

## *The Power of Children's Prayers*

— By Jane Mackie

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them," (Matthew 19:14). What better way to let the children come to Jesus than in prayer. Prayer comes out of our relationship with God so when we teach children to pray we are encouraging them in their relationship with Him. In these days where the devil is doing everything he can to kill, steal, and destroy the next generation, our priority must be to disciple our children. The world is providing more than enough entertainment; our role is to train, disciple, and equip them, so that when trials and temptations come they will know how to stand on the Word of God and know who they are in Christ.

It is such a joy to hear children speak to their Heavenly Father. When they know that they can talk to Him about anything and everything, and that the words don't really matter too much, children move the heart of God through their simple prayers of faith.

There is a saying "it takes a village to raise a child" and we can all play a part—even if it is in the life of just one child. Psalm 78 tells us that one generation is responsible for the next. What a difference we could make if we made the next generation a priority—disciplining children and teaching them to pray! Parents also need our help and support—we are the Christian village!

I feel privileged to have played a part in the global children's prayer movement, and it is exciting to be able to say that there are now many thousands of children and young adults who have grasped the importance of prayer. Today there seems to be more awareness in the church of the importance of children, but we must be aware the devil doesn't want them trained—or to pray. He knows they are a powerful untapped resource.



...continued on page 2

### what's inside.....

<i>Praying Children -- For Such A Time As This</i>	4
<i>Out of the Mouths of Babes</i>	6
<i>Caregivers Time Out</i>	7
<i>News, Events, Resources</i>	8

## IN FOCUS



### *God's Children*

— By Amy Wilson, Editor

The faith, purity, innocence, and hope of children is so evident, especially at this time of year. They believe and trust God and do not tend to doubt His promises as we who are jaded adults so often do. God sees and hears their earnest hearts as they cry out to Him. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 21:16, "... have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'" Everyone knows that

...continued on page 2



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*...continued from page 1*

Every group of children is different, and every leader is uniquely gifted, but my best piece of advice for where to start is “relationship.” I can never stress strongly enough the importance of building a relationship with children. All of us have a need for love, value, acceptance, and belonging. It is God who fulfills these needs in us, and as you love His children, value them, accept them, and give them a sense of belonging, you are His instruments in drawing them closer to Him.

Help children to hear God's voice. When we pray we are talking to God, but we need to help children hear what He is saying, so that they can pray what is on His heart. They will find this fun. We have the children find their own space, lie down if there is room so they don't distract each other, and then just listen. Sometimes they will see a picture, have a thought, a feeling, or hear God say something. We talk to the children about the different ways God speaks to us and what might happen when we wait in His Presence. In all the years we have practised this with children, we have never been disappointed!

I have learned to love Holy Spirit-led ministry. The best prayer meetings are where the Holy Spirit leads through the children hearing from God. Our handbook “Kids Pray!” outlines our “**8 Steps to Powerful Prayer and Intercession.**” I have traveled the world with those steps and little else other than reliance upon the Holy Spirit. Resources can be useful to have available but it is amazing how hours can fly by in a prayer meeting without needing them.

The steps are not a formula but biblical principles, taught simply. **Step 1** is repentance (Get rid of the junk), **Step 2** is reconciliation (Relationship check), and these are the most important as they prepare our hearts. Space here restricts me from outlining the other steps but **Step 7** is where we wait and listen.

Let us raise our expectations! Children will only rise to the expectations we place upon them; if you expect little they will give you little. Help children raise their own expectations of themselves. Tell them they can talk to God, hear from Him, pray powerful prayers, and minister to Him and to others. They can and are destined to be world changers! ■

*...continued on page 3*

## IN FOCUS

*...continued from page 1*

children are our future and much attention is given to their education in hopes of them leading the generations to come. However, how much attention is given to their spiritual education? How often are they encouraged to come along side of adults to pray, serve, and lead in our churches?

The Bible gives us countless examples of how God used children throughout the Old and New Testaments. There are the stories of David as a child, Joseph and his faith as a youth while taken captive to another land, and Naaman's servant girl who helped him overcome leprosy. Daniel and his friends were believed to have been between 8-10 years old when they were taken captive to Babylon. There is the nameless child who helped Jesus feed the 5000 and, of course, there are the countless examples of how God used Jesus as a child. Statistics show that more than 80% of Christians came to their faith in Christ before the age of 18. When you consider a statistic like that, should we ask if we are spending 80% of our resources in reaching God's children? We know who our enemy is on this earth, but are we having children help us combat the enemy? We are told to do so in Psalm 8:2, “Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.”

As you read through this issue of our Barnabas Letter, I pray we are all reminded of how very much God values us ALL as His children and that we are encouraged to not forget any of His children, no matter how old or young. Remember, if we “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it!” (Proverbs 22:6). ■

*Amy Wilson, Editor*

children/youth praying for  
Pastor Devon Harbajan in Jamaica



## *The Power of Children's Prayers*

*...continued from page 2*



Jane Mackie is Founder and Coordinator of the Children's Prayer Network in Australia. She is married with two children and three grandchildren. Jane entered children's ministry in 1988 when she was attending St. Paul's Anglican Church in Wahroonga, Sydney. She coordinated that children's ministry for many years.

In May, 1995, Jane was invited to lead a team working with children from different nations who were invited to attend the Global Consultation on World Evangelization in Seoul, Korea, as praying delegates. Subsequently she was invited by the Australian AD2000 Movement to set up and coordinate a Children's Prayer Network in Australia. Jane has travelled to more than 35 nations since 1995 sharing the vision the Lord has given her.

The vision of the Children's Prayer Network is to mobilize and network praying Christian children; to support and encourage the nurturing, discipling, training, and equipping of these children, to enable them to take their place in God's family as part of the army He is raising up to reach this generation.



### *Jane Mackie*

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## *Praying Children — For Such A Time As This!*

— By Esther Ilnisky



Have you ever had a child lay hands on you for healing? Talk about “... the prayer of faith saving the sick!” The resulting miracles I have witnessed from a child’s simple prayer could fill volumes. For example, a young mother placing both her and her baby’s hand on the chest of a woman with breast cancer (Argentina) and simply saying together, “Jesus.” The later testimony was one of healing! However, the “healing” prayers of children go far beyond that.

Yes, indeed! Praying children have emerged all over the world with unflappable faith that God hears and answers their prayers. They are “ready assets” that I have gratefully “experienced” for 22 years! Adults say, “We have to pray.” Kids say, “We get to pray.”

I tenaciously trumpet children’s validity, their honesty, purity, anointing, faith and, most of all, their rightful place in the kingdom. The healing prayers of these remarkable children of all ages, races, genders, nationalities, and ethnicities have taken on planet earth!

“Dear God, this world is a mess, please come and fix it!” Holding our Global PRAYERTOOL tightly, five-year-old Michael makes his plea to God—one which we have heard in one way or another from countless children everywhere—always climaxed with “Thank you!” and a heartfelt, “Amen/YES!” We call them WORLD SHAPERS for good reason.

Daily, we attest to how a praying child is affecting individuals and the world. Our “Cry Hosanna!” Caribbean Representative, Kathryn Snider, shares many instances of God’s intervention in protecting children from impending harm. Mary Tome, World Shapers Club Director, connects a host of children worldwide whose prayer requests are shared on our monthly calendar.

“Pray for families that are broken and hurting.”

“Pray children don’t get radicalized through the internet.”

“Ask God to hear the pleas/prayers of children who want their parents to lead them/set boundaries.”

“Think about the needs of your nation and repent of any sins that might be holding back God’s blessings.”

Inviting praying adults to partner with praying children in our “InterGenerational Prayer Gatherings” is our most effective way to make them believers! It is a “God-thing” that unfolds in innumerable, amazing ways.

An Episcopal Priest has said,

*“God is looking for adults who will die to self,  
train up the children and let them lead.”*

Here is an example of an infallible proof. At 4 A.M. during an all-nighter, several excited eight to 10 year old boys presented me with this handwritten word they received from God:

*“Children cry—see the tears in their eyes  
the devil has given them such a lie  
stop the lie from getting inside  
tell the truth—tell the truth!”*

*Hurting children—they need help  
if only Jesus’ love could be felt  
tanks and soldiers and fighting out there  
there’s a reason to be a house of prayer!*

It became a part of a song on our “House of Prayer” CD.

My message to you is from Jesus Himself, “Let the children come unto Me” (Matthew 19:14). My paraphrase, “Let the children pray!”

For such a (critical, opportune) time as this! ■

*...continued on page 5*



## *“Praying Children — For Such A Time As This!”*

*...continued from page 4*



Esther Ilnisky has been part of the Worldwide Prayer Movement since 1990 and is the founder of the Esther Network International. She is a pastor's wife, former missionary, widely known speaker and teacher, and a published author.

Esther has interfaced with Pastors, Children's Pastors, and parents all over the world who desire that their children be acknowledged and released to their full spiritual potential. Her book, "Let the Children Pray," documents her amazing experiences with praying children and is a strong, proven voice on their behalf.

The Esther Network's InterGenerational Prayer Gatherings and its World Shapers Club (WSC), which is directed by Mary Tome, along with the WSC monthly calendar are gaining remarkable momentum worldwide. Updates and articles in their monthly e-newsletters provide an inspiring "show and tell" about what God is doing through praying children—for such a (critical) time as this!

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# OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES



*Dedicated to children who hear their Father's voice*

## STORIES OF HOW GOD USES CHILDREN AND THEIR PRAYERS



### STORY 1

We had a child who was very distressed about her mum who was seriously ill. The kids all gathered around and prayed for her and her mum. The cool thing was at the next prayer meeting. We usually start by kids giving testimonies of answered prayer. She came bounding forward and said her mum had started to improve from the time all the kids had prayed, and she was doing much better (her mum has cancer). What was particularly special was this little girl is from a different church, so she didn't know that we had a family of five kids from our church attending for the first time. They had just found out their mum has aggressive breast cancer. I saw them all watching the girl intently as she gave her testimony, and it ended up with us all laying hands on those children and praying for them and their mum. It was very moving, as you can imagine!! ■



### STORY 2

Philip was seven years old and because his teacher had noticed he didn't seem to be seeing the blackboard well in class, I took him to the optometrist. We left with glasses, which he had to wear all the time. He was very upset because he was very sporty and had just started playing soccer for a local team. I encouraged Philip to ask Jesus to heal him so every night he prayed for healing. One evening about two weeks later, while we were driving home, he announced that he could see the moon really clearly without his glasses. The following week we saw the optometrist again, I explained that Philip had been praying and the optometrist agreed saying, "Well, something has worked a miracle!" His eyesight was normal. Philip wore glasses for one month. During that month the annual school photographs were taken so we have his photo wearing glasses as a reminder that God answered his prayers. ■



## *When the Fountain of Life is our Source*

### *Psalm 36*

— *By Patty*

I think of a hammock as God's womb, because there, I forget my worries and stresses. The swaying detaches me from the things that weigh on my mind. I slept in a hammock for years in Venezuela, and nighttime became therapy for me as He surgically freed me from cares and ministered healing. Basking in the presence of Jesus should detach us from the things that weigh us down, enable us to refocus, and provide refreshment and healing from the Lord. As caregivers, we must stop and have periodic encounters with Him.

Having burned out twice, I have learned that I must care for myself. A big part of that is learning to listen to others, but most of all to the Lord. Yet, to hear the Lord, I must stop. He does not run hurried behind me like a child does with their Mother. The Lord patiently waits until we

slow down and allow Him to minister to us. It is in His time frame when He touches us in divine ways and cleanses and heals us through prayer encounters. Have we ever had a true healing encounter that frees us from entanglements, attitudes, hurts, and bondages? If we haven't, it is time we learn so that we can minister healing to others.

God asks us to refill in Him; one way is to drink from His river and feast at His table (Psalm 36:8). This verse comes after situations and people that cause us stress (v. 1-4), yet God is a refuge from them (v. 5-7). When we allow ourselves to be nourished by God, then refreshment and healing come from Him. He says that when we feast and drink from His abundance and delights, then He will be that fountain of life, so we gain a new perspective and see with His eyes (v. 9)! God enables us to see light and hope when we are in the midst of His light (v. 9)! That means on our own we are limited, but when bathed in His presence, He gives us spiritual vision and a divine perspective that enables us to keep on despite stresses, difficulties, and opposition. We are assured of His love, empowered to do good, and saved from attacks when allowing Jesus to meet and heal us from secondary traumatization (v. 10-12).

Digest these truths and allow them to permeate your soul; then you will find restorative strength and healing in the Lord. Discover your divine hammock and be nourished by His intimate presence while you feast on His abundance and gulp down His delights; then you will be an unhindered caregiver through whom He flows in a healthy way, healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2 NKJV). ■



#### **About the Author**

*Patty has served overseas with WEC since 1990 first as a church planter in Africa, then as a mobilizer of churches and trainer of missionaries in Latin America. Presently, she is part of the Directive team for WEC Latino, Director of Latino Member Care, and teaches for CCTI.*

Making it easier to  
bring healing and  
hope to children  
in crisis

Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis

NEWS  
EVENTS  
RESOURCES

## Books

*Let the Children Pray*

by Esther Ilnisky

Becky Fischer of  
*Kids in Ministry International*  
has a lot of curriculum, some of  
which might be helpful.  
[www.kidsinministry.org](http://www.kidsinministry.org)

*Children Can You Hear Me?*

by Brad Jersak

## Websites

Children's Prayer Network website  
[www.kidspray.org.au](http://www.kidspray.org.au)

Viva [www.viva.org](http://www.viva.org)

## Videos

Webinar 1

<https://youtu.be/4sDLQBepTw>

Webinar 2

<https://youtu.be/fYNGXvsJRmc>

Webinar 3

<https://youtu.be/QmqgqhB4l4I>

# JOYS OF THE *Season*



**For Information On:**

• **CCTI Curriculum—**

**Offering Healing and Hope  
for Children in Crisis**

• **Other Resources**

Go To : [www.crisiscaretraining.org](http://www.crisiscaretraining.org)



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