



All of our children are feeling the stresses that we are feeling from this time in history. However, they may exhibit their signs in different ways. Are your kids becoming more distant, showing signs of fear or more nightmares, having trouble sleeping, arguing with your more? Here is a brief overview of the STOP Model concept we teach that may help you during this time:

**S = Structure:** Everyone needs **Structure** (routine, consistency, clearly defined expectations, etc.). If you have not done so, create a consistent schedule, list of chores, daily expectations so that you child can take comfort in knowing what to expect.

**T = Talking and Time:** Ask your child frequently, “What do you think/feel about what is going on? Are you worried, angry, disappointed, etc.?” Some kids, especially younger ones, will not have words to express these thoughts, but communicating with them on their level about what changes have occurred and why will help them feel included and less fearful of the changes. The time piece is also a factor here, which is why you should do this frequently. Maybe they are unable to pinpoint what they are feeling one day, but as they have time to process, they can clearly explain a few days later.

**O = Organized Play:** Play is the language of children! For those who are too young to put thoughts to words, you may see a change in how they interact with their toys. Watch and listen! Young children may “show” their emotions through sand table activities, play-dough sculptures, action figures, etc. Older kids may be more willing to open-up as you play cards or a board game, shoot hoops, etc. Doing physical activities such as biking, hiking, etc. may help them all work out energy and anger. Engage in a music, art, etc. The benefits for all ages of children to **Organized Play** are unlimited!

**P = Parental Support:** This last letter of our **STOP Model** is key to all the elements. The kids need to know you are there for them and are willing to share how you are feeling through all of this too. Some of us have more time on our hands, while others of us may be busier than before. Either way, set aside time for your kids each day to engage in at least one (if not all) of the elements listed here to help them work through the changes in their own lives.

If you need more suggestions or want to talk through more of these concepts, please feel free to let us know at [info@crisiscaretraining.org](mailto:info@crisiscaretraining.org).



## In Focus

We are all inundated with the latest numbers of the pandemic. Unfortunately, COVID-19 will have many more victims than those who become infected or are dying with the virus. There are so many losses, income, education, abuse, depression, lack of structure which will lead to more on-line predators and trafficking and, unfortunately, the list goes on. The [World Without Orphans](#) organization stated in their latest update that children are three times more likely to be exposed to violence during prolonged periods of children being in either unsafe or unsupervised environments. Additionally, [UNESCO](#) reports 1.5 billion children are unable to attend school in more than 185 nations due to COVID-19. **Even so, there is good news!**

We hope that this current issue of *The Barnabas Letter* brings you the resources to encourage, enrich and equip you to **care for children and be encouraged by what others are doing around the world**. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way during this time.

*Serving Him Together,*

*Amy Wilson  
Director of Education*

## A Glimpse at COVID 19's Effect on Children



Deep in the High Plains of America is the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, home to the Oglala Lakota tribe of Native Americans. Conditions here rival any third world country in poverty, illiteracy, poor health, crime, and addiction. Average life expectancy for women is 52, while most men never see their sixth decade of life at all. Unemployment levels are jaw dropping high—at 80%. One can only imagine the impact of this existence on the children of the reservation.

Oglala, a tiny settlement, consists of run-down government housing developments, a part-time post office, a laundry mat, and a inconsistently supplied convenience store. In the heart of this community is the Re-Creation Center, a Christian ministry center staffed by non-native missionaries, and Oyate Concern Christian School, a welcome and necessary alternative for 28 of the 500 or more kids of this community. These ministries exist to serve the surrounding population by providing a church and educational setting for ministry activities and most importantly, to provide a “safe place” for kids who live the daily experience of trauma.

Most children here come from broken and unstable homes, rarely knowing the normal functioning of father/mother/child relationships. Most are stuffed into households with unpredictable or absent supervision, living in family groups most often run by an elderly grandmother or mother figure that may or may not be related. Homes are often filled with a lifestyle of addiction and abuse which, accompanied by poverty and extreme neglect, mean most children are not having basic needs met for any level of normal development.

In the best of times it is a monumental challenge to minister here. Imagine the dismay to be under the threat of a pandemic and the order that both the Rec Center and the school must close because of the potential spread of the virus. But what about the homes in which these kids must “shelter-in-place?” As one staff person said, “what goes on behind closed doors may be much worse than catching the virus.”

Please pray for these Oglala kids, that they will be protected from additional harm and neglect and that the Rec Center and school will re-open soon.

*Kristin Johnson is a Denver resident who has served with Highline Community Church alongside the Rec Center and Oyate School for more than eight years. She hopes to complete the Train the Trainer course soon, in order to take trauma training to this part of the Reservation.*



## Training in The Midst of The Pandemic



*We have been so greatly encouraged by many of our trainers' desire to reach out and help during the COVID-19 crisis. Within the last month, on-line trainings have been quickly organized and started in Argentina, Indonesia, and Oregon (USA).*

*Below is a report from two of our great trainers, Jessica (left) and Yulianna (right), in Indonesia:*

“We have a class of 15 locals who have a heart for reaching children and young people. The group is very diverse in ministry scope and outreach. One young woman feels called to serve the children that live in an impoverished community at a cemetery. Another is serving a non-governmental organization in another city that focuses on children at risk. Several are actively involved in reaching unreached people groups and want to understand the signs of trauma as they work with teens and young adults. Several others are studying psychology and specifically want to be equipped to help children in crisis.

The idea for starting this training group came just one week before everyone went onlock down. We quickly realized that the Lord had given us an opportunity to use this time to equip a group of young people to be ready to respond to some of the needs this situation may be creating. This training is so exciting because of the potential and passion in the trainees to learn and impact the lives of one another and children. They are sharing and working together to understand and apply the material and connecting with one another in really specials ways. We realize that the Lord has strategically orchestrated this training and that He has plans that we cannot even imagine as they all continue their journeys to serving young people in this nation and throughout the world.

This class has far exceeded my expectations so far. The Lord is working in the lives of the trainees to bring healing to some deep hurts from the past and to position them to be part of the healing of others. It has been so encouraging to be able to be part of this journey with them!”





## Next On-line courses:

Module I: Trauma and Crisis Care

May 17-July 17, 2020

Module 3: Care for Orphans and  
Vulnerable Children

May 17-July 17, 2020

**Deadline:**  
**May 8, 2020**

**Interested?**

Please contact Denise at:  
denise@ccti-wec.org  
for an application or more  
information.



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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# Video



See how CCTI may be able to help you through this video:

<https://vimeo.com/409070119>

## Books, Tools, Websites:

*It Will Be Okay: Trusting God Through Fear and Change* by  
Lysa Terkeurst (Children's Book)

<https://www.amazon.com/Will-Okay-Trusting-Through-Change/dp/140032419X>

*Where is God in a Coronavirus World?* by John Lennox

<https://www.thegoodbook.com/where-is-god-in-a-coronavirus-world-ebook>

*COVID 19 Children's Workbook*

<https://letsembark.ca/time-capsule>

*Connected Hearts Ministry*

<https://www.connectedheartsministry.org/>

*World Without Orphans*

<https://www.worldwithoutorphans.org/covid-19>

## 4-Year Old Grandson of one of our team member's recent prayer

So Ash just said "Mom we should pray." And I said "about what?" And he goes "about the virus." So I came over to him and started to pray and said:

"God we trust You. We are not afraid. We're just waiting for you.

You are powerful

(Ash: "nothing is too hard for you!")

You are bigger than the virus

("you can squash it!")

And we know that You love us

("and you are holding us in Your hands!")

We prayed for President Trump

(at his prompting) and for the doctors

("and don't forget the sick people that the doctors take care of!")

and the scientists making the vaccine

("you helped us make one for the flu! I got my flu shot!")

And we prayed about wanting to go to the cabin

("I want to go in that tunnel with the cars!")

and we want to go back to church

("...I don't like church. Maybe God can help me like it?")

And when I finished the prayer, we said "Amen!"