

Praying for Street Children

CCTI Prayer Initiative for Children in Crisis

Who Are They?

The meaning given to “street children” varies widely across countries and cultures. The term generally refers to children who live or spend a significant amount of time on the streets of urban areas to fend for themselves or their families; this also denotes children who are inadequately protected, supervised and cared for by responsible adults. The term “street children” embraces various groups:

- *Children of the street*: Most work on the streets because their families need money to survive. Many go to school and return home to their families at the end of the day.
- *Children on the street*: Work on the street, do not go to school and seldom go home to their families. Some have come to the city from deprived rural areas, others are runaways.
- *Children in the street*: Consider the street their home. Here they seek shelter and a sense of belonging among peers. These children are detached from their families.

Their Challenges:

Victims of Family Crisis

Faced with abuse, deprivation, neglect and sometimes brutality in their homes, these children view the streets as a better living alternative.

Victims of Sexual Exploitation

Each year more than one million children worldwide are reportedly forced into prostitution, trafficked and sold for sexual purposes or used in child pornography.

Victims of Violence

The children know the fear and brutality at the hands of others, fear of disease and disablement, fear of the police and fear of prison or being “put away”.

Addictions

In order to “escape” from their reality, many street children use drugs and alcohol to ease their emotional pain.



**There are 150
million street
children
worldwide**

How to Pray:

Stronger Families

Pray that parents will be able to have education and job opportunities to provide for their children's needs.

"Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor."
(Psalm 68:10 NIV)

Protection

Pray for protection against street gangs, sexual predators and street violence.

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."
(2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV)

Restoration of Trust, Self-worth and Dignity

To reach street children seems like an overwhelming and impossible task. Pray that street children will find a Christian community that will love and care for them.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."
(1 John 3:1 NIV)

Strategic Intervention

Pray for street workers to be filled with God's love and compassion. Pray for resources to be multiplied to rescue children from ending up in the streets.

"The poorest of the poor will find pasture, and the needy will lie down in safety."
(Isaiah 14:30 NIV)



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