

Courage:***The Path to Victory***

A new year signals a time of fresh beginnings. It is a time for us to reflect, evaluate, dream dreams and set goals and priorities that will guide us in fulfilling our personal and ministry aspirations for the year ahead. In fact, our CCTI staff is planning a January retreat to do just that. Together we will prayerfully set our priorities and goals to guide us into the fullness of God's calling for CCTI in the year ahead. We know our plans must be God-given, as they quickly will collide with the everyday realities that Satan will throw up to impede our moving ahead: lack of finances or time, inadequate staffing, feelings of personal inadequacy—the list could go on.

I know that you also will face harsh realities as you seek to move forward: hassles in getting necessary visas, sickness, family problems, war or terrorist activities engulfing your adopted homeland or corruption in government that stops children from receiving needed help. Oh, yes, an army of such realities will be sure to march smack into your well-laid plans, seeking to discourage you. How easy it would be to cry, "There's no way to move forward. Why even try?"

Joshua doubtless felt this way—more than once! Before Moses' death Joshua was designated to be his successor. As he sought to lead God's people into the Promised Land, he was confronted with many seemingly impossible obstacles. One example surely would be his style of leadership. In those days of transferred leadership, Joshua almost certainly started to compare himself to Moses. For forty years Moses had been a great mediator between God and his people, displaying wisdom, patience, tolerance and great strength. Perhaps Joshua feared that he might walk in Moses' shadow all his life. He could hear the whispers: "If Moses was here he would..."

When Joshua faced the tremendous task of conquering Canaan, he needed a new word of encouragement. As with us, to have some assurance of success in the battles to be fought surely helps! Always faithful, God stepped in and gave Joshua the perfect solution that would assure victory.

A New Year Message

from

Phyllis Kilbourn*Founder & Director of Crisis Care Training International*

God reminded Joshua that to successfully accomplish his God-given task, he needed to be a leader who displayed strength through courage. Webster's dictionary defines courage as "the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." I love the word "venture!" Venturing with moral strength opens seemingly closed doors and sets us free to take the needed risks, willing to become vulnerable. It also requires our stick-ability—the ability to persevere and stick with a task until it is accomplished.

Stick-ability in the tough times would have been impossible for Joshua had God just given him a command without an accompanying word of encouragement. As we read through the book of Joshua, we have vivid descriptions of the multiple trials Joshua confronted in getting the children of God into the Promised Land. These trials were heightened by his feelings of inadequacy and fear. Perhaps, like us at times, he considered resigning before the conquest even began. God, however, follows his command to take courage with the promise of help in obeying it. He assures Joshua, "For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." The Bible Knowledge Commentary states that this promise could be rendered, "I will not drop or abandon you."

God never walks out on His promises! Flowing from this strong affirmation that God would never let Joshua (or us) down, was God's threefold call to courage (Joshua 1: 6, 7, 9). First, Joshua was to be strong and courageous so he could fight the battles required to inherit the land God had promised. Then Joshua was commanded to be strong and very courageous, being careful to obey all the Law of Moses. This stronger exhortation indicated that greater strength of character would be required to obey God's Word faithfully and fully to win spiritual or military battles.

Finally, the call of courage was given as a command with promise.

Another sobering and challenging command with promise is given to us in the New Testament concerning God's calling to be people of courage: "Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. For... "my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved (Hebrews 10:35–39)."

Fear paralyzes but courage leads to action, action that reflects the fruit of our trust. Centuries ago Aristotle stated, "You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor." Let's determine to be men and women with godly courage in the year ahead, remembering God's promise to be with us always. Be venturesome, trusting, obedient, strong and courageous in following the callings of God's heart. Don't fail to "receive what He has promised" in your personal life or ministry.

In Focus: Street Children

- **200 million globally!**
- **Largest unreached people group**
- **Incredible opportunity for the Kingdom**

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Strategic Impact:

Multiplying our Effectiveness Among Children at Risk

—Greg W. Burch and Andy Sexton

Have you any idea how many children live or work on the streets of the cities of the world? Phyllis Kilbourn, Ph.D. estimates that there as many as 200 million children worldwide either sleeping, or making a living, on the streets. It is hard to accurately assess the numbers because of the mobility of these children and their families. However, no matter what the actual number is, we know it is huge and we know how vulnerable these children are to violence, disease and exploitation. How can we ever hope to assist this vast multitude of children? There is a way: we must be strategic! Although this article uses examples from work with street children, its principles are applicable for work with all children at risk.

Jesus was strategic

What does it mean to be strategic? Strategy can be defined simply as determining where we are presently, where we want to be, and how we will get there.

Is being strategic biblical? Shouldn't we just obey God's calling and follow the Holy Spirit's leading? Well, let's just look at two Biblical examples. First and foremost, Jesus was strategic. He chose just 12 men to invest most of his time in. At key decision points he took time to pray. He was careful not to be distracted from his ultimate purpose, strategically choosing when to go to different places. He knew the crowds would try to make Him the King in order to restore Israel's political sovereignty. However, He also knew that His Kingdom was different from what the people envisioned, and that He had to be strategic in order accomplish the Father's will. Another excellent example of strategic planning in the Bible is Nehemiah's successful rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. He took time to pray and to survey the situation in order to devise a plan. He also placed workers strategically along the walls to work and defend their position while carefully evaluating the project's success. There are many other biblical examples which make it clear that being strategic is clearly biblical and important in order to fulfill a God-given vision.

Who and what should be strategic? Individual projects can be strategic to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes for the children they work with. Projects can work together and form alliances with churches and government in a city-wide, national, or even sub-regional strategic approach. Globally, we can come together to strategically multiply impact with children at risk.

Practically what does being strategic look like?

It involves:

- Research and networking
- Participation of stakeholders (anyone who has a vested interest in the issues)
- Setting the vision and objectives
- Planning
- Gathering Resources
- Implementation
- Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to answer the question "Where are we presently?" research needs to be conducted. Raju made the mistake of not doing research when he established his street youth project. He saw a need, and met that need based on a series of assumptions. He did not find out why the youth were on the streets, why they were not at school, or who else was working with the street youth. In reality, he caused more harm than good. The local schools in which he enrolled the children were basically non-functional. He employed youth who could not go to the local school to assist him with outreach thereby breaking child labor laws. The youth were already enrolled in a skills training program with another project, but because they started to go to school, and were not attending training, they could not graduate and consequently they missed a whole year. If only Raju had done his homework. Research involves finding out all that can be known about the issues facing the children, and who is working with them already. This will ensure appropriate responses, and avoid duplication. Stakeholders, including the children and their families, should, where possible, be asked to define the issues, and also have input into the solutions. Importantly, this includes the children and their families. A vision for transformation, which includes a clear set of measurable objectives, will emerge from this process and will fill in the second blank—"where are we going?"

If you don't evaluate, you can never celebrate!

The next step is to develop a detailed plan for how to make this vision a reality (i.e., "how will we get there?"). The plan needs to include what to do, by whom, and by when. It also should indicate not only the people necessary to accomplish the task, but all the other resources needed as well. Once your plan is formulated, you then have the basis for creating a funding proposal to submit to possible donors, as well as a clear strategy for your team to follow. Caution: do not wait until you have a fancy purpose-built facility before you start. Instead, get working on the streets where the children are, and borrow a facility if you need one.

Andy addressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation in a previous Barnabas Letter. However, it is important to remember that: 1) monitoring is about making sure that the activities in your strategic plan are being done, and that they are within budget; and 2) evaluation is about making sure that those activities are having the desired impact, or put another way, that your vision and objectives are being met. This is an essential part of being strategic. If you don't evaluate, you can never celebrate!

On a wider scale, what does a city-wide strategic initiative look like? A city-wide strategy seeks to pull together interested parties in responding to the issues that children living and working on the streets (or other at-risk children) face within one particular city. In the words of Angela Murray, the approach seeks to pull together a "comprehensive network across the city." This strategy must involve several key components if we aim to be successful in mobilizing God's community to impact children in crises.

These components are:

1. A facilitating body
2. Kingdom mindedness
3. Commitment to quality care
4. Child/youth participation

An example of a city-wide initiative is the Encuentro Temprano de Cochabamba (Early Encounter Cochabamba or EEC) Project. EEC is a city-wide strategy being carried out in Cochabamba, Bolivia by 17 Christian child-care projects committed to impacting children at risk in the city. In addition to the 17 projects working directly with the children, 11 local churches are also involved in praying and supporting these projects. The first key component to the on-going success of EEC is the facilitating body. In the case of EEC, Viva-Together with Children of Bolivia is coordinating the strategy with help from Toybox Charities and the regional office for Viva in Costa Rica. But the complexity of the facilitating body does not need to be as sophisticated as the EEC. An important principle to keep in mind is the context in which the city-wide strategy is going to take place. In some contexts the facilitating body might just simply be a committee or group of people elected from within the representative organizations committed to the strategy. In other cases, as in EEC, this might be a fully supported, independent facilitating organization. We believe it is important to allow the cultural and organizational contexts to speak into this issue as you move forward.

A second component of the strategy should include Kingdom mindedness. God's reign and the extension of His Kingdom should be a common value held by those participating in the city-wide strategy. This inherently creates an exclusive community, but we should be mindful that exclusion does not imply isolation. We must find ways to work with organizations, including governmental, inter-governmental and secular bodies that are essential players in any given context. As a group of organizations dedicated to extending God's values in society and among children at risk, we must not isolate ourselves from other institutions that are essential in providing care for children in any given context. In the case of EEC, all of the 17 representative projects are Christian organizations committed to holistic ministry to children.

Child participation is a critical component

A third area that we must not forget is a commitment to quality care. This implies several concerned targets involving: (1) holistic development; (2) protection policies; (3) financial transparency; (4) child participation; and (5) member care. Quality control should take place gradually and progressively but must be a major emphasis within the strategy. These policies should focus on the care of children in both residential and non-residential programs, as well as personnel issues, volunteer placement, and our relationship with donors. Quality control can be positively developed through planned capacity building workshops and training sessions. These include inviting outside experts who specialize in the different themes. Projects can identify their own needs and bring attention to these needs through inter-governmental meetings conducted by the representative group or committee. Special focus should be given to the mission and vision statements of the organization as part of the quality control process. Ultimately, some of the questions we might hope to answer in our quality review are: What is it that we are doing? How are we doing it? Where are we presently? and, Where do we need to improve?

A fourth area of focus is on child participation. This is a critical component to the city-wide strategy. If we truly seek to establish a city-wide strategy, we must make sure that the very children and youth that we are seeking to reach are highly involved with the design and implementation of the project. One example is found in the EEC strategy. As a network of organizations committed to working with children at risk, they have developed a place where children are given a voice to speak into issues affecting the projects they belong to. In the case of EEC, a child ambassador program has been initiated. Child ambassadors are democratically elected from within each of the represented organizations. Two ambassadors are elected through a democratic vote by the very children that are being cared for. The ambassadors are elected to help represent and speak up for the children in the project. Monthly meetings are carried out by the ambassadors and are organized with the help of an adult facilitator who provides training and general orientation for the children. The ambassadors have represented their projects before governmental bodies, professional athletic departments, churches and NGOs. Children are an essential group within the city-wide strategy and should be given the space to participate.

Ultimately, the development of city-wide strategies will provide us with the opportunity to come together as a community that is committed to care for children in crises. The effectiveness of our city-wide outreach to children at risk will have its greatest impact when we come together and think strategically.

On a global scale, the 180 Degrees Alliance was formed in 2005 with the specific aim of multiplying impact with street children across the world. The strategy was to bring together people who had significant experience working with street children, former street children, and donor partners, to improve current work with street children globally. Some of the key outcomes so far have been: establishing a project accreditation tool; accrediting a number of projects who in turn have received capacity building funding; establishing two project support hubs (one in Brazil and one in the Philippines); setting up a user friendly website (www.180degreesalliance.org) with lots of downloadable resources; documenting existing strategic initiatives; and successfully advocating for an end to forced roundups of women and children living on the streets of Kampala, Uganda.

You also can be strategic. At the project level, step back, and carefully evaluate the work that is being done. Celebrate the team's successes, and take action together to improve areas of weakness. Ensure that you have a strategic plan by checking that it has all the elements we have listed above. Use it as a guiding document for day to day activity, not as a document stored in an untouched file on your hard drive. You can be strategic by working with others, in partnership, to affect a city, a nation, or a sub-region. You can be strategic by joining the 180 degrees Alliance or other similar alliances (for information on other alliances go to www.viva.org).

It is only as we strategically work together that we can make any real difference in the global situation facing children at risk today. Remember, be strategic and you will greatly multiply impact among children at risk!

*Greg W. Burch teaches at ESEPA seminary in San José, Costa Rica in missions and children at risk issues and is author of the book, **Community Children: A Ministry of Hope and Restoration to the Street Dwelling Child (2005)**.*

Andy Sexton is currently on study leave from his job as Oasis International Director – Children at Risk. He is studying for a Masters in Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Certificate in Business Management from University of Southern California. Prior to joining Oasis, he worked to prevent and facilitate positive change with children living on the streets in Australia and Zimbabwe from 1994 to 2003.

Creating Culture

—Heidi Fabian



The teenage boys gathered around their teacher, Sarita Ma'am. Their faces were serious, some were angry. They had called for this meeting. A few shared that they no longer wanted to come to the school. "You are too strict, you do not love us." They said. "If you did, you would not make us stop sniffing glue and you wouldn't give us so many rules."

Sara took a deep breath, along with a quick prayer, "Lord, help them to understand what true love is." Then with God's strength she began, "Love has two sides. One side is to comfort and take care of your needs, the other side is to give you rules and discipline in order to protect you and help you walk on the right path."

We have seen God come through with mighty power

The abundant love that only Christ can give welled up in her heart. She looked at each boy gathered around her: seven boys, ages 13-16, all from abusive homes, all living on the streets. Her eyes stopped on Yusuf. He was still angry about the time Sara made him leave the premises when she saw him smoking. She looked into his eyes, "Yusuf, I love you. I have disciplined you to protect you. I love you." His eyes of anger suddenly changed. The Holy Spirit softened his heart and, without warning, tears began to flow. Sobbing, he fell to his knees and touched her feet with his hands, "Please forgive me Sarita Ma'am, please forgive me." The flood gates opened wide and each boy asked for forgiveness with a mixture of tears and hugs. This was just one of many difficult moments in the growth of our two year old school in which we have seen God come through with mighty power.

When my team and I started, our dream was to give opportunity to children and teens that had none. We hoped to prevent them from trying to solve their life difficulties by moving onto the streets. Our greatest desire was, and still is, to see each one that comes into our program transformed in every way by the power of Christ.

On a full day (9:30-5:00) 60 children and teens from the surrounding slums come through our doors. As our school proved to meet the needs of these children, the news spread and now seven boys who live on the streets also come faithfully. We often turn children away because of the lack of space and workers. What we came to realize is that, in the process of creating a school, we actually created a new culture for these children to live by.

The Dictionary of Modern Sociology defines culture this way: "The total, generally organized, way of life, including values, norms, institutions, and artifacts, that are passed on from generation to generation by learning alone."

When a child or a teen voluntarily¹ chooses the street it is because they don't fit into their own culture. They have no identity, and they are lost and confused in their system of beliefs and values. Their culture doesn't work for them, and the values and behaviors conflict with one another. So, as they enter our school, they enter a new culture... a culture that does work.

A Kingdom Culture

The culture we strive for is a Kingdom Culture. Each culture is imperfect so we do not impose our own, but look to Jesus who taught us how to live the culture of heaven on earth. In our school, we spend one-half hour (or more) learning about Jesus, talking to Jesus, and singing to Jesus. We have found that if this time is not the center of our day, we forget and try to fight the spiritual battle on our own. It is only through Jesus that these children and teens will be transformed. We have seen God do miracles through the prayers of our children. We have seen relationships mended because they chose forgiveness and humility. We have seen hope rise up from devastation.

A Culture of Wholeness

Secondly, the culture we create must be holistic. Our desire, as a staff, was to create a program that would touch each area of the childhood need: emotional, intellectual, physical, spiritual, mental, and social. Our daily schedule reflects this desire.

Daily Schedule

9:30 - Welcome, wash hands, quiet activities (one on One time)	Stimulating brain, mental, social
10:00 - Drink chay (tea), converse	Respectful social interaction
10:15 - Bible stories, songs, prayer	Spiritual
10:45 - Sports, reading, break	Physical, intellectual
11:00 - English Conversation/Hindi (2 groups)	Intellectual
11:30 - English conversation/Hindi (switch groups))	Intellectual
12:00 - Wash hands, prayer, lunch	Physical health
12:30 - Go home or clinic time	Physical health

1 Although there are many reasons children live on the streets, here I am only using the example of our children.

A Culture of Love

Kingdom culture is a culture of love. This seems so obvious, but the most difficult. It has to be intentional, sacrificial, and flow from Jesus Christ otherwise, it is impossible. We show practical love the very minute they come to the door. Before they enter our school, they have to say in English, “Good morning Ma’am, may I come in please?” Then, “How are you, Ma’am?” This small English exercise is our excuse to give them a hand shake, or a hug before they even enter our school. Our actions and words say, “We love you,” “We’re so happy that you’re here today.” We also try to ascertain what has been going on in their lives so we can understand their emotions throughout the day.

Another way that we show love is to pay attention to each individual child so they know they are special and unique. This can be complicated. However, we have created certain times in our schedule where the quiet activities allow us to sit with each child and focus on them. The kid’s favorite one-on-one time is when we have Clinic Time. Those who have sores, infections, etc., can stay afterwards to have their teacher’s undivided attention. What an opportunity it is to ask questions, dote on them, and then pray to Jesus for perfect healing.

In order to keep love as our focus, we make sure our school NEVER becomes “just a project”. It is easy to focus on the project: lesson plans, structure, preparing food, doing everything on time, completing all the tasks of the day. These are all important, but we learned quickly that the child always comes first. We evaluate our program regularly to make sure that each part of it is only a bridge to the final destination—a relationship with Christ.

We have come to the conclusion that, if love is indeed our focus, we cannot be concerned about outward success (e.g., having the biggest school, or having the best supplies). Our desire is that we dig deep into the souls of the children we are reaching. We cannot be satisfied with just touching the surface. This issue has come up many times, and we realize how hard it is to just keep digging deep.

A Culture of Celebration

Every culture has traditions and times of celebration. We make sure to have plenty of fun moments that will become a significant memory in their lives. One day we celebrated everyone’s birthday. The majority of them don’t know when their birthday is so, as part of their birthday gift, we let them choose their own birth date! They were thrilled to be able to say the date that we would all celebrate throughout the year. We try to be creative because we recognize that each celebration plays a part in growing them into unique, confident adults.

A Culture of Structure

A year into our program we realized that most of our discipline problems resulted from a lack of structure. Children cannot function at their highest potential without structure.

The world around them is falling apart. There is no consistency in their lives. They need a place where they know what will happen, what to expect, and how they are expected to act; and a place where they know they will not be let down again. Even though they crave structure, they will fight it because it has not been a part of their lives, so we teach it to them. Building structure involves very simple steps: a consistent schedule and teaching format; dependable teachers; and a just discipline system—these are all vital for each child to function. We also found that very simple structures such as lining up for each activity, sitting in different formations quietly, and praying took months to teach. But now that this structure is built into them, the children, themselves, are teaching the new kids.



A Culture with Identity

Culture means being a part of a group. Everyone wants to fit in, and have an identity. As a group they have prayed for their friends and have seen God’s miraculous healing. Together they have learned how to play without fighting. Together they have witnessed the atmosphere of joy and peace when they humbled themselves to ask each other for forgiveness. It is in this togetherness that they have experienced a new culture and the true meaning of life.

The greatest result is that living in their new identity can have tremendous impact on others. We talked with one mother who now lives in the same area as the seven boys who live on the street. She told us that she has seen them throughout the day going through their tasks. When they wake up in the morning, they sit together to pray, they often practice the English conversations that they have learned, they love to sing, and before meals they say thank you to Jesus for providing their food. Their lifestyle has completely changed because they are living by the rules of a new culture- a Kingdom culture! They can now move out into the world confidently bringing a touch of heaven onto the streets.

As a member of WEC International, Heidi Fabian has been working for approximately five years in Southeast Asia where she is reaching out to children in poverty. She is also helping the national Church to impact the lives of children at risk and their families.

Janak is Waiting!

—Maggie Lantry

“There are more children on the streets of Delhi than in the schools of Australia”

Catalyst group - Delhi

Janak* comes from a small village in Bihar, a very poor farming area. When he was only 3 months old his father left his mother for another woman. Then his mother also moved in with another man, leaving Janak in the care of his grandmother. They lived together with many other relatives, barely surviving on a few crops from their drought stricken acreage. Small and hungry, Janak would steal at any given opportunity until it finally became habit. When complaints reached the ears of his family, they would beat him.

When Janak was 8 years old he decided to “escape” poverty, and, like so many thousands of other children, he snuck a ride on the train to the Big City! In the railway station he spread out an old newspaper on which he lay down, hungry and tired. In the morning, Janak saw sweepers cleaning the waste from the train onto the platform. “Breakfast” thought Janak, as he dove into the waste searching for something to eat—he ate so much that it made him sick!

Very soon he joined a gang of boys who made the streets near the railway station their home. After scrounging the platforms in the early morning hours, they would spend the day begging, stealing, or just lounging around smoking beedis (small hand rolled cigarettes), sniffing an old rag soaked in solvent or glue, or buying smack to get high.

A misguided boy like Janak, who had never had an education and knows only poverty, hunger and crime, won’t survive in Delhi long without getting into trouble!! Several times he was arrested for petty crimes and was sorely abused by the men in the prison. Each time he was released, he would return to the only life he knew – life on the streets.



When Janak was around 13 years old, some youths introduced him to the ways of injecting drugs with a syringe; however, no one warned him of the dangers of sharing needles. HIV / AIDS and TB are just strange sounding terms to an illiterate youth. Soon Janak found himself living under a flyover, huddled under a dirty blanket with others, as he poked needles into his groin in search of an artery in an already infected wound. Eventually, he was found seriously ill with an open abscess in his leg. He also had contracted TB and he was HIV-infected. Thankfully, it was a Christian group who found him and took him to their small hospital where he was in a coma for several days.

When he was finally discharged, the group found a place for him in a Christian shelter. However, several times Janak ran away back to the streets which had become his home—twice he was found again in a critical condition. Finally the love of the “family” in the shelter won him over. After spending several months recovering—sometimes mute in depression, sometimes weeping— Janak finally was able to release all the pent up anger, sorrows and pain that had been affecting his life. Today, he is gratefully living day-to-day fully aware of a God who loves him, has forgiven him and one day will take him to an eternal beautiful home.

We, in Delhi, are so grateful to our God for those who give up their lives for children like Janak. There are not enough projects or workers to address the increasing numbers of street children who have no home or bright future without the intervention of Christ-followers. The streets of mega-cities around the world are teeming with children ripe for the harvest! Who is willing to go - who will dare to step out onto the streets? Janak is waiting!

Maggie Lantry, a former member of WEC International now retired, has been working for many years with children in crisis in Southeast Asia. She is currently using her knowledge and experience to train members of the national churches to effectively reach out to children at risk and their families in order to bring healing and hope to their community.



Training Opportunities

January 28-31 • Dakar, Senegal • West Africa

Crisis Care Training International (CCTI) will host a training seminar introducing their curriculum, *Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis: Module 2: Street Children*. This curriculum provides an understanding of the impact of street life on a child and his or her behavior. It also discusses various effective prevention and intervention principles and strategies that assist children to give up street life and return to a structured environment with adult oversight.

The seminar will be led by Marybeth Young, CCTI Trainer and Child Psychologist with 25 years of experience with children in crisis. Also speaking will be Rosemary Sabatino-CCTI Staff, and members of the CCTI Senegal Team.

Participation will be limited to the first 45 registrants.

May 6-9 • Charlotte, N.C. • Steele Creek Church of Charlotte

Crisis Care Training International (CCTI) will host a training seminar introducing Module 1 of their curriculum, *Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis*. Topics to be covered include: Understanding Trauma in Children; Trauma and Loss; Children and Grief; Children's Emotional Health in Trauma; Attachment and Bonding; Boundaries; Spiritual Nurture for Wounded Children; the Stresses and Care of Caregivers, along with an intervention plan.

The seminar speakers include Marybeth Young, CCTI Trainer and Child Psychologist with 25 years of experience with children in crisis.

May 13-16 • LaPuente, CA. • Latin American Bible College

Crisis Care Training International (CCTI) will host a training seminar introducing their curriculum, *Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis: Module 2: Street Children*. This curriculum provides an understanding of the impact of street life on a child and his or her behavior. It also discusses various effective prevention and intervention principles and strategies that assist children to give up street life and return to a structured environment with adult oversight.

The seminar will be led by Andy Sexton, curriculum developer and Oasis International Director for Children at Risk. Andy provides specific expertise to all Oasis Children at Risk projects around the world.

For Registration Information Contact CCTI:
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Street Children Resources

Spanish Translation of CCTI Street Children Curriculum

Crisis Care Training International (CCTI) will soon announce the publication of the Spanish translation of *Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis: Module 2: Street Children*. We are praying to have it available for distribution in time for the Training Seminar to be held at the Latin American Bible College on May 13-16. The seminar will be presented in English, but we hope to have the Spanish curriculum available for those attending.

Pray with us for this much needed tool to be completed for distribution to those working with children in Spanish speaking cultures. Our thanks to all those who labored through 2008 to make this translation possible.

Books

Street Children: A Guide to Effective Ministry, Phyllis Kilbourn, Editor, World Vision, ISBN #1-887983-01-5. This book is uniquely designed to orient workers among street children. Examples are given from every continent and many cities that reveal the nature and extent of this global crisis. *Street Children* also gives a profile on the street worker, examines bonding issues, explains the cycle of addiction to the streets and more. *Available at crisis-caretraining.org*

Through the Eyes of a Child, Angela Murray, Monarch Books, ISBN #13: 978-0-8254-6136-1. In this book Angela Murray enables us to see through the eyes of Jesus himself. Two thousand years and still He lives in the streets, weeps with the poor and speaks His highest truth through children. This book is an invitation to worship and it defines, in a big way, the life and character of a child.

Street Children: The Tragedy and Challenge of the World's Millions of Modern-Day Oliver Twists, Andy Butcher, Gabriel Publishing, ISBN # 186024-286-3. The result of extensive research, this book combines hard statistics with individual stories to challenge our indifference and awaken our conscience.

Street Girls: Hope on the Streets of Brazil, Matt Roper, Authentic Media, ISBN # 1-85078-596-1. This is the story of the Meninadanca Project—a charity established to reach out to the street girls of Belo Horizonte, and to offer them a place of security and safety, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Methods of Research with Street and Working Children: An Annotated Bibliography, Judith Ennew and Brian Milne, Radda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children). This publication compiles research from around the globe as part of The Local Research Project initiated and financed by Radda Barnen and Save The Children/UK. It is available through Radda Barnen Publishing, Fax +46-8-698 90 14. Please indicate code 1080.

Caregiver's Time-out

—Laura Shoemaker



A Hopeful Truth The Sovereignty of God

As I was preparing to go to Africa last summer, I was often asked if I was nervous. The short answer was no, but what I didn't know how to express was that I had a great fear of a very different kind. I wasn't worried about our living conditions, danger, illness, my teammates, or separation from home. Actually, I felt huge anticipation. Ministry in Africa had been a dream of mine since I was a little girl, and I was certain God had planned my trip to this place for this time in my life. But from the beginning there was this nagging fear that crept in late at night and heightened in intensity as my departure date grew closer. What worried me above all else was that my faith in Christ would be severely shaken by the suffering I would witness. We would be working with rescued street children and orphans, and I felt terror at the prospect. I wondered if I could withstand seeing such exploitation and poverty and still come out viewing my God as faithful and loving. Could that hold up when I was looking into the piercing eyes of a four year old begging with a tin can on a dirty trafficked street?

Stepping off the airplane into the smell of fish and garbage, the very first thing that struck me was the eyes of these beautiful people. Mobs seemed to swarm as we tried to hail a taxi and look for the local missionaries. I think I understood a little bit of how Jesus felt when he looked at the crowds and had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like shepherdless sheep. Day after day I looked into the eyes of children and adults - some vacant, some despairing, some exhausted. But what surprised me was that others were vibrant, hopeful, aflame with the love of God and brimming over with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

I once heard a friend say that everything that happens in the world aligns with who the person of God is. This means that God's character isn't proven by what He does; what He does is always true to His character. So we cannot look at situations of suffering and say, "Would a loving God do this?" We need to instead say, "Because God is loving, this situation must involve the love of God." The sover-

eignty of God is a hopeful truth, not a hopeless one, because although we cannot understand God's purposes, we do know the character of God. God defines justice and truth and love; we don't.

In Romans 9, Paul struggles with the difficult plans of God in shifting the Gospel from the Jews to the Gentiles. Suddenly the promises God made to the Jews don't seem to be coming true and Paul's readers are wondering whether or not God is acting like he is supposed to act. Paul's response, ultimately, is Romans 11:33-36: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." Even Paul, the apostle of apostles, writing inspired words, does not fully understand why God does what he does. Yet he worships God because of it, not in spite of it. We will not have all the answers. Maybe when we get to heaven, God will show us how his plans all work; but at that point, we might not even care once we are face to face with God's glory. In the meantime, our choices in response can be difficult to live out, but are truly simple: obey and glorify God because He says to; have faith in God's nature, and praise God even when we do not know everything.

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The pain I saw in Africa did cause me to praise God more deeply, with a more profound awe for the God who transforms lives, restores hope, rescues the perishing, and heals the broken. To serve the God who alone can save, who can light the darkest places, and cure the most ailing soul, is truer worship than I ever knew before. He is faithful and loving in ways I could never before understand. To him be the glory forever!



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