



# A JUNIOR GUIDE TO CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

## How CE Started

Many years ago a boy called Francis Symmes lived with his father, mother and brother in Canada. In those days, when people got sick, the doctors didn't have the medicine to make them better. Francis's story is a sad one. His father died of a disease called Cholera when Francis was only 3 years old. Four years later, another disease called Typhoid Fever came to where Francis lived and his brother, Charlie, and his mother died too. Francis was only 7 years old, and was left all alone. What was going to happen to him now?



Francis had an Uncle and Aunt who lived in America. They took Francis to live with them. They adopted him, so that he became their special son. Francis Symmes was now Francis E Clark. Francis's Uncle was a minister, and Francis learned lots of verses from the Bible, and went to church every Sunday. When Francis was 13 years old, he did something very important. He told God he was sorry for all the wrong things he had done, and asked God to forgive him. Francis trusted Christ to be his Saviour and became a Christian.



When Francis grew up, he knew that God wanted him to be a minister. When he was 26, he got married to a lady called



Harriet and they went to live in the manse belonging to Williston Congregational Church in Portland, Maine, USA. They decided to have a party for the children of the church. The girls came one week, and the boys the next week. It was a big party . 50 girls arrived and about the same number of boys the next week! They decided to have a meeting every Friday. They had missionary talks, and learned about the

Bible, but they always finished with tea and cakes. More and more people kept coming to the church and soon they needed to build a new church as the old one wasn't big enough. God was using Francis to teach more and more people about the Bible.

But Francis was worried! The young people attended well, but they didn't pray out loud, or talk about God. One Friday morning Francis was in his study thinking about this when he had an idea. Harriet was in the kitchen baking cakes when Francis rushed in. "Read that and tell me what you think," he said. Francis had thought of a new name for his meeting and a new aim for it.

"This Society shall be called Williston Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour. Each member shall take some part, however slight, in every meeting."

Francis and Harriet talked so much about this idea that the cakes burned in the oven!



That evening Francis explained his ideas to the young people and on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1881, Christian Endeavour began. The young people led the meeting, prayed, read the Bible out loud, gave talks, and all the other things that form part of a meeting. They practiced doing these things for themselves. It was really a "do-it-yourself" meeting.



Francis told others about his new society. Many people were interested, and soon other CE Societies started. 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. Soon many countries all over the world had CE Societies.

## Motto

# ***FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH***

The CE motto puts Christ first . all we do should be done for Him. Then we learn to serve Christ in the church.

## Promises

CE in Ireland has 2 promises for Juniors. If you have done as Francis E Clark did and asked God to forgive your sin and trusted Him to save you, then you can take the Active or Christian's Promise.

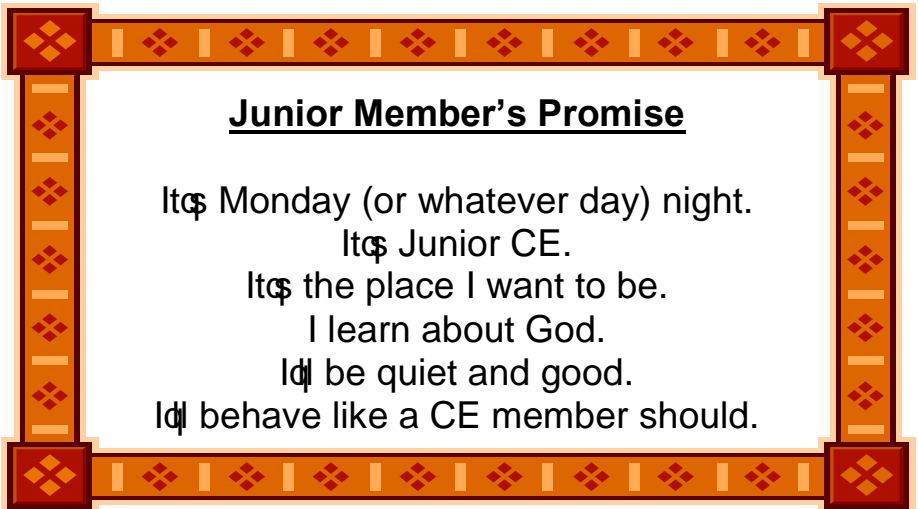
### Active/Christian's Promise

**With God's help, I 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**

## Think about it!

1. Whose help do we need to be a Christian?
2. What 2 things should Christians do every day?
3. Think of ways you can live your life the Christian way+.

BUT you don't have to be a Christian to come to Junior CE. If you aren't ready to take the first Promise, there is another one every member should take.

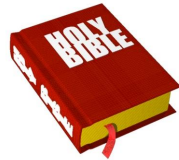


Whichever Promise you take, it is important to remember that you are not making this Promise to your leaders, but to GOD. God always keeps His promises. Will you, with God's help, keep yours?

## The CE Meeting

This is a meeting in which Juniors meet together to worship God, to learn about Jesus Christ and how to serve Him. Your leader may teach the Bible lesson, or you may invite someone to speak, but you will be asked to do most of the jobs. Some of the things you can do are:

1. Chair the meeting
2. Open in prayer
3. Lead the choruses
4. Read from the Bible
5. Lift the collection
6. Play an instrument
7. Tell about a Bible story
8. Look after the roll book
9. Suggest topics for chain prayer
10. Take part in chain prayer.



If you are doing any of the jobs in a CE meeting, your leader should let you know in advance so that you can come prepared to do your best for God.

At some meetings you should say your CE promises and think about how well you have kept them.

## What is Chain Prayer



This is where each Junior takes their turn to say a short (one sentence) prayer, so that they all link together to make one prayer. A Bible, or other object, can be passed round, and when you hold it, it is your turn to pray. a bit like circle time+ in school.

## Missionary Project



Every year CE supports a missionary project. Leaders get a pack giving them information about the project. It is good to pray for others, and to give some of our money to help others who don't have all the luxuries we have.

## Group Work



It may be useful to have different groups in your CE Society. There could be a group responsible for putting together ideas for things to do at your meeting . a Planning Group. Another group could be responsible for writing to missionaries, sending a missionary a birthday or Christmas Card, and telling the Juniors about what that missionary is doing. A group could keep in touch with members who are sick, or who don't attend very well and let them know the CE members care for them.

If you have groups in your CE, don't forget to tell your leaders about any decisions you have made or any ideas you have.

## The bigger Picture



You have a Junior CE in your church. Lots of other churches also have Junior CEs.

Some churches have CEs for Young People and Young Adults, and even Seniors where people of all ages can meet and practice doing things for Christ and the Church.+

A Local Union looks after all these CE Societies in their area and sometimes organises Fun Days and other events that every CE can attend.

Irish CE Union looks after CE in Ireland and produces things like this book and the Award Scheme for CE Societies to use. This is a scheme where you can get certificates for all the jobs you do well at your CE meeting. There are Awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold level.

It also organises events for Juniors, Young People and Seniors. There is a camp in the summer that Juniors can go to. It is good to meet with other CE members and make friends.

## Summary

CE is a meeting where YOU can actively take part and learn to serve God. If you are a Christian, the Promise makes you think about Jesus, and pray and read the Bible every day. The CE meeting helps you learn more about God, and teaches you how to work for Him.

### Appendix

*(Answers to questions on Active Members Promise)*

1. We need God's help.
2. Pray and read the Bible.
3. a. Before you say something, think if that is what Jesus would like you to say.  
b. Would Jesus like you to act that way?  
c. Would saying or doing that thing help your friends to see that you are a Christian?  
d. Read your Bible so you know HOW God wants you to behave.