

# Praying for the Girl Child

## *CCTI Prayer Initiative for Children in Crisis*

### Who Is She?

The term “girl child” describes a female child up to the age of 18. Usually the term carries with it negative images of discrimination and abuse that are often prevalent in many developing countries. If they are allowed to be born, they stand the chance of death in infancy, either through murder, abuse, neglect or sickness. All of this takes place because they are female.

### Her Challenges:

#### Culture

Many cultures believe that the girl child is inferior to the boy child, making her more likely to be subject to being aborted, drowned or denied basic rights of childhood. Girls face and experience discrimination, sexual stereotypes, rejection, devaluation and violence, often at the hands of the people whom the girls love and trust the most.

#### Neglect and Abuse

Neglect is the greatest cause of sickness and death among girls ages 2 to 5 worldwide. Not only do girl children have less access to nutritious food and health care, but they often undergo female genital mutilation (FGM), forced to be a child bride, and teenage pregnancy, which give rise to serious health consequences.

#### Sexual Exploitation

Since their families are unable and/or unwilling to care for them, they are often forced into becoming soldier “wives”, temple “wives” or forced into prostitution and/or early marriages.

#### Education

Lack of education has a two-fold consequence for the health of the girl child: her mother does not know how to plan for adequate nutrition in the diet, and lack of sufficient knowledge prevents the girl child from obtaining a good job with an adequate salary to enable her to purchase nutritious food and raise her family.



**If the girl child survives to the age of 5, she faces a life of servitude, submission, childbearing, brokenness, exploitation, violence, sexual abuse and discrimination.**

## How to Pray:

### Protection and Restoration

For her protection and loving care. That she would experience restoration of emotional and physical losses, including adequate health care.

*“But let all who take refuge in you be glad, let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.” (Psalm 5:11 NIV)*

### Value and Love

That she would understand how much Jesus values and loves her and that God will free her from any guilt and self-condemnation. That she would feel that she belongs and is accepted within her family and community.

*“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:22 NIV)*

### Change in Cultural Values

That cultures will be transformed in their view of the girl child through the knowledge of God’s word, recognizing the girl child as being created in God’s image.

*“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

(Galatians 3:26-28 NIV)

### Stop the Exploitation

That sexual exploitation and girl trafficking will stop and organizations will look after the girl child’s rights.

*“He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.” (Psalm 18:16-19 NIV)*

**Female mutilation is performed on three million girls in over 30 countries, usually between the ages of four and eight.**



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