

Praying for Children in Crisis

CCTI Prayer Initiative for Children in Crisis

Who Are They?

Children in crisis are those children whose labor is exploited, children victims of modern wars, street children, children of the sex trade, orphans due to AIDS or natural disasters, or any child whose situation puts them at risk of exploitation.

Their Challenges:

Poverty

One person in five in the world still lives on less than \$1 a day. Five hundred million children do not get enough food to grow up well and strong.

(Glenn Myers, *Children in Crisis*, Authentic Media, 1998, p. 6)

Medical Care

Children who are born in poverty do not have, or only have limited access to, clean water, food, vaccinations and basic medical care. This makes children vulnerable and easy targets for infections, epidemics and diseases.

Loss of Rights

Discrimination against girl children in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan probably results in one million unnecessary deaths each year.

Abuse and Exploitation

Since children have no voice and their rights are easily violated, they become victims of sex trade; excessive and dangerous work; physical, psychological and sexual violence; and discrimination.

Abandonment

Due to the family's inability to provide for the children's needs, children are abandoned to fend for themselves, putting them at risk of exploitation.



“Of the 2.2 billion children in the world clearly 2/3, 150 billion, are hurting. They are children at risk and children in crisis.”
Source: UNICEF

How to Pray:

Use the word “hope” to pray for children in crisis.

Healthy Relationships

Loving and trust-filled relationships give the children a sense of identity, security, belonging, love and happiness. These enable children to thrive and to mature according to God’s intended pattern. Pray that children in crisis will be surrounded by God’s love and support through caring adults.

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12 NIV)

Organization and Churches

Christian organizations and churches must include children in their outreach programs. This is not only a biblical mandate but an urgent social need to respond to the needs of children in crisis. Pray that churches’ response to their needs will increase in the coming years.

“Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:9 NIV)

Protection and Safety

Home always lies at the heart of a safe and happy childhood, where they can share their joys and experiences, and where child-sized heartaches are soothed and healed with love. Pray that children will see God and their families as a safe place to be protected from abuse and violence.

“My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior- from violent people you save me.” (2 Samuel 22:3 NIV)

Education and Opportunity

We must provide the tools and opportunities children need in order to develop their God-given gifts and abilities. Pray that children in crisis will have the opportunity to have an education, proper nutrition and medical care so that they will broaden their opportunities for a brighter future.

“For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Children are the ultimate silent majority. Though they make up nearly half of the human family, they bear far more than half their share of the world’s miseries.



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