

## The Faith to Finish Well

*When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*

Luke 18:8b

## IN FOCUS

—Rosemary Sabatino

**D**on't start anything you can't finish and always finish what you start. These words from my mother come to mind so often. They're good advice for temporal tasks but, when it comes to doing and finishing the will of God in our lives, we need more than human will-power. We need faith that produces supernatural endurance – the faith to finish well. For the word tells us *do not cast away your confidence (fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness and assurance), which has great reward. For you have need of **endurance** so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But, my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back my soul has no pleasure in him* (Hebrews 10:35-39 NAS Amplified).

The word endurance in this passage is translated from the Greek word *hupomone* which means patient, enduring, sustaining perseverance. Strong further defines it as *the characteristic of a man not swerved from his purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety even in the greatest trials and suffering.*<sup>1</sup> If you are thinking that this kind of endurance sounds super-human, you are absolutely right. The author of Hebrews uses the verb form of this very word to describe our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ *who for the joy set before Him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:2 NAS). This is the very characteristic produced by the kind of faith that God rewards; a faith that yields obedience to the call and will of God.

In Hebrews chapter eleven the Lord encourages us with a litany of characters whose response of obedience gives testimony to the type of faith that pleases God—a willing trust that obeys regardless of the consequences. As we read through the list of “Heroes of the Faith” I’m sure our heart’s cry is the same as thousands of followers of Jesus Christ— that whether He comes for us or takes us home we would be found faithful, for to be found faithful is to finish well.

Thank the Lord that He has given us a prescription to enable us to do just that—finish well: *...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every*

*weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author (chief, leader, and originator) and finisher of (one who has completed, left nothing wanting, and perfected) our faith,...* (Hebrews 12:1,2a NKJ Amplified). The very One whose perfect faith caused Him to endure to the uttermost lives in us, and, as we are willing to lay all at His feet and trust Him, we will experience His power to persevere.

As we take a look at this quarter’s topic, Project Development, it is quite evident that the faith which produces perseverance and endurance is the key ingredient needed if the calling and vision God has given us is to come to fruition. In her article, *Fulfilling His Vision*, Denise McCarthy encourages us to put feet to our faith as we step-by-step depend on the Lord to lead. Then, Alfons van der Galien, of South Africa, shares his *Lessons Learned at the Rehoboth Children’s Village* in an easy-to-remember proverbial style that will help us to persevere towards Godly excellence in Project Management for a long time. Finally, in the *Caregivers Corner*, Graham Bee reminds us that, *as we run ... the race*, we are in a marathon not a sprint and he addresses the importance of *Preparing a Fire Plan*.

**U**ltimately, remember that the most important project the Lord is working on in your life is YOU. For *He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it* (Philippians 1:6) *so that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ* (1 Peter 1:7).

Praise the Lord! For He is the author, sustainer and completer of our faith: the foundation that brings us to the finish line.

### Focusing on Project Development

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# *Project Management: Lessons learned at the Rehoboth Children's Village, KwaZulu, South Africa*

—Alfons van der Galien



**H**ave you ever thought about the fact that God is into projects? Here are just a few examples from Scripture of God initiating and sustaining projects:

- **Project:** storing up food in Egypt to prepare for seven years of famine. (*Project Leader—Joseph*)
- **Project:** leading a couple of million people out of Egypt (*Project Leader—Moses*)
- **Project:** conquering and occupying the promised land (*Project Leader—Joshua*)
- **Project:** building the temple (*Project Leader—Solomon*)
- **Project:** training twelve disciples to change the world (*Project leader—Jesus Christ*)

Here at Rehoboth Children's Village, located on the South Coast of the province KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, the staff can tell you that God has always provided for our project—whether it be finances, resources or people. They would testify of how He has always given us His vision in small pieces that we could understand and work out step by step; How He has always been faithful, always given us the strength to do the work despite circumstances or obstacles, always kept our passion alive empowering us to care for the ones in need, always filled our hearts with joy and peace and always made possible whatever was required to carry out His vision.

Yes, God has been the initiator and sustainer of our project and our programs. Over the years He has taught us valuable lessons that we would like to pass on to you in the form of short, power phrases. It is our prayer that they may be of help to you as you apply them to your projects and ongoing programs once your organization has been established.

## **Project Management Power Phrases:**

### **\* Start right: God first.**

- Get it right from the start: God first, God in the middle, God last. God everywhere! If God is not in the picture, your project will not succeed or it will only be partially successful, but it will never become what God intended it to be.
- Don't build your own "Babylon"—it's God's project. Instead, always hold the project in open hands. Be prepared to move on if God calls you to something else, but also be prepared to stay, even if it is tough.

### **\* Prayer is the fuel for the engine of the project.**

- Without prayer the project will come to a standstill from God's point of view, even if, from the outside, it seems to be moving forward with great speed.

### **\* Have the right perspective.**

- The mission field is not "out there." It starts right within your own organization and with your own staff.

### **\* Learn to master the project cycle.**

- Plan, execute, monitor and evaluate, and then start all over again.

### **\* Remember the 80–20 time rule: 80% thinking, 20% doing.**

- Spend lots of time thinking in the beginning of the project to make the plan waterproof. Doing things right the first time will prevent a waste of time and resources.

### **\* My utmost for His highest.**

- This should be your attitude/motto at all stages of the project.

### **\* Use your God-given talents and common sense.**

- Once God is in the picture (the starting point), then work at your utmost to bring to fruition what God has asked you to do. Good stewardship is your responsibility. If we lack wisdom, we can ask God for it.

However, wisdom once received must be used. To neglect to use it is like an affront to the Lord! For example, if you do not plan for the future, don't expect God to solve for you what you had the abilities to sort out or solve beforehand.

### **\* God's purpose will prevail.**

- Plans, resources and people are always coming together at the right time and in the right way to accomplish His purpose if you are on God's track.

### **\* Start small but dream big.**

- Begin step by step and only bite off what you feel you can swallow, even though God's vision should always be bigger than you think you can handle. As we do the possible, God will do the impossible. We are the limiting factor, not God. If God gives you big dreams then plan accordingly.

### **\* Continually seek to improve.**

- Deepen out the different areas of work on a continuous basis. Never be content; the job can always be done better (especially in project management).

### **\* It is all about people.**

- People-caring-for-people is what this work is all about (showing God's love to the needy and the lost in a practical way). The right staff doing the right job will produce the right outcome if stirred and motivated correctly. If you ask a carpenter to do electrical work don't expect a great outcome.

### **\* Key words—focus, focus, focus.**

- Wait patiently for God's vision. Once you have His vision, run with it and work it out diligently.

### **\* Understand the power of a team.**

- You can do nothing great on your own (the Body of Christ principle).

### **\* Give each member of the group the chance to take ownership.**

- How? By assigning each group member

very clearly defined tasks that they will be responsible for. The goal is to develop an atmosphere in which hirelings can quickly develop into owners.

**\* Informal versus formal?**

- Change from an informal to a more formal, structured organization that still operates informally with grace abiding. This strategy is especially important when the organization is growing.

**\* Keep the camp holy.**

- Without a holy camp the Lord cannot bless you and you will not be as effective as He wants you to be.

**\* Less is more.**

- Better a small amount of the right people vs. a large number of the “not-right” people.

**\* Adopt a holistic organizational style.**

- Break the segments of your organization down into sizable pieces, with different people responsible for these segments. However, have it all seamlessly integrated so that everyone is working toward the same goal.

**\* Commit to a top-down approach.**

- The helicopter view: God’s vision > mission statement > objectives > activities > assigned tasks.

**\* Build on Christian values.**

- For example, transparency and accountability should be part of the core values upon which your project is built.

**\* Learn quickly from your mistakes**

- God will keep on teaching you the same lesson until you have learned it, and only then will He allow you to move ahead. But remember, God will not give you a learning curve that is steeper than you can handle. Keep on learning—never stop! If you fall, get back up and keep moving. If you are committed to God’s vision He is committed to you.

**\* Be outcome focused.**

- Don’t fall in the trap of input focus. Focus first on the outcome you want to accomplish and work your way backward toward what inputs are required (i.e., what, who, when, where, how).

**\* Delegate as much as possible**

- As your staff grows, delegate more of

your responsibilities. Assign tasks to others who are better at them than you are. Even delegate some of the fun parts you enjoy doing but that someone else can do just as well. This move will help free you to do the tasks that only you can do.

**\* You are the head not the tail; act accordingly.**

- God’s children deserve the best, but also should produce the best. We are the role models—let’s model out excellence.

*God first, God in the middle,  
God last ...  
if God is not in the picture  
your project  
will not succeed ...  
it will never become what  
God intended it to be.*

**\* Don’t be afraid to ask for advice.**

- Develop a team of experts in several areas to whom you can turn.

**\* Have regular brainstorming sessions (a clashing of ideas) with your team.**

- Challenge the status quo. Look for new ways to do existing activities.

**\* Keep short accounts of wrongdoings with God and people**

**\* Earn trust and respect**

- Care for your team and lift them up both emotionally and physically.

**\* Time management is important.**

- Use wisely the time God gives you. Commit your time and your plans to the Lord and He will make them successful (Proverbs 16:3).

**\* Remember that God’s timing is perfect (wait and move together with Him).**

- Wait is also a verb. Don’t run 180 degrees in the wrong direction.

**\* Start walking.**

- Take steps in the direction you think you should go. If you never leave you will never arrive!

**Final thoughts:**

Three areas are critical for good project management: a good organizational structure, a good and godly project leader and the right people on board. It takes the right people at the right time in the right place working the right plan to bring about success. However, the most important element is God. A successful project begins with God and ends with God. It begins with a God-inspired vision that is executed and rounded off through His power and guidance. Without God at the center a project will never be a success in His eyes.

A passion and a calling from God should be the starting point for the project leader, but this alone it is not enough. Skills will have to be acquired as well. If God calls someone to do His work He will supply both the passion and the skills. The skills might not be there in the beginning, but God will equip the person to do His work.

In addition, it is important to understand the principle of the Body of Christ; you cannot do it on your own. You will need the help of others and the wisdom to apply that help. Study the book of Proverbs, as this will help you to search and find wisdom, understanding and knowledge. You will need all three to be a Godly project leader.

Finally, may God bless you and give you the strength to keep doing the work that He has called you to do. Remember: “If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builder is useless (Psalm 127:1 NLT).” Therefore, let the Lord be the builder, and let us be the dedicated laborers diligently using our passion and our skills to the glory of God.

*Alfons and Yvonne van der Galien, along with their 2 children, reside in South Africa where they manage and direct Rehoboth Children’s Village—a home for children and orphans living with HIV/AIDS. They are in the process of expanding to another village in order to address the rising needs of HIV/AIDS orphans in that area.*



# Fulfilling His Vision



*“This is the Lord’s work  
not mine”*

*—Denise McCarthy*

If you were a child and were forced to leave your family—to beg for your every meal and to give almost every cent that you get from begging to somebody else, and you were fortunate enough to get an extra piece of bread some days, what would you do with your extra bread?

***Preparation and provision  
came at the Lord’s hand  
every step of  
the way***

We have been quite amazed at the generosity of the boys who come in to the Xaley Boroom Bi (Children of Our Lord) Day Center here in Dakar, Senegal. Our numbers are growing so fast that we can’t always “guestimate” how much bread to buy for the next day. Consequently, sometimes we run short by a couple of pieces and don’t have enough bread for every boy. On these days, many boys with their own personal piece of bread, obtained as a result of begging, would offer to forgo taking a piece from us so that others could be served. This behavior is so beyond the “me-first,” selfish attitude that we have seen in many non-African children. It has been such a joy to witness positive attitudes like this one, instilled by the Lord, in these little, street children.

These boys are very different street children. They are talibé boys—talibé means disciple. They aren’t on the streets because they ran away from home or because they have no family. They are there because their parents gave them as a gift to Allah. At first the boys think it is an honor to be with the Islamic leader. They think that it’s ok to be forced to beg, to be abused when they don’t meet their begging-quota, to be hungry and made to live in deplorable circumstances. They are told that it humbles them for Islam, and if they were to escape it would disgrace their families. But, soon dismay and hopelessness take over as they feel the pain of abandonment. We know that Jesus doesn’t want these boys to feel neglected or rejected—He loves them very much.

When the Lord started planting His vision in my heart it was through another missionary who was working with the street boys. I was so touched by the fact that she fed them and cared for their “boobos” right on her front porch before she

ever opened a center. However, it took five years for me to be totally convinced that opening a day center in Dakar, Senegal for these talibé boys was the Lord’s vision and not just my wish.

During that time I took advantage of as many training opportunities as I was able. I took a course on street children sponsored by Fuller Theological Seminary and attended a CCTI training seminar featuring their curriculum Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis: Module 2-Street Children. Phyllis Kilbourn’s books were very helpful and I read as many as I could. Celebrating Children, edited by Glen Miles and Josephine-Joy Wright, proved to be a useful tool as well.

Research on the talibé boys was done by keeping tabs on their status through internet stories and by simply talking to other missionaries who were already working with them. One such missionary was a well-respected woman who had been working with and for the talibés for several years. She allowed me to work in her day center and to sit with her on the Board of Directors of an intermissional group which was working on talibé/street children issues—affording me an excellent understanding of the system. Additionally, I had the opportunity to visit a wonderful home in Dakar for ex-street boys where I saw first hand how important it was for their care to be holistic.

***It is such an honor being  
“Tanta Xadi”  
to each one***

Actually, preparation and provision came at the Lord’s hand every step of the way. As I looked back, the Lord reminded me of the great training I received when He inspired me to open a soup kitchen at our home church for the poor and needy in our community. We would feed as many as 75 people each week and, in many ways, it was similar to helping the boys at the center. However, confirmation of His vision came nine months before I could even start my full-time ministry with street children when the Lord provided the perfect house, at the perfect rental price, in a perfect area that was overflowing with talibé boys. Around the same time He also sent two national, long-time believers to me who had a desire and vision to work with the children. These unexpected provisions encouraged me to finally put feet to my faith, and when the Lord’s timing came to open the doors of the Xaley Boorim Bi Center everything was ready and the boys were begging to come in.

Here we try to give these boys a family-like home atmosphere, even if they can only come for 2-3 hours per day. Our concept is holistic in nature beginning with hygiene: hand washing, teeth brushing, showering and providing clean clothing. We try to feed them a healthy meal or two and give them each a daily vitamin. Additionally, we administer minor first aid, even for those who don't actually have a "booboo" but just need some individual pampering. The boys do not have a mama, grandma or even a sister to go to as there aren't any females in the daara (coranic school). Those who show signs of possible illness are taken for medical help and medicine is provided if necessary.

Physical exercise is built into our program through weekly, organized soccer games and daily basketball. We were recently blessed with the gift of our own basketball half-court built by a visiting short-term team.

The boys are challenged mentally here during our daily school-time activities which include literacy (they are learning the French alphabet), coloring and drawing and time to just "play and build" like most 4–12 year olds. We set aside time for them to watch a video or to sing and dance to the sound of a jembe (African drum), or their favorite music on CD.



One of their most favorite activities is Bible-story time. David, one of the Senegalese workers, does the Bible teaching and the boys are so attentive. During question and answer time they never cease to amaze us with their retention and understanding. The Lord is reaching their little broken hearts.

It is such an honor to be "Tanta Xadi" to each one of the over 80 boys who have visited the center. Kids of all ages enjoy watching a loved one preparing something yummy to eat, and our daily reward is to see these lost and homeless boys gazing in the kitchen window and smiling as we smile back at them. Our future dream (the Lord has not as yet confirmed it as His vision) is to provide a home for those boys who can leave the daaras and to help them work towards reconciliation with their biological families.

This work is the Lord's, not mine. When asked to write this article I wanted to make it clear that it's all God and very little me. Yes, He did fill my heart with compassion for children in crisis, but don't we all want what's best for the "little ones" all around the world? After all the Lord commands us to care for them: *And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, He will certainly not lose his reward (Matthew 10:45).* I am more than blessed by just following where the Lord is leading.

*I am more than blessed by  
just following where  
He is leading*

To those of you whom the Lord has told to go and help the little ones, possibly in a foreign land, and who may want my advice I give you the words of Oswald Chambers, (from part of my daily devotions).

**March 4—Acts 20:24** *It is easier to serve God without a vision, easier to work for God without a call, because then you are not bothered by what God requires; common sense is your guide, veneered over with Christian sentiment. You will be more prosperous and successful, more leisure-hearted, if you never realize the call of God. But if once you receive a commission from Jesus Christ, the memory of what God wants will always come like a goad; you will no longer be able to work for Him on the common-sense basis.<sup>1</sup>*

**March 11—Acts 26:19** *I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." If we lose the vision, we alone are responsible, ... The only way to be obedient to the heavenly vision is to give our utmost for God's highest, and this can only be done by continually and resolutely recalling the vision. Waiting for the vision that tarries is the test of our loyalty to God. It is at the peril of our soul's welfare that we get caught up in practical work and miss the fulfillment of the vision. ... The only way God sows His saints is by His whirlwind. Are you going to prove an empty pod? It will depend on whether or not you are actually living in the light of what you have seen. Let God fling you out, and do not go until He does. If you select your own spot, you will prove an empty pod. If God sows you, you will bring forth fruit.<sup>2</sup>*

May your feet walk in the light of His vision.

*David and Denise McCarthy were called to missions in 2001 and are now serving in Dakar, Senegal full time with WorldVenture Mission Agency. David is the business manager for Dakar Academy (a boarding school for MKs), and Denise runs the Xaley Boorim Bi Day Center for talibe street boys. They have 3 children—Kristen and Kyle who reside in the USA, and Wesley who attends the Dakar Academy in Senegal.*

1 Taken from My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers, Dodd Mead & Co., (1935) p.64

2 Ibid, p. 71

## Training Tips

*Plans fail for  
lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers  
they succeed  
(Proverbs 15:22 NIV)*



The following is an excerpt from CCTI curriculum *Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis; Module 2: Street Children* (P. 60-64), By Andy Sexton.

**Importance of research:** All work with children in crisis must be based on a thorough understanding of the realities of the children. Work that starts on a few assumptions about the children may end up offering services that are irrelevant or even detrimental to the lives of the children. Therefore, research is a vital prerequisite to any work with children at risk or in crisis.

Such research followed by visioning and planning can take six months or more. As many children and other people as possible should be included in the research in order to gain an understanding of the situation and make informed decisions.

**The Best Interest of the Child:** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states, "In all actions concerning children ... the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration" (Article 3). To work within this framework is to be truly child-focused. However, such concentration requires a comprehensive understanding of the context of the children you aim to assist. Before taking any action, it is essential to:

- Understand the children and their needs.
- Find out who else is working with the children and where gaps in service provision exist.
- Consider the possible responses to the situation.
- Look at the resources available for the work.
- Pray throughout the process.

Once these essential research steps have been taken, the worker is in a position to decide what action should be taken. As part of this process there are six essential questions that must be answered.

1. What is the situation for the children in the local context?
2. Who is already doing what and who can help?
3. What is your vision?
4. What is your plan?

1. How are you going to measure success?

Please note that while questions 1 and 2 relate to research, questions 3-6 relate to project development but rely on research.

**Documentary sources:** Media reports and news articles; academic research papers; books; NGO reports; minutes of meetings. These resources can be located: on the internet; in libraries (university, government, UNICEF etc.); by talking with NGO's, churches, other ministries, and academics; by reading newspapers; by attending meetings; by visiting relevant government ministries and other local authorities such as police.

**Stakeholders:** Stakeholders are all the people who have an interest in the issue of the children at risk or in crisis: business people, NGOs, government workers, medical personnel, school officials, church workers, guardians, local residents and the children and their families.

**Collecting Information:** The method used could be a public meeting to which stakeholders were invited or one-on-one interviews. Questionnaires can be used to help understand the social background of the children and to help determine if there is a possibility of working with the community to address the children's needs. Using a questionnaire can help to insure all relevant information is collected, such as:

- Their attitudes toward the children
- Their experiences with the children
- What they know about the children (what they do etc.)
- Whether or not they assist the children and if so, how.
- What they perceive is the best way to help the children.
- What they think an organization coming in to help the children should do.
- If they would be willing to help.

Be aware that not everyone will give a warm welcome. Some NGO's may be defensive and wary of competition. Some business people may be exploiting the children and some government officials may have particular opinions of what should be done which may be contrary to the best interest of the child.

Networking should be an ongoing attitude and activity. This involves being open to other organizations, being willing to share information and even resources, although not at the expense of client confidentiality.

**Observing Children:** One can gain an understanding of living patterns and activities by taking up a position in a place frequented by the children and observing what goes on. This method is particularly helpful with street children. It is best to watch at different times of the day and in different places. Writing down your observations as soon as possible is vital.



**Interviewing Children:** A questionnaire can be developed and used by a researcher in one-on-one interviews with the children. Open ended questions should be included that get the children talking, but also include questions that require a “yes” or “no” answer. It must be remembered that one should get informed consent from the child before interviewing. Always give the child the right to say no.

#### **The risk of questionnaire research with children.**

- It may be intimidating to the children, and they may not tell the truth
- It may generate unwanted negative interest from the public and authorities. Researchers need to be ready to answer questions as to their identity and why they want to interview the children.
- Sometimes the children have had enough of research that ends in no change in their circumstances. They may not co-operate.
- In certain circumstances interviewing the children could place the child and/or the researcher in danger (i.e. working with children who are sexually exploited, child soldiers, child laborers etc.). Always remember the best interest of the child.

In many cases it is helpful to have older children help with the interview process. This aids in allaying the fears of the children, helping to explain questions the children don't understand and in assessing if the children are not telling the truth.

Interviewing children can be an effective way to learn about their circumstances and often-times the children themselves make recommendations in establishing the program to help them. However, it is a sensitive endeavor that must keep the best interest of the children at the forefront.

**Compiling a report:** Researchers are likely to have completed questionnaires as well as having gained knowledge through reading, observation, discussion and interviews. This information needs to be combined and organized so that it can be analyzed and conclusions reached. Follow this pattern for analyzing questionnaire responses.

- Take one set of questionnaires at a time (i.e. all children questionnaires).
- Read through the questionnaires to get an overall picture
- Use 1 sheet of paper for each question
- Write down each child's response to a particular question until a pattern emerges. After that simply add a tick beside similar responses to that question.
- Do this for all the questions

Follow the same process of organizing the data for others who may have filled out questionnaires such as guardians, NGO's, community leaders, etc.

Data gleaned from other sources should be compiled as well.

Once the information has been compiled, the analysis comes in combining everything learned to get the whole picture. This study means considering the information from all sources, drawing together all the responses that agree and pointing out glaring differences.

The research will then have brought up all sorts of interesting and pertinent facts that will determine what action to take and recommendations can be made.

Once the recommendations are made, it is very useful to write up a research report. This ensures that the research is not lost and proves that the project was founded on facts, not assumptions.

**For additional information on interviewing children, the following publication is a good resource:**

*Ethical Considerations  
When Conducting Research on Children in  
the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Nepal*  
By: Casper N. Edmonds

Published by:  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
[www.ILO.org](http://www.ILO.org)

#### **Curriculum available through CCTI at [crisiscaretraining.org](http://crisiscaretraining.org)**

*Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis:*

*Module 1: Trauma and Crisis Care*, core module of the curriculum, presents foundational issues and principles that provide caregivers with an understanding of children's traumatic experiences and the resulting impact of trauma as well as basic prerequisites to planning and implementing interventions. Textbook for use with this module: *Healing the Children of War: A handbook for ministry to children who have suffered deep trauma.*

*Module 2: Street Children (also available in Spanish)* provides an understanding of the impact of street life on a child and his/ her behavior. It also discusses effective prevention and intervention principles and strategies that assist children to give up street life and return to a structured environment with adult oversight. Textbook: *Street Children: A guide to effective ministry.*

*Hands That Heal: International Curriculum to Train Caregivers of Trafficking Survivors*, published by *The Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking*, is a comprehensive Christian curriculum to train global caregivers of those trafficked into the commercial sex industry.

## Project in Progress

—Noemi Maano

*In January of 2002, just four months after 9/11, I was in Phnom Penh, Cambodia entering my second year teaching English as a foreign language. My 2 year contract would be up in November and as of yet I did not have a sense of what the Lord wanted me to do. Our director, who was visiting from the Philippines, casually commented that a certain middle eastern country had just opened up for workers who would be willing to help with the rebuilding process. I felt an immediate excitement, but decided to forego any action until I did some research. During this process I came across a prayer magazine with the picture of a disheveled little girl, approximately 3-4 years old, holding a container. The caption stated that she was waiting for milk rations to reach her country and she hadn't eaten for several days.*

*The image of that little girl stayed with me for a long time as did the heavy burden on my heart that came with the picture. Many nights I would cry and pray because my heart was moved with compassion and a desire to comfort that little one. Little did I know then that God was moving me towards a ministry to children at risk.*

*By November of 2003 I found myself in the Middle East teaching English to high school and college age students at Helping Hands Elementary and Vocational School—a school for marginalized children. One of the adult students remarked that it would be great if I could teach English to young children as well. She had 2 preschool children herself and she told me if there were such a kindergarten class she would enroll her 2 kids. With no experience in teaching children, but at the Lord's leading I took her advice.*



*It didn't take long for me to realize that teaching children was very different from teaching adults, and I soon felt I was in over my head and needed some help and training. A colleague referred me to friends of his in the U.S. who were directors of their church's VBS — so I scheduled a trip to Kansas. Before leaving, as our prayer team was praying for me, one of the women had a vision of a treasure chest. She said the Lord would stir up a new gift in my life, and that there were many treasures in the chest. When I reached the church in Kansas I found that the theme of the VBS was Treasure Island and there were hundreds of children enrolled to come. The couple I stayed with took me under their wing: they were happy to teach and to train me and to give me ideas for the school. I soon realized that God was giving me a gift to enable me to teach little ones and that they were the treasure.*

*That was 5 years ago. The Lord has since given me the responsibility of running a school exclusively for children and I love what I do. The Lord has guided and supplied step by step: from government permission to personnel. My goal is to supply a haven and refuge for these children who all have a very hard family life. We try to supply food, education, and spiritual enrichment. I so want these children to experience the freedom and joy of childhood, especially the girls, many of whom are forced to marry at a very young age.*

*We still have many needs: teachers, administrators, trainers, curriculum developers and of course finances. I envision a school with high academic standards based on the Word which will bless the children, their families and the community. I don't want this school to merely meet the physical and academic needs of the children, but a place that contributes to the transformation of the community. At the end of my life if all I accomplished was to build another school out of humanitarian effort, without the expansion of His kingdom, nor the King being known, I would consider myself a failure.*

**Noemi Maano is working in Central Asia with Campus Crusade for Christ  
Please see the opposite page for additional contact information**



# NEWS • EVENTS • RESOURCES



## **Training Seminars**

**Register at [www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)**

**May 6-9 • Charlotte, N.C.**

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 will be led by Marybeth Young, CCTI trainer with 25 years of experience with children in crisis.

***\*Deadline for registration: April 20\****

**May 13-16 • LaPuente, CA.**

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 module 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, module developer and Oasis International Director for Children at Risk. Andy provides specific expertise to all Oasis Children at Risk projects around the world.

***\*Deadline for registration: April 20\****

**September 23-26 • Denver, CO**

Crisis Care Training International (CCTI) and World Orphans will co-host a training seminar introducing CCTI's curriculum, *Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis: Module 3: Caring for Orphans and Vulnerable Children*. This module provides an overview of orphans and vulnerable children worldwide along with an understanding of how being orphaned or abandoned impacts their lives. Basic intervention strategies and successful alternative care programs will be explored.

The seminar will be led by Jeanette Papall, a social worker and educator who has worked in local and international adoptions, foster care, counseling and child protection. She also served as Senior Social Work Supervisor for Children's Services at *Mother's Love*, an orphanage in Hong Kong. In 1997 Janette and her husband founded *Children with Hope*, a training organization based in Australia. She has developed extensive training materials and taught in many countries. Perhaps her most important hands-on experience is derived from the adoption of five children from Australia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong

## **Opportunity**

**For those working with children having disabilities:**

**Contact Phyllis Kilbourn**

Phyllis is editing a handbook for ministry to children having disabilities. She would like to include a compilation of effective strategies for starting and maintaining projects that respond to the needs of these special children.

If you have, or work with, a project for children with disabilities and would like to contribute your strategies, please contact Phyllis at [www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org).

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**For  
Additional Information on Training and Resources**

**or**

**To post Children in Crisis News**

**or**

**Training Opportunities**

**on our web site**

**Contact:**

**[www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)**

# Caregiver's Time-Out

—Graham Bee



## Preparing a Fire Plan

**R**ecently horrendous bushfires ravaged south-eastern Australia, with over 7,000 people left homeless and 200 people killed. One couple were saved because they were able to take refuge in their purpose-built fireproof bunker and then were able help other people in the fight to save their properties. The husband had only agreed to build the shelter after his wife had continually nagged him, but today they acknowledge it was this planned refuge that saved them.

Generally, caregivers are compassionate people, ready—and often expected—to go the extra mile, and may place themselves at risk because of self-neglect. Ignoring our own physical and mental health during times of intensive care giving can lead to burnout or breakdown that could take years of recovery. Australia today has an estimated 10–13,000 expastors. It is no wonder that churches and mission agencies are concerned with high attrition rates. As caregivers it is important to remember that if we are to survive the pressures and challenges that confront us in our ministry, and continue to be a blessing to others, we need a “fire plan.”

**H**ere are a few suggestions from this fellow-learner and journeyman who is still on the road after 42 years.

1. Remember, there is nothing selfish about taking care of yourself to be able to give the best possible care to someone else. Prevention is better than cure. A burnt out caregiver struggles to survive himself, let alone provide quality care for others. Plan to not be one of them.
2. We have a refuge; make a habit of running to Him. In Psalm 46:1 (NLT) the psalmist testified that “God is our refuge and strength, ever present to help in times of trouble.” Again, in Psalm 142:3 (NLT) he tells us: “For I am overwhelmed and you alone know the way I should turn.” Directly outside our bedroom window is an ever-green, leafy eucalyptus tree. It provides shade for us on the hot humid days when the sun’s rays would otherwise heat up our house unbearably. An even greater thrill for us is that it provides shelter to a family of four owl-like Tawny Frogmouth birds. Sometimes we don’t see these big birds for weeks on end, but then, after a violent over-

night tropical storm, we wake up in the morning to see the family has returned and been protected by our tree. What a lovely picture! It is a reminder to us as caregivers that it is important for us to be able to take refuge; to be sheltered from the storms and shaded from the heat of battle. Just as the eucalyptus tree stands ever ready with branches outstretched to shelter our birds, God is ALWAYS ready to help in times of trouble.

3. We have a helper who encourages us to come to Him and promises to give us rest. While in Africa I did not heed that invitation as often as I might have and found that time spent recovering from frequent bouts of malaria were times when I could draw near and enjoy His presence without interruption.
4. Recognize and accept that bad things do happen to good people. After 30 years of missionary service together, my wife was stricken with cancer and the Lord took her home. One year later I contracted cancer myself and had to undergo surgery. I began to ask, “How much more Lord?” During these experiences when I was at rock bottom, I found that the Rock sustained and supported me. He was with me in the fire just as He was with Daniel’s three friends.
5. Don’t lose sight of God’s purpose. Our trial can become our testimony, and out of the comfort we have received we are able to comfort others. Since the trials mentioned above, I have found a new ability to empathize with those who have suffered with cancer and loss or undergone major surgery.
6. It is essential that we set boundaries in ministry and make sure we take time to relax and be refreshed for the next stretch. Every now and then a missionary couple who lived in a village near us in Ghana would radio us to ask if it was convenient to have them visit and “let their hair down” with us. On other occasions they would take some days in the city. They are still ministering after 30 years.

**M**y friends, for the sake of the children and their futures, I encourage you to develop a “fire plan”—a strategy to cope in the face of ministry pressures. Remember, God is abundantly available to help us in the tough times (Psalm 46:1 NAS ).

*Graham Bee has been a leader with WEC International in both Ghana and Australia and served on the Rainbows of Hope International Committee. He currently assists wife Becky in training workers to work with children in crisis, and together they provide member care for the WEC Team in East Timor.*



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