

## *Be Quick to Listen*

— *By Lindsey Parker*

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).

A few weeks ago I was telling my three-year-old son, Andrew, the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. When I explained that Jesus died for the things that we have done wrong, he was distraught. After I tried to reassure him and remind him that Jesus is now alive, he said to me, “But Mommy, Jesus makes my heart sad.” This was a rather strange thing for him to say. My initial reaction, which I managed to contain, was to be quick to speak and “correct” his feelings by saying, “No, Jesus can’t make your heart sad.” But I kept listening. Eventually, after he explained his feelings with his limited, three-year-old vocabulary, I realized that he was describing his conscience, which is “sad” when he does things that are wrong. What an important emotional and spiritual milestone, which I could have very easily missed!

This incident reminded me of the importance of truly listening to children and intentionally seeking understanding. Most children are talking all the time. They speak of everyday things, of imaginary things, of happy things and hurtful things. They talk to friends and family, they talk to toys, they talk to imaginary characters and they talk to themselves. Sometimes it is just fun babble, and other times what they say is a window into their hearts.

“For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Luke 6:45).

If we are willing to listen and to learn a child’s vocabulary of feelings, we will start to understand their pain, and this is a process that begins outside of the counseling context.

My husband and I were houseparents in a group home. We were asked to take two young girls for a short time while their home environment was assessed. It was evident right from the start that the older sister, Angie, was severely traumatized. She hardly made eye contact with anyone. She spoke to people if she had to but was generally withdrawn, and then had sudden and inappropriate outbursts at unexpected times. But she spoke to her toys. She spent many hours playing, speaking to and for her toys. So we listened and listened and observed her play when she allowed us. Over the few months that Angie ended up staying with us, she started to trust us, and in particular my husband, Richard.

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## IN FOCUS



*Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come. When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. ... You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness.*  
*Psalm 65:1,2,3,55 NIV*

— *By Rosemary Sabatino, Director*

This month Barnabas will address **Talking and Time**; the “T” portion of Dr. Kilbourn’s **STOP Model of Intervention** for children who have experienced trauma. Thinking over

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## Be Quick to Listen...continued

One day she had a physical outburst and hurt one of the babies in the home. Richard took her aside to talk to her. I sat in the next room taking notes, because we needed to report back to her social worker. As she completely opened up to Richard, I battled to contain my shock at the detail in which she explained how she planned to hurt one of the babies in the home. But Richard remained calm, and led by the Spirit he asked appropriate questions. Angie felt safe enough to share the darkest places in her heart. She told him enough for us to know that she needed professional help and that she was a danger to the other children in the home. It had taken time for her to get to that point—time when we had listened, listened to everything, even when much of what she said did not make sense. We could now help her, because she felt heard and valued.

A few days later, in the office of a child psychiatrist, Angie was a different child. She would hardly say anything to him. This further emphasized to me the importance of spending time with her, building relationship as the platform for talk. She trusted us enough to open up the broken places inside of her, but this doctor was a complete stranger to her.

Angie's journey to healing is long, and still ongoing, but we were able to get her the help that she needed at the right time because we were quick to listen. At the point of crisis, when she became violent, Richard was slow to speak and slow to become angry. He listened and did not add to her feelings of guilt or shame by his responses to her. By the Spirit he was able to reflect the heart of Jesus to her and affirm her significance and value. By giving of our time and seeking to understand her heart, we were used as instruments of healing in her life. ■

### About the Author

*Lindsey lives with her husband, Richard, and their two young boys in Johannesburg, South Africa. Together they serve with Worldwide Evangelization for Christ (WEC). Much of their time with WEC has been spent training locals who work with vulnerable children in the townships surrounding Johannesburg in storytelling and crisis care. Lindsey trained preschool teachers and developed a Bible based preschool curriculum, aimed at equipping poorly educated teachers. She also equipped and trained local ladies to train other teachers. Currently Richard and Lindsey are a part of the WEC SA leadership team, and Lindsey is enjoying being home with Andrew and Jonathan.*



## IN FOCUS

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the subject, it occurred to me that **STOP** is really *modeled* after the way our Heavenly Father treats His children. Immediately Psalm 65 came to mind. “Yes,” I whispered, “prayer is really *Talking and Time with Jesus!*” Like the children intervention is needed. The Hebrew word translated *awaits* in verse one carries the connotation of being dormant; like a thirsty seed in the ground awaiting the rain. While Zion means a conspicuously arid place in desperate need of water. Like the children, this is the very condition of our thirsty hearts, overwhelmed by sin, and awaiting the cleansing touch of love and forgiveness **only** Jesus can give. We need only ask.

The word translated in verse two as **hear** is *shama* which means to **listen carefully** with attention, concern, understanding and ready to act. His response? *He answers with awesome deeds of righteousness.* This means we are astonished by the wonderfully right and loving response that exactly meets our need. This is not a one-time thing. It is an ongoing relationship. **He hears and wondrously answers!**

The result? Praise breaks forth! For praise is the spontaneous result of a heart touched by the living God! Hallelujah! What a Savior! ■

## Time and Talk = Trust

— By Esther Buff

“I don’t have time.” If it is not love and compassion that motivates me to minister to children, I will never have time. Jesus never sent anybody away who came to Him. Jesus had time, because it was His purpose to minister to hurting people.

Spending time together is part of the healing process. You might be the only one giving that child in your children’s club an ear. To know if we really have a heart for the brokenhearted children, check on how much time you spend with them.

Children are starving for attention. How much time do you spend with the children? It is our responsibility to create a safe platform where they feel invited to talk to us. Children can sense if you are in a hurry and have another appointment. But if you make yourself available, you will win their hearts and build trust. Some children trust faster; others take a long time to “germinate.” Each child has his own timetable. Sometimes we are tempted to talk too early when they are not ready to talk about their pain. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

There was a sexually abused girl in our camp. It took more than a year till she was ready to see me for counseling. She finally came, opened up and got healed! Praise God.

We have to understand that inner healing is also a spiritual battle. The devil hates it and will put any stumbling block in the way so that the child or you will not make time. Don’t give up, and pray for all your appointments.

Another boy opened up very quickly in a camp. I love camps. I think that’s the right atmosphere to spend fruitful time together. There you can sense much better what the children go through. But it is also heartbreaking to listen to what they carry around in their young age. The hurts over years build up a huge wall of lies. A small matter that is not attended to can lead a child to think of suicide.

One of the boys came to see me after teaching that they are fearfully and wonderfully made. Sadly, children get bullied, humiliated and teased. That boy told me about his “small head.” Soon he realized that his brain is great because it is made in the image of God. He discovered his creativity, knowledge and skills. After realizing the lies he believed, he tore those lies, written on paper, into pieces and threw them away, telling the devil, “I am done with your lies! I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” It’s so beautiful to see when someone tortured with lies can embrace the truth and enjoy freedom in Christ.

So little time can change someone’s life for eternity. Today he has finished school, is a volunteer in our ministry and helps children after school with homework.

Be encouraged; you can be a life changer, a destiny changer, to the glory of God. Just spend time. ■

### About the Author

*Esther Buff, originally from Switzerland, is a missionary with WEC International. She is also the co-director of Lighthouse Children’s Ministry, South Africa, where she has served for almost 30 years, mainly among the Setswana-speaking children. Her focus has been on bringing healing and restoration to the hurting hearts of traumatized children. Today, she has the joy of seeing many of the children she has ministered to, now as adults, reaching out to children suffering because of traumatic experiences.*





## OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES



*Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants.  
You have ordained strength, because of your  
enemies, that you may silence the  
enemy and the avenger.  
Psalm 8:2 NKJV*

*Dedicated to children who hear their Father's voice*

### *God Hears Our Prayers!*

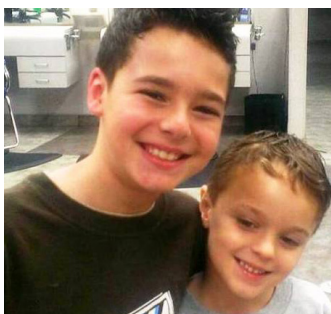
*—By Ricky Sabatino (in his own words)*

Last year me and my brother Eli I went to the food store with my dad. My dad went to the rest room and Eli and I waited for him near the checkout. We saw something really bad. An older lady that was at the check-out fell down and hit her head on the floor. She was laying on the floor and there was a big pool of blood around her head. She was unconscious too. I said “call 911!” Then I looked for my dad. He was in the aisle behind us and a lot of people were around the lady. My brother and me went to be near our dad and told him what happened and then I said “we should pray.” So then me and my dad and my brother prayed right there in the store for the lady. The next day we went back to the same store and the lady at the counter who had seen us pray said the lady who hit her head was just in the store and she was doing fine!

My Nana asked me what I wanted people to know about this story. I said “I want them to know that we should always pray. If something bad happens, or if you're in trouble or if you're feeling lonely, you should pray. When you are in trouble or feeling bad or lonely when you pray you can have confidence. Because you can know that God hears our prayers and he answers our prayers. ■

#### *About the Author*

*Ricky Sabatino is 12 years old. He, and his eight year old brother Eli, live in Casselberry, Florida with their Dad, Joe and their Mom, Tina.*



### *Children in prayer!*

The Lord is using children all over the globe in a powerful prayer ministry. We must remember that the LORD has ordained this ministry for children (Pslam 8:2) and when they receive Jesus as their Savoir they are not given a baby Holy Spirit! It is up to us to teach and encourage the children to take their rightful place in the Body of Christ.

The following resources can provide more information on fostering children in prayer. ■

•**Kids Pray!** By: Jane Mackie  
[www.firwirks-publications.com](http://www.firwirks-publications.com)

•**Let the Children Pray: How Young Intercessors are Changing the World** By: Esther Ilnsiky

•**Esther Network International**  
<http://esthernet.net/people-of-eni/>

•**Children in Prayer Video**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hv5VlXbpb-c>

•**Irma Chon and the International Prayer Connect** <http://www.ip-cprayer.org/resources/199>

## *From the Mouth of Babes*

(An Excerpt from Barnabas 5.1, 2008)

—By Rosemary Sabatino, Director

It was Saturday night in Senegal and, as a usual occurrence, the electricity went out. I scrambled in the dark for the basket with the appropriate lighting material. Before I could strike the first match the boys spontaneously began to sing praises to the Lord, accompanying themselves with the tom-tom drum, marimba, and anything else they could beat their little hands on. As the soft glow of the first-lit candle filled the threadbare room, my eyes riveted on the young boys seated in front of me. Their worship was beautiful and full of passion and continued for more than thirty minutes. It was hard to believe that their little hearts bore the scars of abandonment and abuse.

At the *House of Hope* in Dakar Senegal, I had the privilege of caring for, and sharing life with, 14 rescued street boys for three summers and, at this point, an additional two month stretch. On the streets, they lived in deplorable conditions where disease, malnutrition, abuse, exploitation and even death were common occurrences. Although they are being transformed daily from children in crisis to children in Christ, the emotional effects of their former lives are never far from them.

It took a long time of just “being together” for the boys to trust me enough to share some of their stories. The following is an excerpt from interviews held with each boy, during which the focus was justice and

injustice. As your heart is touched by their responses you may find, as I have, that God does indeed speak “*out of the mouth of babes.*”

### **R.S. What do you think justice is?**

**Responses:** • Doing what God says we should do. • Jesus showed us what justice is— to think about others and not be selfish. • To treat people the way God wants us to; treat people right and treat them all the same.

### **R.S. How do you think God wants us to treat others?**

**Responses:** • He wants us to help people in need, for example, to help the boys in the streets find their parents. If you can’t find the parents, then help him find a solution and help him have a future. • He wants us to treat others like Jesus treats us. • To give equally to others; do not keep more for yourself and not help others.

### **R.S. What do you think injustice is?**

**Responses:** • Injustice is when two children are treated differently; the one not treated the same feels bad and will become selfish. • Injustice is treating people badly and they become hurt in their hearts and want to do bad things to other people. • Many people here in Senegal know and see and even say there is injustice to children, but they do nothing about it— this is the biggest injustice. • When you are on the street, injustice controls your life because you are helpless. • If those who do bad things go unpunished.

### **R.S. Do you think more people do good things or bad things to others?**

**Responses:** • Overwhelmingly they all said that many more people do bad things to others, only a few do good things. One boy said that he only met two people who were kind to him on the streets.

### **R.S. What kind of bad things happen to children who live on the streets?**

**Responses:** • Adults give the children drugs and force them to do bad things. Some force them to perform sexual acts, others force them to steal or to hurt other people. Those who force the boys are happy to do bad things, but this makes the boys very unhappy. • On the street the bigger boys beat the little ones and steal money and food from them so most of the time you don’t have anything to eat. • You can’t sleep because you are afraid that bad people will come to do the bad things to you. When you do find a place to sleep, some adults will throw cold water on you so you will go away.

### **R.S. What are some personal experiences of injustice you have had or seen?**

**Responses:** • I.K. My mother did not want me, and my father went away and left me to my aunt. He left her money to send me to school and feed me, but she kept the money and did not give me food. So then I stole her money

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## From the Mouth of Babes...continued

to get food and she beat me. Then I ran away. • P.B. My mother gave me away. When she came to see me, she saw that the people were beating me and the other boys. She said she would come back for me; I waited but she never came. • A.U. My Dad died and my uncle took me. I got sick and after that I couldn't hear out of one ear, so my uncle did not want me anymore; so I ran away to the street. One night a man came and gave money to a little boy so he could have sex with him, and in the morning the boy was dead—he was so tiny. After that I could not sleep. Now I am so thankful when I wake up in my bed at the House of Hope and I am safe. • B.C. Sometimes it seems the parents want the children to suffer. They know people are mistreating [the children] but they don't do anything about it. • I.B. My father would beat me all the time. When I was 9 years old, I began to eat my clothes, and he beat me so badly my clothes were all torn and I was bleeding. So I ran away and took the train to Dakar. I got to a beach and tried to sleep, but a man with a big knife tried to get me so I ran. I could not sleep after that, even though I was so tired. I met the missionary and he took me to the House of Hope. He gave me new clothes and wanted to give me food, but I said no and went away and ate my clothes again. Later I went back to the House of Hope and I accepted Jesus. The missionaries taught me how to take care of my clothes and how to be responsible. I never ate my clothes again.

### ***R.S. What would you do differently if you had a son?***

**Responses:** • I would take care of him and have compassion, like Jesus is taking care of me and having compassion on me now. I would teach him to obey, to tell the truth and to believe in God. • I would help him, take him to school and help him have a future. Being a father means you must know how to help your children, and you must want to help them.

### **R.S. How can people in the Church help the children?**

**Responses:** • They need to pray and ask God how they can help and when He tells them what to do they must do it. If they do a little, God will give them bigger things to do. God wants the children to be fed, to be clothed and to be treated like they have parents. • You must become a friend to the children. • You need to have patience if you want to help the children because they have many bad things in their heads and it takes time to get rid of them. Also, wait before you explain the Bible. Be their friend and they will trust you.

The boys had a final word to give to all those working with children: Thank you for what you are doing—you are not just thinking of yourself, but you are thinking of others and how you can help them. You are not only thinking about what you should do but you are doing what God has put in your heart. You are following the will of God. Thank You! ■



### ***House of Hope, Senegal***

*Casibo and Rosimara Dorcellus,  
Missionaries of the  
House of Hope, Senegal*

### ***You can contact***

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## *Awaiting Our Lord's Promises*

—By Amy Wilson, Editor

As we consider the concept of Talking and Time, we understand the importance of waiting until children are ready to open up and communicate their hurts. We understand that it takes time and often is not a quick process. We have the head knowledge that healing takes time and are often willing to work with children as they begin the long-awaited task of communicating their hurts. However, when it comes to our personal lives, are we as patient?

There are times in our lives when we say, “Lord, you know the need we have, and we trust you to work it out in your timing.” However, a day, week or month may go by and we say, “Hi Lord, it’s me again. Did you happen to forget the request I brought to you? It’s still there and becoming more pressing.” Then, when God answers our request, we chide ourselves, saying, “Oh, I am so impatient! I know that God’s timing is perfect, yet there I go again, not trusting Him!”

What about the times when God answers our prayers with a “No”? We express disappointment but again say, “Yes, I wanted that, but God’s plan is best, so I’ll just wait to see how He works it out.” Are we willing to wait a lifetime on earth for God’s answer to our prayers? There are many of us who were either born with a disability or who develop an illness that has no cure, and we have to come to the realization that it is with us until our life here on earth comes to an end. For Christians, we wait with the knowledge that our Lord will bring perfect healing to our bodies once He calls us home. Some may wonder why they have to endure their illness here on earth, but I think it is God’s way of giving us a different way of serving Him!

What if we use these lifelong illnesses to share with those who also have a lifelong illness or disease that has developed, due to their trauma, to not only bring sympathy to their lives but empathy as well? “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Romans 8:17). What a powerful testimony you have to share with those in pain of how you also endure pain but have a peace and hope for the life you have been promised as a child of God! “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4 ESV).

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ■

### *About the Author*

*Amy Wilson has been a CCTI Staff Member since October of 2012. Most recently, she has led training for students at Meredith College in Raleigh, NC in Module 1 and Module 5. She will help lead these students in Belize May 17-25 as the students train local orphanage workers, social workers, and other caregivers.*

*Amy is the proud mother of two boys, Caleb (age 9) and Jadon (age 4) whom she home schools, while her husband Ed diligently works to complete his Physician Assistant degree from Campbell University this year.*



Making it easier to  
bring healing and  
hope to children  
in crisis

Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis

NEWS  
EVENTS  
RESOURCES

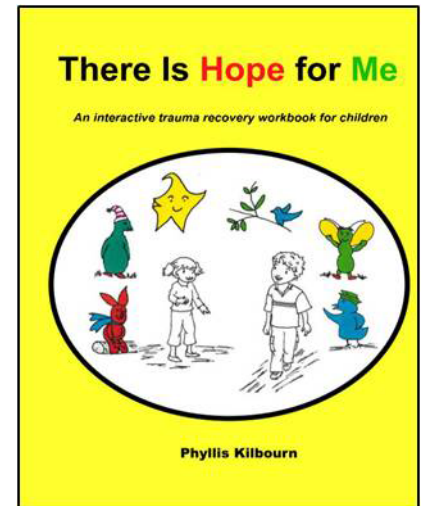
Thank You Lord for ***There Is Hope for Me!!!***

We are receiving feedback from those who are using ***“There Is Hope for Me,”*** the **trauma recovery workbook for children** written by Dr. Phyllis Kilbourn. It is being used by practitioners, caregivers and parents!

*Thanks a lot for that great material. Be sure at lighthouse it will become a main manual. I trust all our co-workers will get them and use it in their clubs.* Esther Buff, Lighthouse ministries

*Just to say thank you for the workbook. I had to use it for our own grandchildren. It was a real blessing to help them talk and process, as they were having a tough time.* A WEC International Missionary

***There Is Hope for Me*** and ***The Facilitator’s Guide*** are **free to download** at our website! [www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)



***For Information On:***

• **CCTI Curriculum—**

**Offering Healing and Hope  
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**Go To : [www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)**



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