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TABLE OF CONTENT

COVER //1
IN FOCUS //2-3
NEW TRAINING PLA

NEW TRAINING PLATFORM //4
FOR A WORLD WITHOUT ORPAHNS //5-6
COMMUNITY MINISTRY //7-8



IN FOCUS

"He's Got the Whole World in His hands, the Whole World in His hands...

He's got All the Children in His hands... All the Children of the World!" Most of us know this song from long ago, and I am so grateful to work with ROH/CCTI for many years -bringing healing and hope to children worldwide. Yes, God has every child He has given life to in His hands, but He also wants to use our hands, hearts, and lives to reach them.

I know two female doctors who have given up lucrative positions with comfortable lives in England and have left "the good life" to serve children and needy people in poor villages in South Asia. They not only care for disabled children in their own homes but have adopted two of the most unwanted. Others give up many benefits to serve the starving in villages and African refugee camps. One man had to get eleven different permissions to deliver needed rations to one village. What would cause some to "leave it all" to serve God and children? In this issue of the Barnabas Letter, we will examine two stories and their international ministries to children.

IN FOCUS

These stories may discourage you and make you think, "I cannot do anything like this." However, with over six billion hurting children, we do not have to go international to bring them to know the love of Jesus. There are so many ways to minister to children right where you are! Along with Sunday School, many churches are doing Vacation Bible Schools, camps, and summer activities for children, and all could use more volunteers. Youth groups also need those more mature to mentor, guide, and counsel young people. Both children and youth love sports. You can volunteer with local groups doing a sports activity or quickly start your own as you play with your child, neighbors, etc. Other local children will come around to watch – invite them!

Last but never least is PRAYER. Lamentations 2:19 was my prayer when going to South Asia. God hears all our prayers and wants us to continue praying for all the children and their needs. Please look at the beautiful prayers for different groups of children on the CCTI website. The Barnabas Archives has a wealth of information on all topics for children.

Isaiah 6:8 says: "Here am I send me." As you read this newsletter, I hope you will prayerfully consider what God will have you do to bring the children into the safe, loving arms of Jesus. ~Maggie L., CCTI Team Volunteer



Crisis Care Training International Upcoming Training Events

Module 1 Trauma and Crisis Care September 19th - November 12th



Module 1: Trauma & Crisis Care Digital

Street Children September 19th - November 12TH

Module 2

Module 5

Train The Trainer

October 11th - November 29th



Module 5: Train the Trainer Digital



Module 2: Street Children Digital Digital Download

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Take your Pick

Our Restoring Hope to Children with Disabilities training is available as well. Please let us know if you have interest in being trained for this module during this upcoming fall semester.



https://crisiscaretraining.org

To register and for more information email: Denise McCarthy at denise@ccti-wec.org

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS

What is the World Without Orphans (WWO)? Read on in this informative article and learn how this organization makes a difference, too.

Our God, from your sacred home you take care of orphans and protect widows. You find families for those who are lonely. (Psa 68:5-6a)

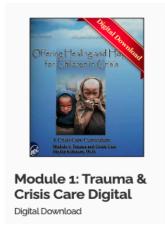
How I Became an Orphan

I was fourteen years old when my world changed drastically overnight when my father died suddenly. My mother was a widow and my siblings, all younger than me, and I had become orphans. This event led me to be a missionary and to work in ministry to children for more than 30 years.



How did I become a Ministry for Orphans?

I started in Switzerland, my home country, and from there traveling to many countries all over the world, training others for the ministry to children. When God called me to minister to children in 1990, in a camp for underprivileged children in Romania, I knew this was it! This was what I was going to do for the rest of my life. It was an adventurous journey. And still am at age 65 following my calling and passion and knowing that I am at the place where I can pass on all that I have learned in many years of ministry.



How do most other kids become Orphans in recent years?

Many children have experienced what I did. An estimated 6.7 million children have lost a parent or caregiver due to Covid-19, with India, Brazil, and the US as some of the most affected countries. The ongoing war in Ukraine and several other countries will make even more orphans. In Africa, about 17 million children have been orphaned over the past 30 years due to the HIV epidemic. Natural disasters, sicknesses, and wars are continuing to make children orphans. Many children with living parents also end up in orphanages due to poverty, domestic

violence, or the inability of their parents to care for them.

How did World Without Orphans (WWO) Get Started?

The vision for a World Without Orphans (WWO) started over 10 years ago in Ukraine with the prayer of three men with a heart to bring change to the thousands of children in orphanages in their country. God clearly spoke to them, that the church was the answer to the problem, so they started to network with others and mobilize the church to care for orphans, pray and reach out to them, and for Christian families to become foster parents.

But How did I specifically become involved with World Without Orphans (WWO)?

Through my involvement with the 4/14 Window and my teaching engagements on children at risk in many countries, I got to know WWO. Because of my own childhood experience and my work with street children in India, I had a heart for orphans and vulnerable children and knew orphanages were not the answer to their needs. I was able to join the planning team for the first global WWO forum in 2016. We wanted to spread the vision for a world, where every child is cared for in a safe and loving family and reaches his God-given potential. It can only be achieved if we all, as individuals, churches, and ministries, work together.

The European WWO team was formed in 2017. The team, with members from different European countries, advises teams in new countries in Europe in starting their own network, bringing together people from churches, NGOs, and the government. The leaders of countries like Ukraine or Romania, who have established networks, are a great help to the new network leaders. Many of these networks are right now heavily involved to help refugee children and their parents.

The European WWO team is one of many WWO teams the world over. There are teams in South Asia, the Americas, and Africa.

For more information, videos, the WWO Roadmap, Wartime Parenting Tips, and how to join the movement in your country, go to:

www.worldwithoutorphans.org or www.europe.withoutorphans.org

Contributed by Barbara Ruegger, CCTI Volunteer Trainer

Orphanage Care to Residential Care: How One Community Ministry Became Reality

It was through a community immersion of five sociology students at Light and Life Bible College that this ministry was born. The ministry first responded to the street children of Butuan city, and after a few years of operation, children expressed leaving the street life. Thus this home for boys was opened. It was a very simple beginning with only five boys and an indigenous house.

How the Community Ministry Became a Reality

In 2010 I attended a module on Trauma and Crisis Care from CCTI. The topics on the Cycle of Violence and the STOP model greatly impacted my life. Through the class, God showed me a vision of a community care center; different from a typical orphanage. This vision and the dream in my heart and mind I shared with my staff and asked them to join me in prayer. After years of praying the center started to be a reality, the land was purchased and Homes for Boys and Girls were constructed. As the years went by, there were more expansions. Aside from the residential program, a community-based, child-sponsorship program was also born.



But Challenges Were Present In the Early Day of the Community Ministry

As children were endorsed and admitted to the center, pertinent papers like birth certificates, health, school records, and other identity-related documents were insufficient if not completely absent. This led to a very challenging situation for our staff to establish the child's identity. This led us to a decision that whoever endorses a child must have the pertinent documents as a requisite for admission.

Continued...

Orphanage Care to Residential Care: How One Community Ministry Became Reality

Another challenging situation is the continuance of the court trial because most of the time, the relatives of the abused child would ask the mother or adult who filed the case to withdraw or not to appear during court proceedings. This scenario would lead to the dismissal of the case. In situations like this, a conference with the family and the child was made to ascertain that they would never give up their pursuit of justice.

But Why Did These Children Need Placement?

Abandonment, extreme poverty, and being abused, and orphaned are the reasons children need placement. As children were admitted into the center, the workers found that they needed skills according to the children's needs. These include counseling, awareness of laws related to children, and the means to provide for the total needs of the children.



Module 2: Street Children Digital Digital Download

How Does the Community Ministry Help These Children That Needed Placement?

Knowing the need for sustainability, the center started Income Generating Projects to help support the needs of the center. The Income Generating Project hit two birds with one stone because children are acquiring skills as they engage in the Income Generating Project and at the same time generating income for the center.

About the author:

Rev. Teresita S. Chua; President- Philippine Social Ministries,Inc.; Administrator- Philippine General Conference of the Methodist Church