

## Training News & Updates

Phyllis Kilbourn, ROH Director of Training

**W**e at Rainbows of Hope are so grateful for the outstanding ministry you are engaged in to help children in crisis. As director of the ROH training department, I hope to be more available now to help you with your training needs. This year I am:

1) "Resurrecting" the Barnabas training newsletter. Most of you weren't with ROH when Barnabas was birthed. We eventually incorporated the training material into the magazine which is no longer being published.

To make this newsletter worthwhile, I will really need your help! The newsletter is for you, so I need to know your training needs. What topics would you like addressed? I would also like you to be an active participant in this newsletter by

*God planned for children to grow and develop within the family. And the gift of childhood was given as a special time for nurturing God-given gifts and abilities, discovering the person God created the child to be.*

*When home is the haven God intended, children will not be exposed to perpetrators of evil who seek to destroy the children.*

writing articles on your best practices or effective strategies. Other workers can learn from your experiences and programs.

Perhaps you have a resource to share. Let's bless one another by exchanging insights into how we can be more effective in our care of the children.

2) Writing a train-the-trainer curriculum. You will see the outline of this curriculum on the next page. At the core of the curriculum is the foundational Crisis Care module. Following this foundational module, workers can take specialized modules as shown in the spokes of the wheel. I have a dozen curriculum writers helping with the development of these modules.

Pray! The core module should be available by May and will include a section on awareness-building concerning the plight of children worldwide. Also with the curriculum will come a children-in-crisis video and (hopefully!) a video of a training program I will conduct in February at Asbury Theological Seminary.

3) Continuing the Children in Crisis series. At present the book focused on girl-child issues is at press, and I am trusting to get the next book, focused on children with disabilities, to press in early spring.

4) In June we will launch a one-month training program at the ROH headquarters for all candidates wanting to work in a ROH ministry project. The month-long training will include practical hands-on experiences.

5) I am also becoming more involved in training programs at various colleges such as the

International Christian College in Glasgow, Scotland; Asbury Theological Seminary and WEC's MTCs. These programs could provide another possibility for ongoing training. At present I am basically teaching the core crisis-care module.

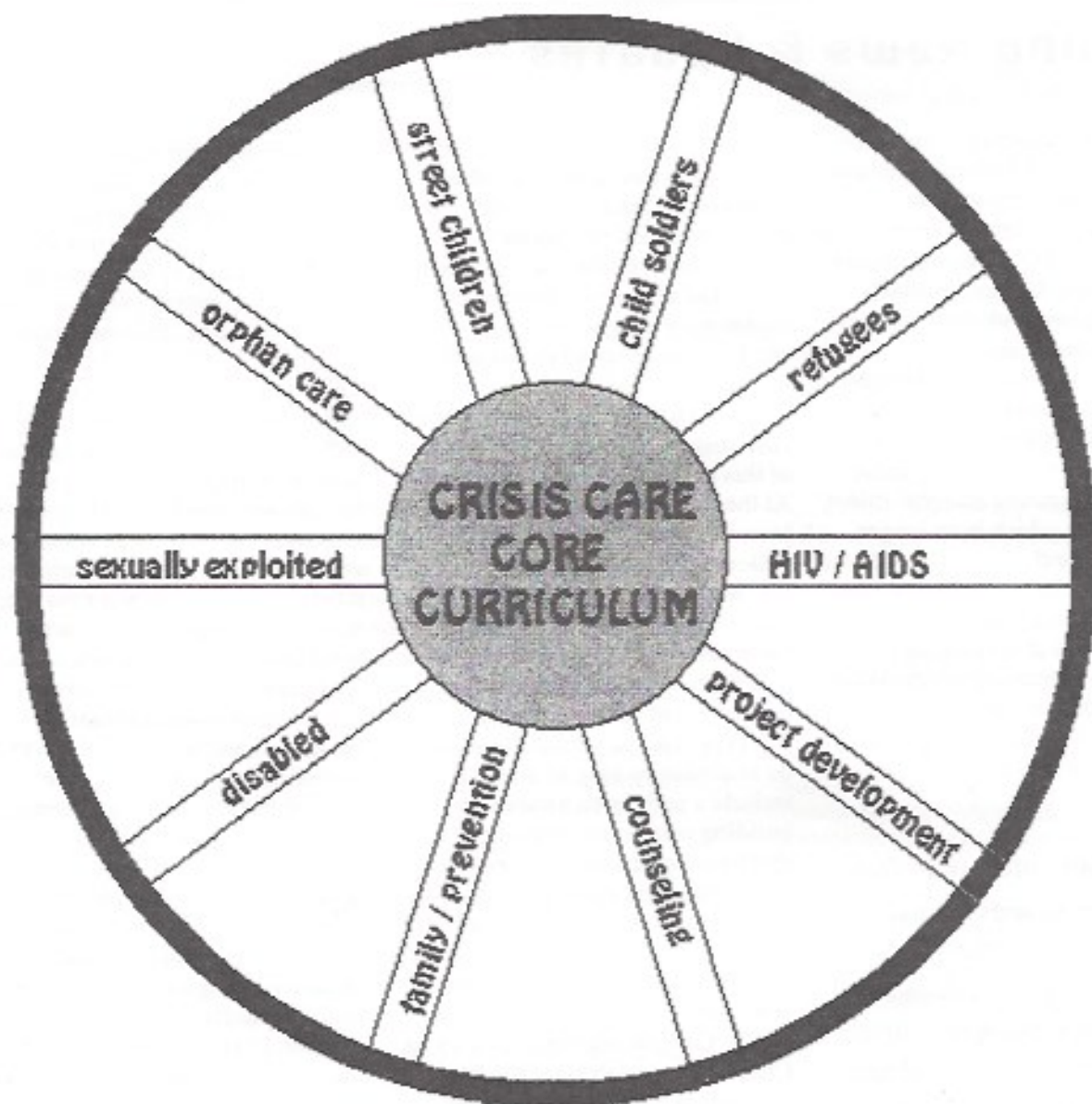
**T**he Training focus of this newsletter is on the importance of empowering families to be nurturing—physically, emotionally and spiritually. Many of the children you work with experience violence in the home. They often find it better to live in a sewer pipe than at home—a tragedy. Home is the heart and center of a child's world. God planned for children to grow and develop within the family. And the gift of childhood was given to be a special time for nurturing their God-given gifts and abilities, discovering the person God created them to be.

Family training truly must be the centerpiece of our prevention programs. Where families are absent, we need to train the children's caregivers to promote healthy childhood development as detailed in Helen Barker's article. Many pressures are put on families. These issues will be addressed in a future issue of Barnabas. For now, the focus is on the importance of parents being trained in good parenting skills. When home is the haven God intended it to be, children will not be exposed to the perpetrators of evil that seek to destroy the children.

As you plan your programs, don't forget to include some elements that enable families to be encouragers, role models and foundation builders for their children's spiritual lives.

# CRISIS CARE CURRICULUM OUTLINE

*Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis*



**T**he material in these modules is applicable to all children experiencing trauma regardless of the cause for the trauma. Central to most children's trauma is the loss of the security and protection of family and home. This loss could occur because of divorce in the home, becoming orphaned through HIV/AIDS, fleeing and becoming a refugee in a strange

land or a host of other situations the world's children are experiencing in epidemic proportions today.

This curriculum provides an understanding of the impact that loss plays in the life of a traumatized child. Various effective intervention principles that promote healing and facilitate closure to a child's traumatic experiences will be discussed for training of the

caregiver. Emphasis will be placed on symptoms of trauma, intervention, grieving losses, case studies, the STOP model, parental support, Biblical foundations and care for the caregiver.

Once the core course is completed, the learner is ready to study other modules detailing more specific areas of childhood traumas.



# Qualities of A Stable Family Helen Barker, Senegal

*The WEC Senegal field gave Helen this past year to consolidate the work with children in crisis in Senegal. Three years ago she was instrumental in launching the street and orphan's projects in Ziguinchor and is now working toward developing a street children's project in Dakar. She facilitated an in-depth research of the needs of children in Dakar and, most recently, planned and hosted the Rainbows of Hope training program in both Ziguinchor and Dakar. Each seminar ended with a family day, featuring the need for healthy nurturing families as a key to prevention of children in crisis.*

**C**hildren are described as gifts in the Bible. In Genesis 33:5 we read the account of Jacob meeting Esau. The statement is made that "these are the children whom God has graciously given." And the Psalmist reminds us that, "Children are given as God's best gifts." Human gifts are received joyfully and are treasured. Likewise God's gifts of children are to be treasured and treated with a great sense of responsibility. Parents who value their children provide them with many blessings.

## Security

In God's perfect plan, He designed a safe place within a family structure for children to be protected. The confidence and security children need to grow and develop in the way God intended derives from a healthy, nurturing family.

## Bonding

God's intention was to form a strong godly bonding between parents and their children. The umbilical cord is symbolic of this bonding. Unborn children receive good things from their mothers while yet in the womb. At birth the child is no longer attached physically to the mother, and now the child is received into the family where he or she is cherished and nourished. Our heavenly father intended us not only to care for our children physically but also emotionally and spiritually.

## A Place To Grow

When children are cherished and nourished in all areas of their lives, they experience a deep sense of

security that allows them to experiment and develop without fear of constant criticism, fear of failure or punishment. Their spirits are set free to enjoy the gifts of acceptance, respect and being valued. There is the unspoken recognition that they are special because they are part of their family.

## Affirmation

God wants parents to encourage and affirm their children. When someone encourages us, we want to do the same thing again so we can receive further encouragement. Parents can say, "You did well, I like the way you did that." Or, "Well done. You are such a blessing to us." Children have a number of basic needs including the need for love and the need for significance which stems from affirming their value and worth.

## Perception of God

Parents are the first example of Jesus' love and care for children. They have the responsibility of demonstrating unconditional love and a valuing of children that exhibits respect and worth. Thus parents lay the foundation for their children to understand what it means to become part of God's family. Often it is the mother who meets the child's need for love and the father meets the child's need for significance. In giving these gifts to our children, we become role models to them. Children develop their view of God from their parents, especially from the father.

A study compiled by a charity called Young Voice showed that a male role model is vital to a child's self esteem and confidence. They

interviewed 1400 boys aged between 13-19 years and discovered that fathers still have a key role in their sons' lives. The three qualities that they found most helpful were:—making time for their children—being prepared to talk through their problems—showing an interest in their work.

In other words, adolescent boys want their fathers to give them time, to listen as they discuss issues together and to value them by showing an interest in their activities.

**W**hat qualities do we need to give our children?

## Love

Children need to know they are loved. This need is first fulfilled at birth when a child is lovingly held and nourished at the breast; the child comes to know that arms will receive him when he cries.

As children grow older, they still have a need for physical affection. Affection can be shown by having a child sit on a parent's knee or by giving a hug or an arm affectionately placed around the child's shoulder. In families, children should experience unconditional love. They need to know that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do. Unconditional love, however, does not mean that you give them everything they want. Children also need the boundaries and guidelines that a loving family provides.

## Security

For healthy childhood development, children need to feel secure in their families. For a sense of security to develop, children need to be



taught their boundaries and the consequences of stepping outside those boundaries. Children may protest their boundaries, testing their limits, but deep down they know they are not safe without boundaries. Children also, however, need to know that if they disobey they will be forgiven when they ask for forgiveness. Knowing their families are there for them creates a secure family environment where children can be themselves. They can experiment, laugh, cry, dance and sing without fear of people making fun of them. Children also feel secure when they know their parents love and respect each other.

### Self-worth

Being part of a family helps children develop a healthy self-image. Christian parents must teach their children that God values them because He has created them in His image; God doesn't make mistakes! God also valued them so much that He sent Jesus to die so they might live. We can teach our children that their value and worth flow from what God has done. In the family we can express our children's value in the way we encourage and build them up.

### Acceptance

Children need to know they are accepted as they are, whatever their abilities, their size or their level of attainment at school. Each child in a family will have different strengths and weaknesses. We need to accept them as they are and not favor one child over another. Don't compare your children, by making statements such as, "Your brother did this, why can't you? Your sister got good grades, why can't you?" Each child is unique and needs to be treated as such. Ask God to reveal to you the gifts and talents he has given to each of your children.

### Encouragement

Giving encouragement to their children is something all parents should do. They can praise them when they do something well and, in areas of weakness, encourage them to develop skills. For example, if a child is very forgetful and frequently forgets to take his books to school, help him establish a routine that will enable him to remember. When he does remember, praise him. If you just remember for him, you reinforce the weakness. Children need to be trained to be responsible.

### Respect

Children gain respect from knowing they are valuable members of the family and, as such, they have an important role to play. Encourage your children to express their feelings about the family and the environment around them. Take time to carefully listen to their opinions, discussing together both your and their ideas. While their ideas may not change what is happening, your children will know you respect them as individuals. Pray with your children about their feelings, needs and desires.

### Protection

Your children need a safe place away from the pressures and influences of the world. That haven should be the home, a place of refuge for the child. A place where they can be quiet and read, a place where they can play and be themselves. The home gives physical protection from heat and cold but, just as important, it also provides emotional and spiritual protection. You can help protect your children spiritually by teaching them the ways of the Lord and by encouraging them to read the Bible and pray. The home is the place where your children, at a young age, can be led to put their trust in Jesus and be

nurtured in the faith. A strong faith will provide children protection when facing the storms of life.

In summary, children develop and mature best in a place where they are assured of security, unconditional love, encouragement and respect. These qualities all contribute to a child's healthy self-image. This may seem an awesome task, but God is at our side to help us.

I like to pray the blessing from Numbers 6 over my children when they go to bed:

*The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you his peace.*

### Book Review

*Preventing Family Violence: A Manual for Action*, Josephine Warrior from Save the Children.

Many children with whom we work are deeply scarred, both physically and emotionally, not just by what is done to them but also by what they see done to others in the very place that should offer them security and sanctuary, their home. Family violence—often considered a private matter—is, in fact, a very public tragedy on an international scale.

With experiences concerning families and children in crisis in more than a hundred countries, Save the Children has profiled the magnitude of family violence globally. This book also provides a definition of what is meant by family violence and the way this violence impacts children of various ages. Insights into the causes of family violence given leads to a deeper understanding of why and how violence occurs in the home and what can be done about it.

You can purchase this book via Save the Children's e-mail address <info@save-children-alliance.org> or through The International Save the Children Alliance, 275-281 King Street, London W6 9LZ, UK .



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