

Every Child Matters to God

God's Grace Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

February – April 2006

WELCOME



Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I would like to welcome you to GGF's first newsletter of this glorious year 2006. We give all glory to God for what He did in God's Grace Foundation in 2005. One of the first major assignments we

undertook in 2005 a result of this trip and through the generous support of a our sponsors, **thirteen children** have been supported for the academic year that began in September 2005. On the 4th of June 2005, we joined around 1.2 million people to pray for children at risk on the World Wide Day of Prayer and we had our first prayer campaign for children in the UK on 22 October.

We expect this year to be a time of the expansion of GGF's vision, it will be a time when we set the oppressed free through our prayers according to Isaiah 58:6. A year of meeting the spiritual, social and physical needs of children so that they can become all that God created them to be.

Our first prayer event for 2006 will be focussed on Southwark Council, with subsequent ones planned for East London and North London. There is an urgent need to pray for children all over the world because there are so many vulnerable children and children who are in both physical and emotional prison. Our aim is to set these children free by lifting up our voices to God. The word of God in 2 Chronicles 7:14 says that "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land". Even though there are so many children in need of different things in our world today, we serve a **great God** and with Him all things are possible. The book of James 5:16b tells us the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. We can release the power of God into the lives of children in our neighbourhood, borough, country, and continent as we pray.

I will encourage you to join us in lifting up our voices to the Lord for the lives of children in different locations.

morning and your healing shall spring forth speedily in Jesus name (Isaiah 58:8a). The more people we have praying, the more impact we have because one shall chase one thousand and two shall put ten thousand to flight (Deuteronomy 32:30).

We will be expanding our sponsorship programme this year by the grace of God. The aim of this programme is to assist children with their educational or vocational training. Our desire is to expand this opportunity to more schools in the developing world so that more children can benefit.

As we face the year ahead I am conscious of the hugeness of the issues facing children worldwide and of our Father's great love for each one. I am conscious of the responsibility we have to this generation and the heritage we pass on to them. The prayer burden has never been bigger that 'the hearts of the fathers would turn towards the children and the hearts of the children towards the fathers.' Malachi 4:6. With an estimated one billion children suffering from extreme deprivation today, it is more vital than ever that we pray.

Join with us in 2006 and see how God answers prayers and transforms lives. Our prayer for you is that God will bless you this year, His hand of greatness will be with you, He will keep you from evil and enlarge your territory in Jesus name. Please continue to pray for us that we will be continually strengthened so that God's purpose for our children will be accomplished in Jesus name.

With warmest regards and blessings to all.
Dupe Makinde
Director, God's Grace Foundation

Southwark Prayer Campaign for Children

Join us as we lift up our voices to the Lord about issues concerning children and young people in London Borough of Southwark

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2006

**Venue: Redeemed Christian Church of God
The Lighthouse Fellowship Parish
133 Rye Lane
Peckham
London SE15 4ST**

Time: 4 pm to 6pm

Christian News

The UK human rights charity Jubilee Action in a report published has called on the public to join in its campaign to help restore human rights to children illegally held in prisons around the world. The report entitled 'Kids behind bars: Why we must act' detailed how hundreds of children worldwide have been tortured in prisons and that the problem has been ignored by the world for too long. According to the report, 160 children were found illegally imprisoned in 10 jails throughout the Philippines during a recent trip by the charity. Several case studies were detailed in the report, such as that of Edwin who was recently rescued by the Preda Foundation from an adult jail in Manila. The 12-year-old had been held in the prison for four months without even receiving a first hearing after being accused of stealing a pair of flip-flops. The report detailed how "he had obviously been taken out of the tiny overcrowded adult cell only minutes before we entered. "It was 3ft wide and 15ft or so deep. The bodies of the prisoners were piled on top of each other; legs twisted and tangled arms askew." It continued: "There were 17 inside this cage.

plight of Manana Sadiswa, interviewed in Makala Prison, Congo, in April 2005, was also highlighted. In her interview she told of her abuse: "I was arrested on 24 November 2004. For seven days I was kept in the police headquarters where I did not receive any visits or any food. My family had not been informed about my situation. "I have been submitted to cruelty and ill-treatment. On the 8th day, I was transferred to the prison where I am now."

Founder and executive director of Jubilee Action, Danny Smith, criticised the international community for failing to act, saying, "Children in prison are caught in an international blind-spot and have been ignored for too long." Jubilee Action has appealed to the UN to appoint a special rapporteur to ensure that signatories of the UN's Convention of the Rights of the Child extend the demands of the treaty to the fair treatment of children in detention. The charity has also called on the Philippine Government to pass a law to protect children from unlawful detention and has teamed with the Director of the Preda Foundation in the Philippines, Irish missionary Father Shay Cullen.

Child Evangelism Course

Children's ministry leaders from across the United States have signed-on to Children's Ministries University Online and are now networking with fellow children's ministers, expanding their ministry knowledge & skills, and applying what they are learning in their local children's ministry settings.

CMUO is pleased to announce the launch of the fourth class to be available beginning February 1, 2006: Child Evangelism. Child Evangelism (CMU233) is an in-depth focus on evangelism and children.

Topics include: the history of child evangelism in American tradition as well as cutting-edge evangelism thrusts; age-appropriate evangelism techniques; how to lead a child to Christ; the art of the altar call; making the most of holidays; preparations of child evangelism materials; and how to organize and present evangelistic events for children.

This class will require students to prepare and execute a plan for child evangelism, write, and illustrate an age-appropriate gospel tract, and participate in several evangelistic programs in local churches. Some time will be required to present the Gospel to children in a variety of venues. CMUO courses begin monthly, so you can sign-up and begin your journey toward expanding your children's ministry skills anytime. You can log-on to <http://www.cmuniversity.org> for more information.

PARENTING GOD'S WAY

By Pastor Banke Olowoyo

"Children are a gift from the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is His reward" Psalms 127:3(NASV; LB)

When God gives us a gift, He gives us an assignment. When He gives us children, He is giving us a precious gift and with this gift comes an assignment. We are custodians of our children. We have a responsibility towards them and are accountable to God for them. Let's look at it this way, children are like a garden that we have been asked to keep, tend, work, guard and cultivate. Just like Adam in Genesis 2:15 (AMP; NASV). Like every garden, we need to work hard on our children if they are to turn out right. Every garden is a result of what is planted in it. Our children need their parents (whether they know it or not) to guard and guide them, to sow into them and cultivate them.

Just as every garden is at risk of invasion by weeds, bugs and other things trying to destroy it, so are our children. The lives of our children are constantly under attack by the enemy. They are at risk constantly from a world that is increasingly perverse, corrupt and enticing. **Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4.** To name just a few, the following are the things that seek to invade our children's lives on a daily basis:

- Peer pressure
- Immorality / perversion / pornography
- Media – music, television, internet etc
- Drugs, tobacco and alcohol abuse
- Disobedience to parents

What can we do to protect, guard, guide and cultivate our children God's way in the age that we live in?

1. Prayer: watchman prayer
2. Effective communication
3. Setting boundaries / family values

1. Prayer: Watchman Prayer

In Greek and Hebrew, the word 'watch' means to

Be aware, sleepless, be awake / To guard or protect through watching over or concealing / Pay attention, to see, to behold, observe / Be a gate keeper, doorkeeper / Preserve, maintain; Spy and lay siege

Parent, do you see the extent of the responsibility we have over our children? The Bible says, "**Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil ... seeks whom he may devour.**" 1 Peter 5:8. Adam was not vigilant (watchful) and the devil invaded his garden subtly through the serpent and polluted it. If we are not watchful, the enemy will enter our garden unnoticed and pollute it. Each parent has the responsibility of being a watchman over their children. We must be watchful because of the enemy that seeks to destroy the lives of our children. This enemy seeks to steal their innocence before time and pollute them. Therefore, parents, we must pray watchfully over our children. What does this mean? If we are vigilant and discerning (by the help of the Holy Spirit), we will sense when something is not right in the lives of our children. For instance, if we see traits of wilful disobedience or a change in their attitude, we are not to ignore it. We should not be deceived and say, "it's just a phase they're going through". We must go to pray about it immediately, laying siege against whatever is trying to invade their life and gain the victory for them.

If parents don't pray watchman prayers over their children, who will? And if we don't, the devil will gain territory in the garden of our children's lives. We must be loaded with prayer always where our children are concerned. For this, we must

- be filled with the Holy Spirit and able to hear Him clearly (Ephesians 5:15-18)
- have a discerning heart
- know our authority in Christ and what His word says about our children (Col 3:16)
- not be unaware of the devils' strategies and subtleties (2 Corinthians 2:11)



Here are a few things we should pray for our children:

- That they be taught of God (Isaiah 54:13)
- Against the effects of peer pressure (Proverbs 1:10-15; Proverbs 3:7-8, 21-26, 31;)
- That the word of God will dwell in them (Hebrews 8:11; Galatians 4:19)
- That they be sexually pure (Ephesians 5:3)
- That they will keep the right company (2 Corinthians 5:11; Proverbs 13:20)
- That they be godly (Isaiah 44:3-5)

Remember, if we don't watch and pray, we will lose ground to the enemy.

Look out for the concluding part of this article in next quarter's newsletter

Pastor Banke Olowoyo is an Associate Pastor in Christian Life Centre, Thamesmead London.

Prayer Points for the Quarter

- Pray against the spirit of paedophilia in the following UK cities

February - London

March – Brighton

April – Bournemouth

- Pray for the children in Sudan that are starving, that aid will reach them quickly

Praying Effectively For Your Children By Minister Fisayo Sotire

Insert your children's names in the gaps and make petitions before our Father. Sometimes when praying using the scriptures, the Holy Spirit will draw your attention to a particular scripture verse, keep praying on that verse until you have a release to move on in your prayers. These are by no means all scriptures you need for your children. Pray according to God's word as the Lord lays more scriptures on your mind.

Father, I have come before you in Jesus name. Crying out to you in the beginning of the watches, I pour out my heart to you and lift up my hands towards you for the lives of my children. (Lamentations 2:19)

Father, I am determined not to give you any rest until you establish my children and make them praises on the earth. (Isaiah 62:7) I thank you Lord that my seed ----- shall be known among the gentiles. My offspring among the people, all that see them shall acknowledge them that they are the seed which the Lord has blessed. (Isaiah 61:9). Father I thank you that your Spirit which is upon me, and your word which you have put in my mouth shall not depart out of my mouth nor out of the mouth of my seed's seed ----- from henceforth and forever (Isaiah 59:21)

I pray that my children ----- will love you O God, with all their hearts and with all their souls and with all their might. (Deuteronomy 6:5). I pray that the delight of my children ----- will be in your word, and in your word they will meditate day and night. (Psalm 1:2). I pray that my children ----- will hide your word in their hearts O Lord that they will not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11).

Minister Fisayo Sotire is the President of Waymarks Women International.

GOD'S GRACE FOUNDATION

REACHING THE CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS FOR JESUS

tel: 020 8312 9785 / 07859 057 770

e-mail: info@godsgracefoundation.org

website: www.godsgracefoundation.org