

Ministering to Street Children Overseas

Kinds of street children

How many are there, and where?

Why children are on the street

The destructiveness of life on the street
What the streets rob them of

Understanding survival tactics

Kinds of ministries

What you can do

Be Careful—Possible pitfalls & how to overcome them
The Question of Giving to Beggars

One example: Current and developing opportunities with Every Child Ministries

Resources:

Missions having major ministries with Street Children:

Common Attitudes & Reactions toward Street Children

Disgrace—worthless, worthy of death GO AWAY SOMEHOW!

Police killings in S. America

Embarrassment—MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY

Some Ghanaian response to our radio appeals

Nuisance—GET OUT OF MY WAY!

Problem with no solution—ignore them--HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

To be pitied—THROW THEM A NICKEL

It's their fault—THEY'RE LAZY, BAD, INCORRIGIBLE

Why I didn't "see" them & how God opened my eyes

Market children in Congo

My experience at Kinder-Paradise

Kinds of street children

Live at home	Live on streets	Second/Third Generation Street Children
With family	No family or family contact	
Work on streets	Survive on streets	

Phyllis Kilbourne:

Children ON the street—work on street, live at home or have frequent family contact

Children OF the street—work & mainly live on street, do not attend school, infrequent family contact

Children IN the street—work & live wholly on the street, no family contact, consider the streets their home (From Street Children, a Guide to Effective Ministry, p. 11)

How many are there, and where?

Problematic—Data hard to collect, definitions vary, conditions change

These stats are presented just to give an idea

1996-UN Stats— 192 Million worldwide
(over 8 hrs/day on street unaccompanied by adult)
20 Million totally on street

By any definition it is evident that street children form a HUGE unreached people group

Many websites give the figure OVER 100 MILLION worldwide.

AFRICA:

South Africa: 9,000 almost all black
(10,000 white children supported in state subsidized children's homes,
no such homes exist for blacks)

Kenya: 30,000 to 150,000 in Nairobi alone

Zambia: 35,000 in Lusaka

Ghana: Estimated 15,000 in Accra

LATIN AMERICA: 40,000 Total, of which 10,000 live totally on the streets

ASIA:

India: 18 Million

MIDDLE EAST:

EUROPE:
NORTH AMERICA:
AUSTRALIA:
OCEANIA:

Why children are on the street

Personal choice-

Running away
 Grass is always greener
 Abusive situations, neglect
 Seeking work
 Seeking adventure

Circumstances outside their control-

Orphaned
 Tribal warfare
 AIDS
 Natural disasters
 Forced out of the home
 Second marriages
 Economic factors
 Conversion to Christianity
 Born on the street, second/third generation
 Deserted by boyfriend ** very frequent in my experience

The destructiveness of life on the street

What the streets rob them of (What do they lack that we have)
(Ask them, have someone write answers on board)

Bible teaching
 Church
 Clothing
 Education
 Family
 Fellowship
 Food
 Friends that are helpful
 A future
 Health care
 Home
 Hope
 Love
 Role models
 Salvation

Self respect
Structure & much more

What does he experience?

Danger
Disease/sickness
Exhaustion
Fear
Feelings of worthlessness
Hatred
Hopelessness
Hunger, Thirst
Loss
Loneliness
Rejection
Shame

Other Realities I didn't realize

Pay to sleep on ground
Hide his meager pack of belonging in day, hope it will not be stolen
Pay to use the bathrooms, face pressure to convert to Islam

Understanding survival tactics

He doesn't bother to cry—it doesn't help. The tears are there, deep inside, but they won't come out. --From a workshop on Street Children at APMC

Does not see stealing, lying and prostitution in moral terms—thinks of them simply as practical means of survival. DO NOT is best followed by help with alternatives.
Drugs/glue sniffing are a way of temporarily dulling the pain.
Needs of moment are so strong that appeals to future punishment/consequences/dangers have little meaning or appeal.

What street children need to learn

Structure—to work within the rules—time limits, keeping appointments, etc.
Right & wrong—moral judgments
Negative consequences of sin
Enabling to trust God instead of relying on sinful habits they see as survival techniques

Opportunity to reach Muslims

Muslim street children more reachable because the Muslim support structure has failed them.
Many have been forced out by their families.

Kinds of ministries

Street children are a result of other social problems & issues of sin.
Given the sinful character of man, it may not be solvable.
The issue is not so much solving the problem but giving them hope.

Which type of street child is targeted?

Prevention programs targeted at children at risk of becoming street children -African Enterprise
 Children working on the street
 Children living on the street

Street Intervention Programs

Social (helps) & training programs with no Christian emphasis
 Social (helps) & training programs with Christian emphasis
 Night or part time shelters
 Complete care (home situation)
 Educational/vocational rehabilitation programs

What you can do

Help gather information, document conditions & stories
 Be a friend—Show interest—Show them that someone cares
 Teach a skill
 Pray with them and for them

Be Careful—Possible pitfalls & how to overcome them

The Question of Giving to Beggars
 Con artists—false stories
 Takes time to build relationships

One example: Current and developing opportunities with Every Child Ministries

One week to long term (career) & anything in between

Haven of Hope Home:

Administrator	
Caregivers	Builders
Houseparents (singles welcome)	Carpenters
Teachers	Plumbers
Games, Sports	Electricians
Crafts, Art	Build playground
Music	Painters
English & Reading skills (in English)	
Nurses & Doctors	
Gardening (Help children develop a garden)	
Optometrist (short term)	
Dentist (short term)	
Dental hygienist (short term)	

Ministry on the Streets:

Bible teachers
 Counselors, case workers
 Befriend children, gather stories
 Nurse
 Photographer to document needs
 Social workers

Recommended Resources:

Books

Street Children, A Guide to Effective Ministry, Phyllis Kilbourn, Ed., MARC, Monrovia, CA, 1997

Internet Sites

www.ecmafrica.org (Every Child Ministries)
www.streetkids.net

Periodicals (to subscribe or request a sample copy, write to addresses of sponsoring missions listed below):

Africa's Children	(Assemblies of God) 1445 Boonville Ave, Springfield MO 65802
African Jewels	(Every Child Ministries) PO Box 810 Hebron, IN 46341
Rainbows of Hope	(WEC) PO Box 1707 Fort Washington, PA 19034-8707

Some Missions having major ministries with Street Children:

Every Child Ministries (Ghana, Congo)

John & Lorella Rouster, Int'l Co-Directors
 P.O. Box 810
 Hebron, IN 46341
 219-996-4201
 FAX 219-996-4203
 e-mail: ecmafrica@ecmafrica.org
www.ecmafrica.org

The Viva Network

Mr. Patrick McDonald, International Coordinator
 P.O. Box 633
 Oxford, OX1 4YP England
 Phone 44-1865-450-800
 FAX 44-1865-203-567

WEC—Rainbows of Hope

Dr. Phyllis Kilbourn, Director
 P.O. Box 1707
 Fort Washington, PA 19034
 215-646-2323 ex. 101
 215-646-6202

Youth with a Mission (YWAM)

Mr. Loren Cunningham, International Director
7085 Battlecreek Rd., SE, Salem, OR 97301

www.ywam.org

503-364-3837