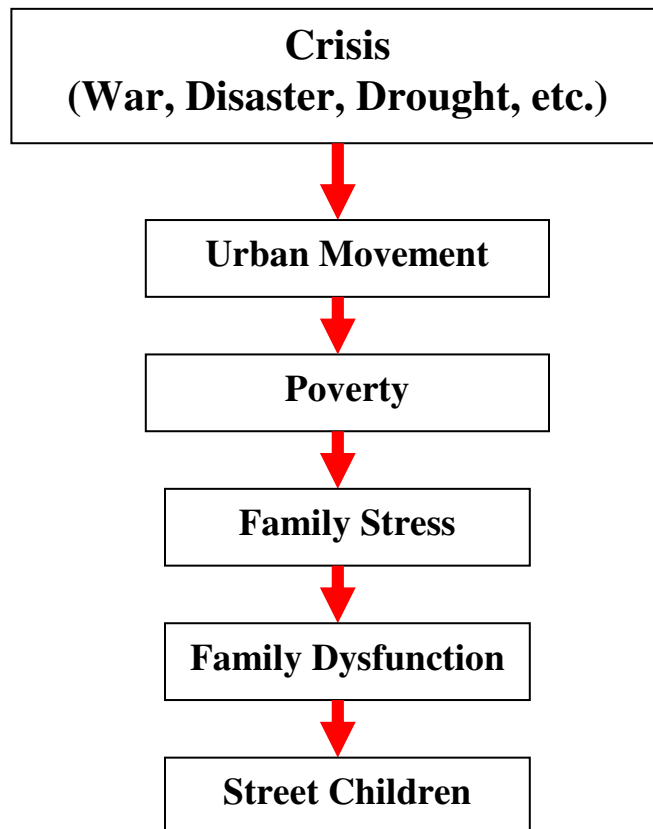


Community Health Evangelism and the Challenge of the Streets
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1999

- I. General Comments
 - Street Children - Number 1 compassionate ministries problem of the 21st century
 - Response will be a mix of Relief and Development
- II. References
 - A. Personal Missions experience
 - Familia CHE Project, Mission of Mercy, City of Hope – Pitesti and Bucharesti Romania
 - Agape Children's project and Luanda CHE project, Kisumu, Kenya
 - B. "Street Children, A guide to effective ministry", MARC publication, Phyllis Kilbourn
 - Homestead program, Cape Town South Africa
 - UFM International, Brazil
 - Covenant House, Los Angeles, California
 - Rainbows of Hope – WEC International worldwide outreach to children
 - C. Research paper on Nairobi street children's perception of need, Tibbett's, August, 1998
 - Taraja Center, Nairobi
- III. Scope of the problem
 - 100 – 200 million street children worldwide
 - Geographic numbers
 1. LA 40 million
 2. Asia 25 million
 3. Africa 10 million
 4. Western cities 25 million
 5. US – 2 million
- IV. Urban not rural problem (ie factors forced urban movement) – no street children in rural areas
 - A. Urban trends
 1. 1950 - 300 million
 2. '97 – 1.5 billion
 3. 2017 – 3.0 billion
 4. Kenya
 - a) 1975 – 115 street children in all of Kenya
 - b) 1995 – 300,000
 - c) 1997 – 60,000 in Nairobi alone
- V. Reasons for being on the streets
 1. Family disintegration – shattered traditional structures
 2. Poverty – Absense of choice
 3. Booming population growth
 4. Physical and sexual abuse
 5. Parental exploitation
 6. Wars – death of parents
 - Forced displacement - UNICEF estimate of the past 10 years
 - ✓ 12 million uprooted by war
 - ✓ 5 million refugees
 - ✓ 1 million orphans
 7. Disasters - death of parents
 8. Disease – death of parents – AIDS
 - AIDS orphans
 - ✓ 2000 – estimated 10-28 million
 - ✓ 2008 – 15.22 million in sub-Saharan Africa
 - ✓ 2018 – 94.2 million in sub-Saharan Africa
 9. Migration
 10. Substance abuse
 11. Inadequate social safety net

- VI. Case histories – 10 boys from Taraja house in Kenya
1. Abandoned – 3/10
 - a) “Lost as a child in the slum”
 - b) “Father died, raised with 4 siblings by his mother, mother died, cared for by neighbors, went to the streets for a better life”
 - c) “Death of parents, lived with grandmother until she died, ended up on the streets”
 2. Dysfunctional family – 7/10
 - a) “Beat by alcoholic parents”
 - b) “Single parent family, mother was alcoholic, abused the children”
 - c) “Parents divorced, stayed with mother and 7 siblings, mother beat him”
 - d) “Parents divorced, mother unable to provide”
 - e) “Father was alcoholic, mother couldn’t provide”
 - f) “Single parent, stole from neighbors who became angry, left home”
 - g) “Unemployed parents, unable to provide”

❖ **Principle – A major focus of street child ministries should be to minister to dysfunctional families which will actually prevent or rehabilitate street children at the earliest most receptive level. This is the focus of the Familia based CHE program.**



VII. Definitions

- Types of street children
 - ✓ On the street – regular family contact
 - ✓ Of the street – rare to occasional family contact
 - ✓ In the street – no family contact, most difficult to reach and work with

VIII. Characteristics

A. Trends

- Second generation street children
- Mainly boys (developing countries), Girls (developed countries)
- Girls often on the streets due to sexual abuse at home
- Age
 - ✓ Youngest age to survive in street gangs – 5 yo
 - ✓ Start to live on the streets – 7-8 yo
 - ✓ Average age of street children – 15 yo – dealing with adolescents
 - ✓ Becoming younger and have more severe problems

- ❖ **Principle – Mainly will deal with adolescents or older children and young adults who are historically difficult to institutionalize. Consider day care or night care walk – in facilities for supportive programs of these children. With the increasingly young age group trend there will be need for more institutional facilities in the future.**

B. Survivors

- Stealing, violence, and fighting are common
- Different hopes and dreams (Latin American Street Children)
 - ✓ Sumptuous dinner
 - ✓ Go to school
 - ✓ Clothing and shoes
 - ✓ Have a father and mother
 - ✓ Left alone
 - ✓ Have a real home
 - ✓ Be able to work
- Nairobi street children – hopes
 - ✓ “Better place to stay”
 - ✓ “Somewhere to be taken care of”
 - ✓ “Take off the street, put in homes, then provide health services”
 - ✓ “Put in organizations or institutions first and foremost”
 - ✓ “Provide food, clothing, and water”
 - ✓ “Settled in homes or institutions”
 - ✓ “Rehabilitation homes”
 - ✓ “Settled in houses and with schools”

C. Spiritual Considerations

- Aberrant concept of God the Father – based on abuse / neglect relationship with parents
- Street children generally don't perceive spiritual as important in life struggles
- Use of different moral and ethical guidelines makes it difficult for workers who often assume basic morality and knowledge of right and wrong.
 - ✓ Gang morals = member morals
 - ✓ Lying, stealing, sexual activity or killing is acceptable behavior
 - ✓ Self-interest (survival) rules action

D. Stages of Moral Reasoning

- Pre-moral – not concerned with moral issues, kill with no remorse
- Pre-conventional – Self-interest, survival, manipulate to survive - street children
- Conventional – Considers others, based on rules and regulations of others, legalistic
- Post-conventional – Ethical, judges rules and regulations

- ❖ **Principle – A program must help meet the Basic Life Needs (food, shelter, water, clothing, education, spiritual health, etc.) without creating dependency to help create an attitude of hope for the future. Fatalism (lack of hope) kills personal or spiritual development.**

E. Fear of accessing available resources

- Murder of 8 street children at Candelaria Cathedral in Rio in Feb, 1994 brought an outcry from the world but praise from the merchants and local TV.
- Merchants hire police and mercenaries to kill street children – 4600 were killed in Brazil from 1989-1992.
- Community attitude toward street children; vermin, garbage, blight on society, interfere with business, steal
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- ❖ **Principle – Need to change community and even church attitudes toward street children if they are going to take charge of the problem. Need to be a strong street child advocate.**

F. Health problems

1. Infectious diseases
 - Vaccine preventable diseases
 - STD / AIDS (prostitution and promiscuity)
 - Skin diseases
 - Pneumonia
 - Bowel infection – poor sanitation
 - Malaria
 - Tuberculosis
2. Injuries
 - Violence
 - Work hazards (factories, dumps, sanitation departments, warehouses)
3. Malnutrition
4. Exposure
5. Headache
6. Pregnancy - Unsafe abortions
 - Guatemala – 55% girls have been pregnant, 25% had abortions (13% in hospitals)
 - Seldom receive prenatal care
7. Babies of street girls
8. Psychologic Problems

G. Focused Specific Risks

1. Sexual exploitation
 - Guatemala – 95% of girls are sexually abused
 - Forced prostitution / pornography industry (1 million children / year)
 - Advantage - Survival sex provides marked income
 - ✓ Manilla – 30% of boys and girls are prostitutes and earn \$20/hour vs in Ethiopia working all day 0-4 birr (64 cents)
 - ✓ Thailand – 40,000 prostitutes < 14 yo
 - ✓ 300,000 child prostitutes in the USA (<16 yo)
 - Prostitution is as common with boys and girls
 - Promiscuity with other street children
 - Demand for younger prostitutes (decreased AIDS risk)
 - No evidence that children regularly prostituted for more than a short time can be successfully rehabilitated
 - Often become perpetrators (get a good history and consider in placement)

- 2. Drug use
 - WHO – most pressing problem of street children
 - ✓ Guatemala – 9/10 addicted to paint thinner / glue
 - ✓ Colombia – 95-100% daily drug consumption
 - Symptom of street life not often a cause
 - Reasons for using drugs
 - ✓ “Gives confidence to beat others and steal”
 - ✓ “to tolerate beatings”
 - ✓ “Forget problems and be happy”
 - ✓ “Give ideas for getting money”
 - ✓ “Helps sleep”
 - ✓ “Eliminates pain and hunger”
 - ✓ “Gives courage to fight”
 - ✓ “Don’t feel bad when you kill someone or steal”
 - ✓ “Helps not to think”
 - Difficulties
 - 1) A solution not a problem
 - 2) Don’t seek help until they’ve had a few “bad trips” therefore a street counsellor must maintain contact until the situation worsens (usually older children, late teens and early twenties). Younger children on drugs generally don’t have the motivation to stop.
- 3. Psychologic Problems
 - Street Addiction
 - ✓ Enjoy being on the streets – freedom from control
 - ✓ Difficult to place in a disciplined environment (institution, school or home)
 - ✓ Mac Margolis “Deep down inside the kids plainly don’t want to be on the streets...very few seem capable of escape even when given the opportunity” – Street Addiction?
 - NYC – Psychologic problems of 150 street children

Problem	Percent
Alcohol / substance abuse	41%
Conduct disorder	59% (66% boys and 50% of girls evaluated for behavior problems needed psychiatric care)
Major mood disorder	49%
Manic episode	52%
Chronic clinical depression	37% (Johannesburg – 40%)
Post traumatic stress disorder	32%
Suicidal ideation	41%
Attempted suicide	27% (hx of sexual abuse, beatings and pregnancy)

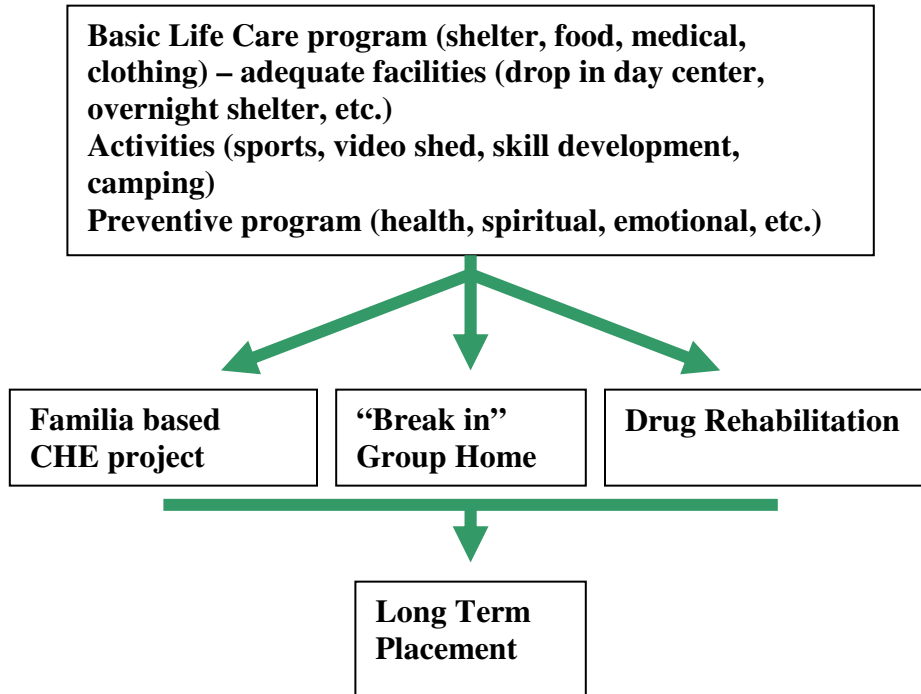
- ✓ NYC – 4-10 yo street children – younger children have increased aggression, conduct disorders, destructiveness, anxiety, depression and somatic complaints.
- Symptoms of character disturbed children
 - ✓ Decreased ability to give affection
 - ✓ Self destructive behavior
 - ✓ Cruelty to others and pets – impulsive aggression
 - ✓ Phoniness
 - ✓ Stealing
 - ✓ Hoarding
 - ✓ Gorging
 - ✓ Speech pathology / delayed language development (never fully regained)
 - ✓ Extreme control problems

- ✓ Lack of long term friends
- ✓ See caregivers as unreasonable and angry – difficult to attach
- ✓ Abnormal eye contact (improves with trust)
- ✓ Preoccupation with blood, fire and gore
- ✓ Superficial attraction and friendliness to strangers – relationship based on manipulation with little regard for the caregiver
- ✓ Learning disorder
- ✓ Crazy lying
- Other Psychologic considerations
 - ✓ Problem behaviors don't often manifest until adolescence
 - ✓ Manipulation is a sign of fighting to survive and therefore is a good sign that they haven't given up all hope, be concerned if they don't manipulate
- ❖ **Principle - Workers must be adequately trained and experienced in the special physical and psychologic needs of these children (ie STD's, birth control, pregnancy, drug abuse, sexual and physical abuse, etc.**
- ❖ **Principle – Quick identification and intervention in street children to prevent “street addiction”.**

IX. Approach Considerations

Comprehensive Approach

Develop Relationships on the Streets (Street Educators)



- X. Familia based CHE project
 - A. Familia program – Focused Relief
 - 1. Focused Family Support Program – Limited focused sponsorship
 - 2. Primarily relief
 - 3. Intake from cooperating urban churches
 - 4. Provide
 - Food supplementation
 - Medical – curative, preventive
 - Social services
 - Educational support – school fees, tutoring
 - Vocational training – skills, microenterprise
 - Group support
 - Spiritual
 - 5. Problem – limited recurrent teaching on behavior issues and spiritual impact
 - B. CHE – community health evangelism - Development
 - 1. Marriage of prevention with strong evangelism and discipleship
 - 2. Core values
 - Integration of the spiritual and physical
 - Prevention vs. cure (affiliated with curative facilities)
 - National ownership – facilitated not owned by outsiders
 - Local sustainability
 - 3. 3 major groups
 - Trainers – facilitate communities not run the program
 - ✓ Transfer relevant knowledge
 - ✓ Introduce Christianity
 - ✓ Motivate for behavioral change
 - Committee
 - ✓ Chosen from the participating churches
 - ✓ Trained by the trainers
 - ✓ Run the program
 - CHE's
 - ✓ Trained by the trainer in appropriate physical and spiritual topics
 - ✓ Assigned to 10-30 homes
 - ✓ Visit each home approximately 1/month
 - ✓ Run Bible studies