

There's No Place Like Home

CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT 2009



HELPS FOR TEACHERS

Thank you for using the 2009 MTW Children's Project with your children! Like each of our children's projects, it is designed with missions education as its primary goal. We hope you will find many opportunities to reinforce what the children will be learning in the video.

Funds from the project will be used to help build a permanent home for street boys, to be named in honor of Jan Kooistra (wife of MTW coordinator Dr. Paul Kooistra) who passed away in 2008 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Jan had a love for children and spent much time in ministry to them—her heart was broken by the plight of street children around the world. She prayed faithfully for MTW's StreetChild Ministry and also served as a child sponsor. **Jan's Home** will make all the difference for the boys it serves. Led by loving house parents, they will live as a family with all the privileges and responsibilities of other families. They will not only hear about Christ, but they will experience His love day by day. They will have a future and a hope.

The current drop-in center and the boys' home to come is the dream of a local church and its pastor, who works with us as a national partner. So the boys will also grow up in the context of the church and a church family.

Plans have been drawn for the ministry center which includes Jan's Home. Property in Bangalore is exceedingly costly, and funds are still needed to finish payment before construction can begin on the boys' home. So it is a big project. But we have a big God. Please pray—and ask your children to pray—that He will provide all that is needed.

We make every effort to be age appropriate with our videos, especially with a potentially dark subject like the plight of street children. Our focus is always on the hope of the gospel in word and deed. Please encourage the children with that hope. Be realistic, but without dwelling on the problem.

We'd be glad to provide any assistance or information that we can. We will be praying with you that God will use this project in the lives of the street boys of Bangalore, but also in the lives of our children as they learn about missions and their place in God's plan.

Please also visit the MTW StreetChild Ministry by going to www.mtw.org, click on "our work," then follow the link to MTW StreetChild. You will find a link to the StreetChild newsletter on the StreetChild pages as well as on the resource pages on our website under "publications." Next year, your church might also want to consider joining the Mother's Day emphasis on the plight of the world's streetchildren. Contact MTW for information and materials.

STATISTICS

For obvious reasons, it is impossible to gather truly accurate statistics about street children. Therefore there are varying estimates of their numbers. Most of the statistics noted here are from www.streetchildren.org.

- There are an estimated 11 million street children in India
- Bangalore is estimated to have 90,000 street children
- Boys living on the street are far more numerous than girls (or at least more visible).
- India is the seventh largest country in the world.
- Population of India: 1.17 billion—approximately 1/6 of the world's total population living on 2.4% of the world's land area. Of this number, 40% are under 18 (1/3 of the total population is under 15). By contrast, China has approximately 1/5 of the world's population at 1.3 billion living in the world's second largest country by land area.
- India is one of the fastest growing developing countries, although it ranks 115th among 162 countries in the Human Development Index.
- Nearly 29% of the population live in urban areas, with dramatic growth of slums and shanty towns.
- An average of 50% of the urban population live in conditions of extreme deprivation that is compounded by lack of access to basic services, legal housing, and poor urban governance.
- Street children are subject to malnutrition, hunger, health problems, substance abuse, theft, CSE (Commercial Sexual Exploitation), harassment by the city police and railway authorities, physical and sexual abuse.

The country of India is presently considered to be a sensitive area for missions and missionaries. In some areas, national Christians face serious persecution. There have been some instances of actual violence against Christians and churches. If your church supports missionaries in India, this would also be a good time to pray for them with the children. But please be careful not to list them with their full names and country of service in any materials that are publicly distributed or on a church website. Also, do not connect them (with full names) to MTW.

SUGGESTIONS

- Please encourage the children to pray for the street children. You could even make a short list together as you show each segment. It is important that children see that prayer is a vital part of missions.
- Ask the children questions about what they've seen and understood—always remembering to frame anything negative in the context of the hope and help offered by the gospel
- Encourage parental involvement. A handout for parents is included so they will know what their children are learning. But it also has suggestions for what they can do at home. The handout should be distributed on the first day. Or you may want to use our handout as a guide and modify it to suit your circumstances, perhaps to include an invitation to the closing program.
- Encourage children not to just ask their parents for money, but to find ways to earn what they give. Be creative!
- Showing the video at a closing program, if you have one, is ideal. Parents can see the story for themselves and will also have an opportunity to give to the project.

- Did you see the picture on the DVD of the boy holding a Lego house? Wouldn't it be a great idea to build a Lego house as a visual to represent Jan's Home? And the bigger the better! Teachers and children might also build small houses in their classes in order to reinforce the story. A Lego house might also be a great device for collecting the children's offering each day.
- A globe or a large map would also be helpful.
- We have provided coloring pages that show the flag of India as well as maps of India and of the world on which you can help the children locate the country. These materials include a link to the website where they are found, and all are free to use and reproduce.
- If you have time to do more, recipes for simple Indian dishes are easily found online as are games that Indian children would play.

As you implement this project in your own church, we'd love to hear back from you with ideas and resources you have used.

If you will send us your email address, we will gladly update you on the project. A summary will be posted on the MTW website sometime after the beginning of 2010 when the majority of funds have been received. The project will, however, remain open as long as the funds can legitimately be used by the children's home.

PLEASE NOTE: Included with your DVD should be a return envelope with the 2009 Children's Project number and our donations address, which is different than our normal mailing address. In case that envelope is misplaced, the information is:

Mission to the World
Project # 96013
P.O. Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30368-6284

If you make a donation, please write the project number (**96013**) on the memo line of the check.