

# The Barnabas Letter

*To encourage, enrich and equip*

*A Publication of Crisis Care Training International*

*“Because of the devastation of the afflicted, the groaning of the needy, Now I will arise,” says the LORD ; “I will set him in the safety for which he longs. Psalm 12:5 NAS*

## IN FOCUS

Words are powerful! Psalm 12 consists of only eight little verses yet it contains a message of huge significance. The author begins with a lament over the oppression and abuse the words of evil-doers were inflicting on the souls of men. Blasphemous words—lies meant to bring hopelessness, helplessness, defeat and death.

Praise the Lord for God’s response in verse five! *“Now I will arise.”* The Hebrew word *koom* translated **arise** literally means to **powerfully show up on the scene**. What will the Lord do when He shows up? He will set the needy in the safety for which he longs. *Puwach*, translated as **longs**, carries the connotation of the person’s heart being so **afire with need**, wounding and even anger, that to breathe is difficult and painful.

Finally, **safety** is translated from the Hebrew word *Yesha* meaning salvation,

deliverance, rescue and **protection**. It is the root word of *Yas-huwah*; the name of Jesus—the Word made flesh. *Yesha* denotes the very character of God as the protector and refuge for wounded souls.

There can be no souls wounded more than those of children in crisis. Their hurting hearts long for the deliverance, salvation, rescue and **protection** that Jesus brings.

As Barnabas addresses **Child Protection** this quarter, we are grateful to our contributing authors who have donated time and talent to be a blessing. Their practical instruction on how to more effectively protect the children helps us to better reflect the light of the Living Word within us!

The author of Psalm 12 ends with praise. For the power of the Word of God brings life and hope—a confident expectation of the Lord to arise; to powerfully show-up on the scene in glory.

May we His church take seriously His exhortation in Isaiah 60:1 NAS—

*Arise, shine; for your light has come. The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!*

*Child protection is a crucial facet of what we do and who we are as God’s children.*

—Steve Bryant; see page two

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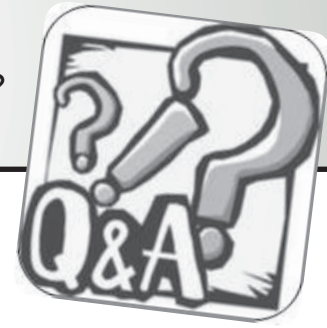
—**Power in Weakness**



# Child Protection Policies:

*Just Another Chore for Christian Agencies?*

—Steve Bryant



Child abuse scandals make the news with monotonous regularity. Very recently senior figures in European governments and media stars have been accused of offenses, but high-profile cases are only the tip of the iceberg.

Reasonable estimates show that 15—25 percent of all children in developed countries have been sexually abused, 8 percent have been physically abused and 9 percent have endured potentially criminal neglect.\* These figures are shocking in their own right, but tragically are dwarfed when considering some countries where child abuse is endemic. In some South and Central Asian countries, it is exceptional to meet women who haven't been abused as girls. Where strict sex segregation occurs, the risk to boys is just as great with adult men gratifying sexual frustrations on children, often repeating what they were subjected to in their own childhood. Add to this the huge numbers of street beggar children and child prostitutes who are neglected, sexually and physically abused, plus child soldiers and "comfort girls" in war zones, and it is clear that we have a global issue of colossal proportions.

***There has been a massive growth in factors that fuel abuse.***

Another grievous angle to this is that Christian agencies have also been affected. The Catholic Church has had to publicly face the sins of the past, but other churches and many missions have been forced to recognize some of the same issues, with several MK boarding schools and other ministries currently undergoing drawn-out investigations into historical abuse.

Child abuse is not a new phenomenon, that's clear. However, we hear so much more about it now than 20 years ago for two reasons.

One is that in many countries children are much more ready to disclose what has happened to them as they know they are more likely to be believed. Adults abused as children also are speaking out now for the same reason.

***Pornography influences behavior***

The other is that there has been a massive growth in factors that fuel abuse. Perverted behavior is increasingly normalized through the media—in soap opera, chat shows and air time given to aggressive rights groups, as well as pornography. This media-driven shift is breaking down definitions of family life and the institution itself. Breakdown here has a major impact on child protection as children from broken and unstable homes are more than twice as likely to suffer abuse. In poverty-stricken and civil war-torn societies, the whole social fabric can collapse leading to children being abducted, routinely abused and brutalized.

Probably the biggest single factor globally though is the internet. We now have potentially unlimited access to pornography, which is increasingly targeted at women as well as men. This is a major child protection concern for several reasons:

1. Teenagers are easily accessing pornography via smart phones without age protection filters installed.
2. Huge numbers of adults are routinely accessing extreme pornography. The line between adult and child material can be quite blurred.
3. Pornography influences behavior.
4. Internet child pornography has grown exponentially. Good policies and practice in

developed countries have reduced contact sexual abuse there, but abusers have turned to easier targets in poorer countries and internet child pornography.

We must never forget that behind each statistic is a child—wounded and potentially damaged for life and yet so precious to God. What can we do, faced with trauma on this scale?

***We must ensure that  
we never allow spiritual abuse.***

We can work on both prevention and restorative work with these damaged children. Our practice should be based on three principles, in this order:

1. Protect our children as a God-given sacred trust to us.
2. Protect our workers from unwitting bad practice and false accusations.
3. Protect the organization as a spin-off benefit.

Too often organizations have protected themselves in the past by quietly “dealing” with abuse to avoid a scandal. Such efforts have been inadequate, and more children have been abused as re-offense rates are very high.

The key elements of policy and practice are:

- Ensure that we never let the wrong people join us. Predators have targeted Christian agencies for easy access to children, therefore we need to implement all necessary screening measures to prevent that.
- Ensure that our child protection policies are correctly worded, but more importantly that all workers, including national coworkers and short-term volunteers, understand and practice them. A good policy includes:

1. Clear definitions of all forms of abuse covering obvious areas such as sexual contact, inadequate nutrition and physical assaults, but also including bullying from all sources, showing children sexual images and excessive physical punishment.

2. A statement of good practice that includes expected education for children; ongoing training for staff in how to recognize signs of abuse and how to avoid causing problems; staff-to-child and child-to-child behavior based on principles of accountability, visibility and honoring children’s boundaries—this means good touch guidelines rather than no touch. Honoring boundaries includes communication via text, social network sites and other media.
3. Recruitment procedures.
4. Investigation procedures including clear guidelines for staff hearing a disclosure or reasonable suspicion of abuse.
5. Also include the names of who is responsible within the agency and who they are to report to—the police or other independent investigative body such as the Child Safety and Protection Network (CSPN). Consequences if the allegation is proven true, false or inconclusive need to be included.

- Ensure that we never allow spiritual abuse with its high control as this is destructive in itself but also opens the door to other forms of abuse.
- We need many more people trained in restorative counseling and therapies.
- Cooperation through interagency groups such as the CSPN and Global Connections.
- Learning from other children’s welfare sources.

**C**hild protection is a crucial facet of what we do and who we are as God’s children. Our work with children is so rewarding yet brings a huge sense of responsibility. Ensuring their safety as we teach them God’s way of salvation is a fundamental necessity, not a chore or an additional luxury.

*In 2011 Steve Bryant was formally appointed as one of WEC’s International Child Protection Officers after many years of teaching and advising on the subject. He is the International MK Consultant to WEC International. Along with his wife, Gill, he taught at Bourofaye Christian School in Senegal from 1990 to 2001, and was headmaster/principal after 1993.*

*Steve and Gill currently live in the UK and have three adult sons.*

# Signs That Say Beware!

## Keeping Children Safe

—Kim Hoover



All of us who have a heart for children certainly want children to be safe. Sometimes our love for children makes it difficult to even imagine that there are people who intentionally work their way into positions of trust and responsibility in a community and seek out vulnerable children to sexually molest.

Perpetrators use different tactics to ensure their victims will not tell anyone what has happened. They also work to ensure that they will not be under suspicion by adults in the community. They work in positions where they are trusted to be with children. There is nothing about their appearance, behavior in the community, or lifestyle that would suggest any cause for concern. They are careful to be well-integrated into the community so that, if any suspicion does arise, it would be discounted as impossible.



In order to keep children safe, we must be aware of signs that an adult is not respecting appropriate adult-child boundaries, and we must be willing to call attention to any boundary violations. In most cases, the individual does not mean harm to a child, will understand the reason for concern, and adjust his or her behavior accordingly. If, however, there is other intent, then the individual knows his or her behavior with children is being monitored and would be much less likely to continue.

Specific examples of boundary violations include:

1. Adults always seeking to be alone with children (being with a child behind closed door, removing

a child from a group and going out of sight or hearing range of others, providing individual transportation for a child without parental knowledge and permission, looking for ways to be alone with a child and resisting being supervised or monitored)

2. Adults seeking physical contact with children that is more than very brief, public, and has no possibility of intimate contact (placing a child on lap, wrestling, tickling, rubbing neck/shoulders/back, initiating hugs, lying down with child)
3. Adults giving gifts or special favors to certain children or giving permission for children to do things that parents have forbidden
4. Adults photographing or videotaping children without obtaining specific parental consent, or adults having frequent contact with children through texting or social networks
5. Adults who think rules do not apply to them

*The key is to minimize the risk of any harm coming to the children.*

Talking about boundary violations with an individual or through a supervisor does NOT mean you are accusing anyone of sexual abuse, that authorities are being called, or that a truly trustworthy person's reputation is being ruined. It DOES mean that the setting you are in cares enough about children to monitor interactions with adults and minimize risk of any harm coming to them.

In addition to having increased awareness of adults' behavior toward children, we also need to



monitor children's behavior so that we can intervene appropriately if a child is being mistreated or abused in any way. If a child tells you about abuse, or if you see physical marks or injury, then action needs to be taken by following your setting's protocol and also following the law regarding reporting suspicions of abuse. There are also less obvious signs which should raise our level of concern. Children have a limited array of responses to any trauma or significant stress.

These responses do not tell you exactly what the child is experiencing, but they do indicate the child needs some support and show of interest and concern.

Any trauma or significant stress often results in a CHANGE in a child's behavior. Therefore, we should be alert for the following signs:

1. New appearance of more withdrawn, anxious, fearful or clingy behavior
2. New appearance of more aggressive, defiant, destructive behaviors or new tantrums or emotional outbursts
3. Talk of self-harm or display of self-destructive behavior
4. Regression in behavior (appearance of behaviors that would be typical in a younger child) such as wetting or soiling, thumb-sucking, using baby talk

If you see these signs, you may want to share your observations with a colleague or supervisor. Be sure to choose someone who might already know more about the child's situation, with the parent who may be seeing similar changes at home, and with the child who may share more information that would clarify further steps to be taken.

**D**r. Kim Hoover is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with over 20 years experience working with children and families. She maintains a private practice and also serves as Medical Director of Youth Opportunities, a non-profit agency providing mental health services for families with financial needs. As a volunteer with CCTI, she serves as a contributing author and a trainer. Dr. Hoover most recently helped conduct training seminars in the Philippines with CCTI.



## **Resources: Child Protection Policy**

### **UNICEF**

**A practical child protection resource for grass routes organizations**

[http://www.ecpat.net/ei/Publications/Care\\_Protection/CSO\\_SelfStudy\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/ei/Publications/Care_Protection/CSO_SelfStudy_eng.pdf)

### **Safe Kids:**

**Policies and Procedures for Protecting  
Children in the Church**

**—Blake Caldwell ISBN-13: 978-0834120853**

Safe Kids is a manual designed to help churches structure the safest possible environment for their children's ministry. This manual provides: Forms and procedures to screen volunteers and more.

### **VIVA Network**

**Viva Network's Child Protection Principles**

**Those who seek to serve 'children at risk' share a  
common commitment to protect children.**

Viva Network works in many countries and in a wide variety of different circumstances. Amongst so many different cultures, contexts and legal systems, it is difficult to find a universal understanding of 'child abuse' and 'child protection'. This publication attempts to outline principles of protection that cross culture.

<http://www.pcmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/viva-network-child-protection-guidelines.pdf>

### **Child Safety and Protection Network**

The Child Safety & Protection Network is a collaborative network of mission agencies, faith based NGOs and international Christian schools intentionally and strategically addressing the issues of child protection.

<http://childsafetyprotectionnetwork.org/>

# Out of the Mouth of Babes

Dedicated to children who hear their Father's voice.

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So are the children of one's youth.  
Psalm 127:3,4*

*From the lips of children and infants  
you have ordained praise because of your  
enemies, to silence the foe  
and the avenger.  
Psalm 8:2*

## *I Think I Learned Why God Put Me on This Earth!*

By Caleb Wilson, Age Seven  
12-13-1212

God probably put me on this earth because He needed someone who had a heart to give lots of money to lots of charities and someone who reads the Bible and is eager to learn about God a lot and someone with a mind set on Jesus surely can help God a lot. How I know is because once I decided that I wanted to be baptized, so I went up in the pool at my church with the pastor and he asked me if I knew what it meant to be baptized. I said I knew what it meant. It is a symbol. When you go under the water, it is like you are putting to death your old life and living a new one when you come up out of the water.

My family and I didn't realize that my friend Libby, who was there to watch me, didn't know Jesus. She went home afterwards and asked her parents about what I had done, and then she decided to believe too! I was sooo happy, and before I knew it she got baptized herself, and I was sooo excited for her! So that's the story. God bless you! The End.



*P.S. You never know what you are going to get used for by God!*

*Caleb Wilson celebrated his seventh birthday on January 24, 2013, and has a huge heart for the Lord. He is in the 2nd grade and is homeschooled in Holly Springs, North Carolina. He loves to read, practice Tae Kwon Do and spend time with friends and family. Caleb was a wonderful witness to many while he served with his parents in Mexico City for a year.*

**C**hildren are the Heritage of the LORD! Through them God is building His kingdom on Earth. It is the responsibility of the church to nurture them as they grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord. (Deuteronomy 6:4,7). Even as they are growing, children have been given a ministry; arrows in the hand of a warrior and praise which stills the enemy and the avenger! Recognizing that as children come to know the Lord they do not receive a baby Holy Spirit, we dedicate this section of Barnabas to the children who hear their Father's voice!

# What's *new!*

**NEW BOOK!**



**Book review**  
**By: Tami Snowden**  
**Training Coordinator, CCTI**

***Let All the Children Come:***  
***A Handbook for Holistic Ministry***  
***to Children with Disabilities,***  
[www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)

edited by Phyllis Kilbourn, Ph.D.  
 15 additional contributors.  
 CLC Publications, 2013

**L**et *All the Children Come* is a must-read for teachers, church leaders, friends, or parents of children with disabilities. Having worked in a developing country with children experiencing disabilities, adopting my own child with disabilities, and having many friends whose children have disabilities, I know how these children are hidden away. Jesus says, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Children with disabilities are hindered, and God intends for them to live to their fullest potential. I was overjoyed to learn of this much-needed book.

Dr. Kilbourn explores the definition of disability, how it is perceived, and the consequences of living with disability. "We must eliminate barriers that exclude children with disabilities," she says, "and eliminate the exploitation and various violations of a child's rights that often force children with disabilities to the margins of society. Because such barriers can hinder children from developing their God-given gifts and potential, the church must join in advocacy and action for the elimination of these barriers, empowering children with disabilities to participate in all aspects of family, church, and community life."

The book includes material addressing developmental needs of children with disabilities, intervention strategies, ideas for project development and advocacy, and caregiver issues.

**New Book Discount!**

**\$11.99**

or 3 for \$30

**Retail Price - ~~\$14.99~~**

**Order At:**

[www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)

## CCTI Training Events

***Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis***

**Module One: Trauma and Crisis**

**Care**— provides an understanding of trauma and its impact on children. It also covers foundational issues and principles needed to plan and implement interventions.

### Venues for Module One

**July 8-12, 2013**

**Columbia International University**  
**Columbia, SC, USA**

(This class is offered as a graduate or undergraduate for-credit course or audit)

**July 31-August 3, 2013**

**WEC Usa Headquarters,**  
**Fort Washington, PA, USA**  
 (Attendance is Limited)

**October 2013**

**Evangelical Theological College**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### NEW TRAINING SEMINAR

**August 5 - 9, 2013, 2013**

**WEC Usa Headquarters,**  
**Fort Washington, PA, USA**

***Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis***

**Module Five: Train the Trainer**— prepares trainers with the necessary skills to effectively train children-in-crisis workers.

(Attendance is Limited)

**For Information and Registration:**

[www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)



# Caregiver's Time-out

—Howard McConnell



***“His Power  
is Made Perfect  
In Weakness”  
2 Corinthians 12:9***

God has given each of us who believe in Jesus various abilities. Sometimes He may choose to use us in a way in which we feel the weakest. I am a very quiet person and find it difficult to hold a conversation on a one-to-one basis. I have no difficulty sharing my faith with a group of people—whether it be five or 500; however, when I am face to face with one person, the words are not there. I have memorized all kinds of verses, and I have taken classes on how to witness. All a person has to do is respond in an unexpected way, and my mind goes blank.

Several years ago my wife and I went with our two children and their spouses to Israel. I was the “tour guide.” I had spent much time preparing by studying the cultural background during Bible times for various events and places we planned to visit. For example, at the Garden Tomb I shared with them the symbolic meaning of the various aspects of the Last Supper while we had Communion together—a meaningful and enlightening way of celebrating that moment in Jesus’s life.

A few months later, as my wife and I were preparing to visit family in Colorado, God impressed on me that I should share my story about Communion with my wife’s aunt. Her aunt was 95 at the time and had never been to church and knew little about the Bible. My wife was certain her aunt would never listen to me; she had never previously been interested in religious matters.

We had no difficulty in finding a time to

visit her as it was something we did every time we went to Colorado. After we arrived, my wife proceeded as usual in visiting with her aunt. In the meantime I quietly sat across the room from them, trying to figure out how I was going to begin a conversation with her since I rarely said anything to her other than a greeting.

Eventually my wife finished with what she had to say and announced it was time to go. Unexpectedly, these words came out of my mouth: “When our family went to Israel, I shared some thoughts with them about Communion; may I share them with you?” Her response was positive.

Because her aunt was hard of hearing—even with the help of a hearing aid—my wife and I switched places to make it easier for her aunt to hear me. Before I could get started, she announced she had to go to the bathroom. After she left the room, my wife said, “She will never come back out; this is not going to work.” What an encourager!

She did come back, and I was able to start my story. When I got to the point of telling about the juice, I told her she could drink it only if she had accepted Jesus as her Savior. She said she had never done that. I asked if she would like to, and she responded with a definite “YES.”

I felt she needed more background before she actually responded to my request, so I told her about creation, how sin entered the world, and how God had planned for the sacrificing of His Son to pay for the sins of mankind. After explaining all this, she still was emphatic—actually, impatient—about inviting Jesus into her life, so we prayed together. Then we drank the juice, and I finished telling my story.

This experience with my wife’s aunt was amazing. It did not help my inability to hold a conversation, but it did encourage me to be more careful to allow God to work through me; He can achieve things I have never dreamt possible.

However, there is more to the story. God had also impressed on me to do the same thing with my wife’s father who was a few years younger than his sister. This did not make sense to me, because her father had told me many years previous to this that he had made the decision to accept Jesus when he was a teenager.

One day after finishing the evening meal, I got his permission to have Communion with him. When we got to the point of eating the bread, he said, “I don’t eat between meals.”

Now what was I to say; he was not supposed to respond like that! After a long moment of silence, I told him his sister had done this just a couple of days before. That was good enough for him; if she could it, so could he. I proceeded as I had with his sister—including asking about his relationship with Jesus. He was almost upset as he responded, as if to say, “Didn’t you believe me the first time I told you?”

I realized later why God had me do this. My wife had never heard directly from her father that he had been saved. My word was not enough; she had to hear it from him. And hear it, she did.

***Isn’t God wonderful  
in meeting all our needs?***

***Howard and Virginia McConnell have served as missionaries with WEC International for a total of 31 years; in the USA for 27 years, in New Zealand for four years and now as operations managers at CCTI.***



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