

Praying for Children with Disabilities

CCTI Prayer Initiative for Children in Crisis

Who Are They?

Children with disabilities includes mental and physical disabilities. Some children are born with disabilities, others receive them later in life due to trauma or illness. They are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups in society.

Their Challenges:

Medical Care

80% of all people with disabilities live in developing countries; places where there is a shortage of doctors, clinics, and rehabilitation facilities.

Rejected and Abandoned

Often children with disabilities are left to be cared for by others, such as in orphanages, while many of them end up living on danger-filled city streets with no provisions for their essential, basic needs. Children with disabilities frequently experience social exclusion and prejudice.

Negative Cultural View

In some countries, more so in rural areas, there is an often-held belief that disabilities are caused by sin, voodoo/curses or incestuous relationships.

Lack of Family and Community Support

The presence of a child with a disability in an already poor family or community increases the demand on already limited resources. A child born with a disability or a child who becomes disabled may experience physical violence, sexual, emotional abuse in the home, community, institutional settings and/or in the workplace.

Educational Exclusion

Children with disabilities continually have to combat the barrier of educational exclusion. Physical as well as mental and social barriers prevent them from enjoying their right to education.



“Estimates suggest that there are at least 93 million children with disabilities in the world, but numbers could be much higher.”
Source: UNICEF

How to Pray:

Healing and Restoration

Children with disabilities must learn that their disability does not separate them from God's love and care. Pray that children with disabilities will receive the love of God that will lead them to have the right view of themselves and their gifts and abilities.

"I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them." (Hosea 11:4 NIV)

The Church and Others as Agents of Change

Pray that the church will be an agent of change of the view, rights and inclusion of children with disabilities within their own communities. Pray for programs to address proper nutrition and adequate medical care.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)

Support for Parents

The constant challenges, both medically and educationally, can easily deplete the resources of the most stable family. Pray that families will find the support needed in their community and local church.

"Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you." (Psalm 9:10 NIV)

Protection from Violence and Abuse

Pray for the physical protection of children with disabilities.

"This is what the LORD says: 'The people who survive the sword will find favor in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel.' The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'" (Jeremiah 31:2-3 NIV)



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