

# Praying for Children of War

## *CCTI Prayer Initiative for Children in Crisis*

### **Who Are They?**

War destroys structures that provide the framework for children's healthy development. Such experiences lead to tremendous loss such as: significant attachments, love, security, trust, self-respect, innocence, and moral and spiritual development.

(Phyllis Kilbourn, *Healing the Children of War*, Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications, 1995, p.8)

### **Their Challenges:**

#### **Loss of Family and Home**

The most significant loss is that of family and home. Home provides love, security, trust, belonging, acceptance and care.

#### **Loss of Friends**

Loss of friends represents a major loss to children- friends they have grown up with and shared the childhood joys. This loss is multiplied when a child witnesses a friend's death.

#### **Loss of Childhood**

War leaves few choices for children. If they survive, they are often forced to grow up overnight, abandoning their childhood as they face adult responsibilities and the harsh realities of life.

#### **Loss of Safety**

Loss of safety leaves the children vulnerable to horrifying experiences such as torture, sexual and physical abuse, abduction into slavery, prostitution, or recruitment into the armed forces. Many children of war lose their physical health due to lack of nutrition and poor living conditions. Many are left with physical disabilities i.e. loss of limbs, etc.

#### **Loss of Identity, Status, Self-worth, Security, and Trust**

Many children of war are often left orphaned or lose status in the eyes of the community because they were forced to take part in horrible acts of violence.



**“It is estimated that some 300,000 children-boys and girls under the age of 18- are today involved in more than 30 conflicts worldwide.”**  
**Source: UNICEF**

## How to Pray:

### A Safe Place

Pray that child soldiers will find a safe place where they can be protected, nurtured, and loved.  
*“When I’m in trouble, He will keep me safe in His house. He will hide me in the safety of his holy tent. He will put me on a rock that is very high.”* (Psalm 27:5 NIRV)

### Justice

Pray that child soldiers will be treated with dignity and justice.  
*“The word got around- everyone in Israel heard of the king’s judgment. They were all in awe of the king, realizing that it was God’s wisdom that enabled him to judge truly.”*  
(1 Kings 3:28 MSG)

### A Savior

Pray that child soldiers will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior and refuge and find hope in Jesus.  
*“Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put hope in you all day long.”* (Psalm 25:5 NIRV)

### Restoration

Pray that God will restore them from all their losses.  
*“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*  
(1 Peter 5:10 NIV)

### Trust

Pray that God will restore their trust.  
*“But I trust in your faithful love. My heart is filled with joy because you will save me.”*  
(Psalm 13:5 NIRV)



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