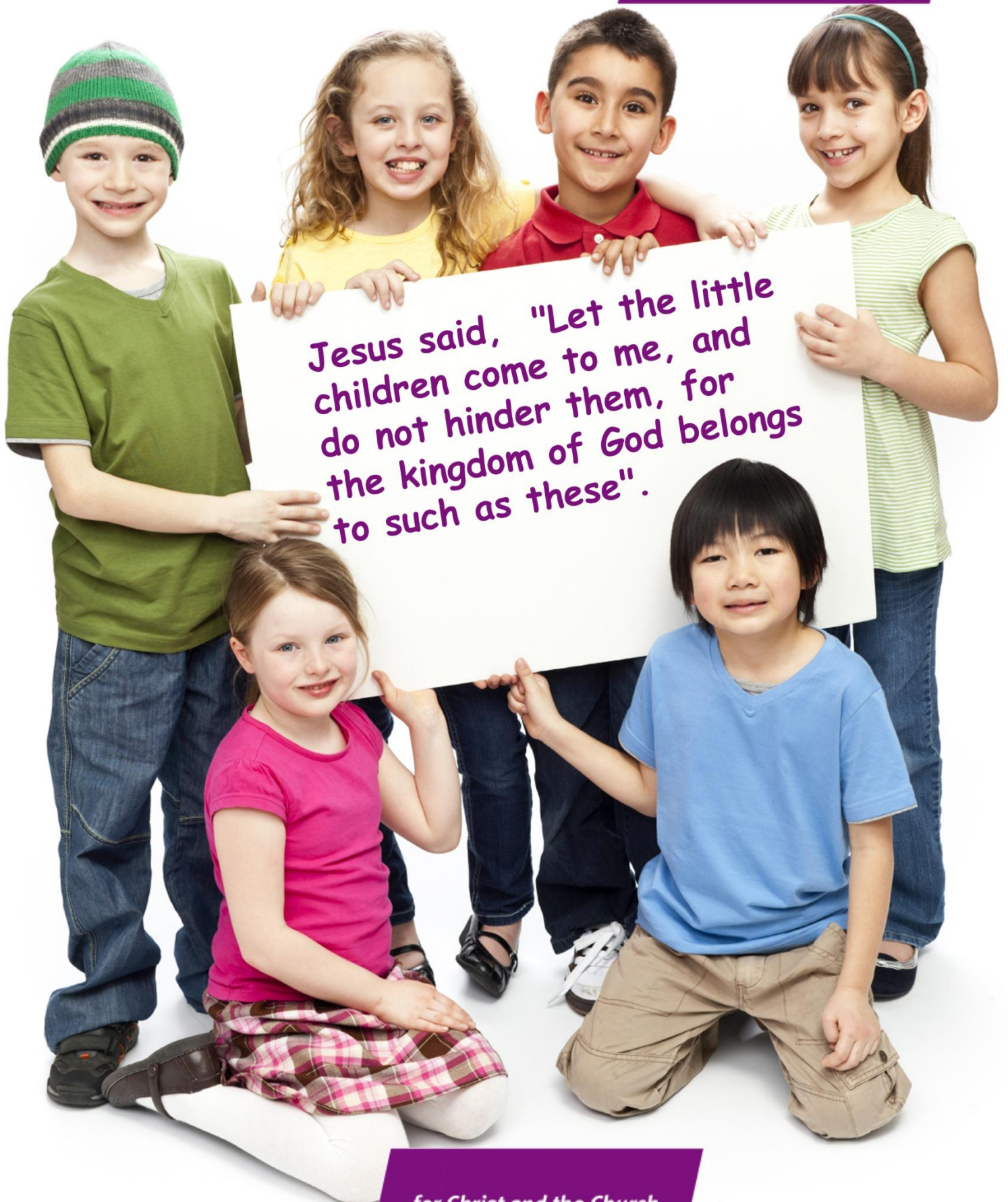


A Junior's Guide to Christian Endeavour

CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR 



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these".

for Christ and the Church

A Junior's Guide to Christian Endeavour

Introduction

Juniors are likely to want to find out about the organisation to which they belong or would like to belong to. This guide will tell you all you need to know about Christian Endeavour (CE). You will find out when and where CE was founded and who founded it and why. Junior CE offers an action-packed programme for boys and girls up to the age of thirteen. Its two main objectives are to lead boys and girls to the Lord Jesus Christ and to start to train them for service to Christ and His church. Juniors probably prefer to be doing something themselves instead of having to sit and listen to or watch the leader all the time. CE has been called a do-it-yourself style meeting which allows and expects the members to take some part in every meeting so no member should ever become bored or feel left out. As you make your way through this guide, you will learn much about CE and how you can be helped to put it into practice. In Appendix 1 of the guide you will find a number of things to do which will help you to remember what you have read.

The Founder of Christian Endeavour

Francis Symmes lived with his father, mother and brother, Charlie, in Cherry Cottage on the Bank of a river in Ottawa in Canada. His father was an engineer and timber merchant and was often away on business. While he was away their mother often took Francis and Charlie down to the river to spend the afternoon fishing and enjoying the sun. Life was going along fine until their father had to go away on business on a boat up the St. Lawrence River. Many immigrants were on the boat and a disease called Cholera broke out among them. Francis' father caught the disease and died.

Four years later, Francis' brother Charlie died of typhoid fever and, six months after that, his mother died too. Francis, who was only seven years old, felt very alone. What would happen to him?

Francis adopted by his uncle

Before Francis' mother died she arranged for his American uncle, a minister from Boston, to come and take Francis to live with them. They adopted him and gave him their name. Francis E. Symmes became known as Francis E. Clark. Francis had to go to a new school and to his uncle's church on Sundays. He was taught a new text from the Bible every day. He soon made many friends and began to feel that the house in Boston was his home. Not long after this, Civil War broke out in America between the north and the south and Francis' uncle went to be a chaplain among the soldiers. When he came home, he told Francis that War was a terrible thing and Francis decided that, when he grew up,

he would try to promote peace and encourage people to see the best in each other. He made another important decision when he was thirteen. In a prayer meeting in his uncle's church he stood up and declared that he would give his life to Jesus to use as He pleased.

Francis to become a minister

When Francis left school, he went to college at Dartmouth, U.S.A. There were several other boys called Clark in his year so he became known as FE, his initials. This nickname stuck with him for the remainder of his life. There were many other Christians at college and they often had prayer meetings together. They also started a hill walking group, often camping out at night. At one of their camp fires he was asked what he was going to be when he left college. "A journalist", he replied, but, as he went through his college years, God showed FE that He wanted him to be a minister.

Real helpers wanted in the church

Francis was 26 when he married and took his wife, Harriet, to live in the little manse in Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Within two weeks of arriving, they planned a party for the children of the church. They decided to have the girls first and the boys the next week. On the Friday evening 50 girls arrived. The next Friday just as many boys arrived for games and cakes. These socials were repeated each Friday. Often the girls would sew and the boys made scrapbooks. They had missionary talks and other activities but they always finished with tea and cakes. The church, Williston Congregational in Portland, Maine, grew and grew and soon they needed a new building. The young people helped to raise the money needed for this. Francis was pleased with the progress of his young people but he was concerned that they were afraid to talk openly about things that matter. He wanted them to pray aloud and take their stand openly for the Lord Jesus.

One Friday morning F.E. was in his study thinking about his sermon. His wife, Harriet, was downstairs wondering how many cakes 40 boys and girls would eat. Francis murmured to himself "How are we going to help them become real helpers in the church. They must try to do more - endeavour to speak". He suddenly picked up his pen and began to write.

Christian Endeavour Founded

Half an hour later FE came rushing into the kitchen just as his wife put her fourth tray of cakes into the oven. "Read that and tell me what you think", he said. His wife took the sheet of paper from him and read aloud, "This society shall be called Williston Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour. Its object shall be to ... make its members ... more useful in the service of God. Each member shall take some part, however slight, in

every meeting". Francis' wife exclaimed that she just couldn't see any of the young people taking on such a promise. Little by little, FE convinced his wife that it would work. Meanwhile, the cakes burned in the oven. Mrs. Clark had no time to be cross as she was now as excited about this new idea as her husband was.

That evening FE explained his ideas to the young people and every boy and girl made the promise of their CE Society. On 2nd February 1881 Christian Endeavour had begun.

News of the new Society spread

FE told others of his new Society and wrote articles about it. Many people were interested and soon other CE Societies started. They met together occasionally and called their meetings Conventions. By the 4th year of Christian Endeavour there were 253 societies all over the world. CE was started in Britain in 1887 when a minister received a letter from a little boy who had gone to live in America. The boy told him all about Christian Endeavour and the minister thought it such a good idea that he started a Society himself.

Very soon Societies from different countries began to meet together for World Conventions where they were able to share their various experiences.

In 1926 FE, now known as Father Endeavour, crossed the Atlantic to Britain for the last time for a great World Convention. At the opening ceremony, standard bearers from all over the world carried their flags to stand beside the red CE Banner at the front of Crystal Palace in London. They were young men and women of different coloured skins speaking many different languages and they represented 3,000,000 Endeavourers throughout the world.

F.E. looked at them and thanked God in his heart for what He had done. Soon after Francis returned to America he died, but he had started something greater than himself. Christian Endeavour went on and still goes on, growing and working all over the world, for Christ and The Church.

The following chart shows how Christian Endeavour spread in its first twenty years:

1883	Canada, Honolulu, Hawaii, Ceylon (Sri Lanka)	1890	Sweden
1885	China	1891	Jamaica, New Zealand
1887	Britain, South Africa	1894	Germany, Switzerland
1888	France, Spain, Australia, Burma (Myanmar)	1896	Russia
1889	Turkey	1899	Syria
		1900	Hungary, Samoa

An important promise

Dr. Clark asked his members to make a promise, not to him but to the Lord Jesus Christ. This was called a Covenant or Pledge. Junior Endeavourers have a Covenant, in fact there are two, one for Active Members and one for Juniors who do not feel they are ready to sign the Active Member's Covenant, but who would like to join, so they sign a different Covenant card and become Members.

The two Covenants below are the covenants which Dr Clark asked the members to take.

Active members

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will pray and read the Bible every day; and that, just as far as I know how, I will try to lead a Christian life. I will be present at every meeting of the Society when I can, and will take some part in every meeting.

Members

As a Member, I promise to attend the meetings of the Society as regularly and punctually as I can, and to help them by being quiet, attentive, and reverent.

If you read these promises carefully, you will see that the Member's promise seems to be very easy, while the other one is much more serious and more difficult to keep.

The Member's promise is very simple, but the Active Member's promise is a very serious one indeed and must not be signed in a hurry. It is a good idea to think about it and try to keep it for at least a month before you actually sign it. Remember - the first words are the most important, 'Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength'. Make sure you are really trusting Jesus if you intend to make the Covenant with Him.

Alternative Covenants

In some Societies members use the original Covenants while others use Covenants which contain different wording. The following are examples of other Covenants used by some National Unions.

Irish Union's Covenant / Promises

Junior Active/Christians' Promise

With God's help, I'll try to do
All that He would want me to,
I'll pray and read the Bible each day,
And live my life the Christian way.
I'll join in at Junior CE,
And trust that Jesus will shine through
me.

Junior Member's Promise

It's Monday (or whatever day) night –
It's Junior CE
It's the place I want to be
I Learn about God
I'll be quiet and good –
I'll behave like a CE member should.

English Union's Personal Progress Chart

I PROMISE THAT I WILL TRY TO:

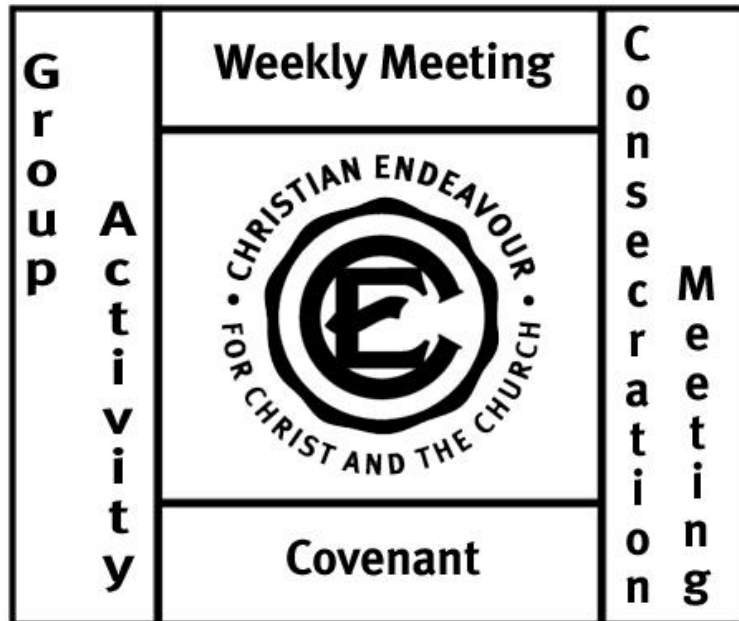
- Attend the meeting as regularly as I can and will co-operate at all times.
Name
Date
- Take part in the meeting to the best of my ability
Name
Date
- Read the Bible every day.
Name
Date
- Talk with God (pray) every day.
Name
Date
- Attend church regularly.
Name
Date
- I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and will live for Him day by day.
Name
Date
- As a Christian, I will support my own church in every way within my power and throughout my whole life I will endeavour to lead a Christian life.
Name
Date

The leader can obtain copies of the Covenants from the Headquarters of their National Union.

The four sides of CE

There are four different sides to CE work as shown in the diagram below –

1. the Covenant, the foundation on which everything else is built,
2. the Weekly Meeting,
3. the Consecration Meeting and
4. Group Activity.



The weekly meeting

We have already looked at the base of the box - the Covenant, the foundation on which everything else is built; now we are going to think about the WEEKLY MEETING.

This meeting is not a club night or a games evening, it is a meeting in which Juniors meet together to worship God, to learn about Jesus Christ and how to serve Him in a practical way. The meeting should be different every week. At least once a quarter there will be a speaker, your minister, leader or a visitor. There should not be speakers too often, as this cuts down the time there is for practising and doing things yourself. The CE Programme Book will give many interesting Bible subjects which Juniors can study, with notes to help you, so that older Juniors can give short talks to the younger ones. Besides these you can have Quiz Evenings; Musical Evenings; Sealed Orders Evenings (when no one knows what they are going to do until they get there); Shipwreck Evenings (when you pretend that you are on a desert island and have lost your Bibles and Hymn Books and have to do everything from memory). There are many other meetings that Juniors can think up for themselves.

Remember, this is your own meeting; it is designed to teach you about Jesus Christ and the Bible and to help you to take part in every way possible. It is up to you to think of new ideas for meetings; don't leave it all to your Leader.

You need to think about your own weekly meeting. Do not rush off after tea on your meeting night and then remember, as you enter the room, that you were asked to read the Bible passage. Prepare your part carefully during the week. Getting ready for the meeting is everyone's responsibility, not just the job of one or two members. Even the youngest member has an important part to play. You need to pray and think about your meeting before you come so that you can do your part really well.

Jobs to do

What jobs are there to do? You should take some part in every meeting. You can do this in a variety of ways, but they all need preparation and practice.

The following is a list of things Juniors can do, with hints on how to prepare:

1. Reading aloud from the Bible - if you have to choose a passage, select it several days before, and always practise reading it aloud at home, making sure you are used to the long words.
2. Choosing hymns - make sure they fit the topic, make sure everyone knows them, and make sure they are easy to sing.
3. Prayers - think about what things you are going to pray for; if you are scared, write it all down and learn it by heart.
4. Missionary Memo - find out one or two interesting facts about a missionary so that you can tell the others.
5. Singing or reciting - practise aloud; make sure you are word perfect.

Chairman

One Junior each week will be responsible for planning the evening's programme. This is very important, and must be done carefully. Make sure you know who else is taking part (the programme group should decide this) and then write down the items in an interesting order. Don't follow the same pattern every week. Read your programme aloud to yourself before the meeting so that you know exactly how you are going to introduce each item. Remember - when you are the chairman, the whole meeting depends on you. If the one who plans the programme is different from the one who takes the chair, the programme should be handed over a few days before the meeting. Advance planning, careful preparation and good working together are the secret of a successful meeting.

Sessions on craft work and drama can be included and there can be games before or after the meeting.

Older Juniors can give short talks and read papers. You may also use visual aids, but you will need to ask your Leader to help if you are going to do this. Bible picture books, colouring books and CDs / DVDs will help Juniors remember the story and make it more interesting for the listener. Don't be frightened because you cannot speak for a long time; probably the other Juniors would prefer a short Bible story told in your own words to a long talk from someone who isn't very interesting!

Chain Prayer is another way in which everyone can take part. This is one prayer, made up of one sentence from each Junior present. If you have never taken part in the meeting before, this is a good way to begin. You can make up your prayer at home so that you are quite ready when your turn comes.

New Juniors and younger ones may not want to do any of these things at first, but there are still other jobs that need to be done. Someone must arrange the chairs and give out the hymn books each week. Someone else could be asked to put them away. A Junior who is good at drawing may be able to make a signpost to show the way to the meeting room. There are many other jobs that can be found for Juniors who want to help. Every Junior should be able to do something.

The Consecration Meeting

Another side of CE is called 'Consecration Meeting'. This will be on your programme every month or at least once every 3 months. It is very important because in it Junior Endeavourers think about their Covenant and ask themselves whether they have really been keeping the promises which they made.

In the Consecration Meeting the Juniors are remembering their promise to be loyal to Jesus Christ and, with His help, to do their very best to keep their Active Member's Covenant. A Roll Call gives Juniors an opportunity to give their special reply. The names of Active Members are read out and, as each name is called, each member stands and reads a personal response. This may be a verse from the Bible or from a hymn or poem that has specially helped them since the last Consecration Meeting. If you are an Active Member, do make sure you choose your response carefully. It should be like a 'spiritual thermometer' and show how well, or how badly, you have kept your promise to Jesus Christ, and whether you have kept the other promises contained in the Covenant.

If you are in charge of the programme for this meeting, you may have to arrange the Roll Call as well. Try to make it different. It may help to sing a verse of a hymn before the Roll is called, and to have a short prayer afterwards. It is also a good idea for Active Members

to stand and repeat their promise together, or to listen while it is read to them, so that all are reminded of the promise they are trying to keep.

This is a very serious meeting, the most serious one in the CE programme. Think about it before you come to it, remembering that, although other Juniors listen to your response, really you are making that response to God.

Group Activity

The fourth side of Junior Christian Endeavour is called Group Activity. This is to give members the opportunity of working together in groups so that they may learn how to organise the group, and be trained to do special jobs and carry out different sorts of work. This is a time when Juniors can work together and can learn to help one another. Groups or Teams can be planned and arranged in different ways depending on how many Juniors there are. Here are some suggestions of the kind of work each group can do:

1. Planning the quarterly programme.

2. Creating missionary interest by writing to missionaries, sending them birthday cards, and bringing to the meeting maps, pictures and any replies which missionaries may have sent to letters received.

3. Caring for the membership - this will mean visiting or writing to absent Juniors and sick members, and seeking to find and bring new members.

4. Keeping things cheerful. This group could be responsible for keeping the meeting room tidy and providing flowers for the room and for the minister's vestry on Sundays.

There are many other jobs that can be done in groups, and more details are given in other books on Junior CE work which the Junior Leader may have. It is up to all Juniors to think of what needs to be done and then to arrange it so that all can help. You can think of special names for your groups and use the groups sometimes for competitions and quizzes in the meeting.

Organising Your Group

Each group should have an older Junior as a leader. It should also have one Junior to act as recorder or minute secretary, and write down in an exercise book all that the group plans to do, who is to do it, and all that it actually does. This last point is very important; don't make plans and forget to carry them out!

Meet regularly, at least once every three months, or more often if you need to do so. If you are a group leader, remember that what your group does is up to you. Your Junior Leader will help you as much as you may need but you will find it is much more exciting if you do as much as you can by yourself, and tell the Leader what your group is doing

afterwards. Make friends with the Juniors in your group and try to help them so that you can work as a team. Do remember to pray about your work and to do all you can to help it yourself.

A look around

The CE motto is 'For Christ and the Church', and all the real work of CE is done in what is known as 'A CE Church'. In this church will be grades catering for Endeavourers of all ages, and your Junior Grade, which is for all Endeavourers up to thirteen years of age, is just one of them. CE does not stop there. Juniors cannot be Juniors for ever and CE has other grades for older people and so encourages Juniors to grow up and join these older Endeavourers. Soon after you are thirteen you should be able to go into the Young People's Grade which is for those aged thirteen to eighteen (and you can then look forward to becoming a Young Adult when you are nineteen!). The change may seem strange at first but it is really no different from leaving your present day school and going to a new school. If there isn't a Young People's CE grade in your church, when you and your friends are thirteen years old, ask your Leader if you may start one. Once you have made a start, you will probably be able to bring other teenagers to the new meeting.

CE also encourages its members to meet Endeavourers from other churches, other parts of the country and from all over the world. Churches join to form Unions, Unions form Regions and National Unions, and these together form the British CE Union which brings together all Endeavourers in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and this is part of the World's CE Union. Each Union and Region has a secretary or organiser and a president who helps to keep contact between all the smaller parts of the movement in their own area. Big rallies and meetings are held in which Endeavourers from many places can join together to worship God and be inspired to persevere and learn more about their movement. Every four years the British CE Union holds a Convention, which is a series of meetings attended by Endeavourers from all over the British Isles. There is no age limit in these meetings, and there is always one meeting held especially for Juniors; it is a wonderful event for older Juniors if they can arrange to go.

The diagram below shows clearly how CE is built up:



The outlook of CE is exciting and interesting because it helps you to make new friends and gain new ideas, but always remember that the most important thing is the CE Church because this is where all the real work and training is done.

The British National Award Scheme

In 1970, the Christian Endeavour Union of Great Britain and Ireland launched a scheme called THE NATIONAL AWARD SCHEME. This scheme contains a number of subjects all connected with CE in some way, which you may work at. If your work is of sufficiently high standard, you will gain a certificate for each subject attempted. When you have six certificates you win a 'Bronze' CE badge; thirteen certificates give you a 'Silver' Badge and twenty certificates entitle you to a special 'Gold' CE badge.

Some of the subjects are listed below:

CE History and Practice	Your Church and the Community
Daily Bible Reading	Public Bible Reading
Bible Knowledge	Singer
Prayer	Programme Planning
Chairman	Craft work
Writer	Drama

and many others which you can work on at home and in your Society time.

Some of the subjects are compulsory and others are entirely your own choice, but all of them will help you in your Society work.

How do you join the Scheme? First ask your Leader to write to Headquarters for a copy of the Scheme and a Society enrolment form. When you have decided to enter, your leader will send the Society enrolment form to the Award Scheme Organiser. When this is filled in and returned, every Junior will receive a Record Book in which to keep his or her certificates as they are earned. You can then go ahead, work hard and win your Bronze badge, and, hopefully, Silver and Gold ones as well.

The scheme is very interesting and will help you in your CE work and at home, so it is well worth a try.

Instead of sending for a copy of the Award Scheme, it can be downloaded from the website (www.ce-online.org). Study it carefully.

Look ahead

If you have read this book, you must have at least some interest in Christian Endeavour. Perhaps you are thinking of becoming a member; perhaps you are a member already. Whichever it is, if you have used this book properly and tried to do all the work, you should know all the important facts about CE. Have you discovered what a CE Society is

for? It exists to teach and train young Christians in service for Jesus Christ and His Church. That is the CE motto, 'For Christ and the Church'.

A Christian is someone who has given himself or herself entirely to Jesus Christ and who is seeking to do whatever He wants. CE will help you to do this, because the Covenant makes you think about Jesus and pray and read the Bible every day. The CE meeting helps you to learn more of Him, and teaches you how to work for Him.

Have you given your life to Jesus? If so, are you a Christian Endeavourer, and are you really trying to do all you can to learn how to serve Jesus?

If there is no Junior CE group in your church, ask your minister or one of the older members if you may start one by getting a few children together. If you already belong to CE, do all you can to make your church strong by making your Junior CE really hard-working in the service of Jesus Christ.



**For further information, please contact your National CE Union or
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Email: admin@ce-gbi.org Website: www.ce-online.org**

APPENDIX 1

Things to think about and do.

1. Imagine you were in Dr. Clark's Society; try to describe how you felt at your first meeting.
2. Find out as much as you can about when and how your own CE meeting began. You may be able to find a member of your own church who was a member of the first society there.
3. On a map of the world, find the countries mentioned and write on the dates when CE reached them. You may know some of these countries by their new name, le. Ceylon = Sri Lanka; Burma = Myanmar.

Something to think about

Can you say the following and really mean it? Write your own name in the space.

I, _____ have given my heart to Jesus Christ and am trusting in Him to help me keep this promise.

Before you think about preparing for the weekly meeting, try to do the work set out here; you may find it easier if two of you do it together.

1. Plan a programme of weekly meetings designed to last three months.
- 2 Try to think up TWO new kinds of meeting.
3. Make an illustrated copy of your programme for the next three months. Ask your Leader if it can be placed on the notice board.

Things to do.

1. Draw a diagram showing how the chairs are arranged in your meeting. Draw another diagram showing how this could be altered.
2. Write out a programme for
 - a) A Topic Evening;
 - b) A Memory Text Evening.
3. Choose a parable or story that Jesus told. Write it in your own words so that you could read it at your meeting.

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

Something to do

1. Plan a programme for your next Consecration Meeting, explaining how you will conduct the Roll Call.
2. Choose your own response for your next Consecration Meeting. (Only for Active Members).

Something to do

1. From memory write down all the jobs that can be done in groups. Can you think of any that have not been mentioned in this chapter?
2. Make up some interesting names for the groups you have.
3. If you do not have groups or teams, ask your Leader if you may start some.

Something to find out

1. Find out the name of your local C.E Union, or Region
2. Who are your Union or Regional Officers?
3. Who is your National President?
4. Who is the President of the World's CE Union?