

JustChildren

W A G I N G P E A C E

Waging peace in developing nations impacted by civil war by mobilizing child peacemakers and transforming awareness into action

Periodic newsletter of Just Children • July 2007

FROM MICHAEL MCGILL...

Dear friends,

TODAY I received a challenging question from a friend who recently watched the movie 'Gandhi'. We visited Burma together last summer. We both continue to be impacted by the horrible stories of so many people we met. He writes, "What could we really do, or would we be willing to do to stop civil wars and genocide around the world?"



These are the right questions. Questions too many of us stop asking when we are relatively distant from the killing, which is no less real despite our proximity.

Safety is often sedating. We must help wake one another up. We need to encourage and challenge one another, break norms, live radically, take risks and be willing to sacrifice even our lives on behalf of the oppressed. Gandhi was the inspiration for a nation – one person setting an example of how things could be

different. He helped others see that another, more radical change-catalyzing path was possible.

Please continue reminding each other to ask questions and dream about what is possible, and remember what is at stake if we stop. We are all in this together, even when we start to lose feeling.

Sincerely,

“...What could we really do, or would we be willing to do to stop civil wars and genocide around the world?”

JUST CHILDREN UPDATE

OVER THE past few months, *Just Children* has continued to create action-focused awareness while piloting an interactive presentation in Seattle area churches and small groups. The presentation educates participants on children impacted by civil war, and offers a variety of practical action steps. A draft of the small group guide for the presentation will be available soon for download. Please contact us if you would like us to speak at your church or small group in the Seattle area.

Meanwhile, research on child participation in peacemaking continues. We are discovering how to mobilize young people to effectively stop cycles of violence in impoverished war-affected countries and cultivate cycles of peace.

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:17-18 (ESV)



Get Educated

2007 IS the 200th anniversary of the British abolition of Slavery Trade Act. In June 1785, young Thomas Clarkson felt called by God to voice his heart concerning the cruelty, vileness and sin of slavery. Clarkson helped enlist Parliament Member William Wilberforce to issue a bill for the abolition of slavery. This passed in 1807 after 18 years of tireless labor. The job is not done. There are still an estimated 27 million people worldwide held in physical slavery¹, **8.4 of them are children**²! Christians have a responsibility to help the oppressed. May we continue to seek out ways in which we can be Christ's hands and feet to those still suffering in bondage.

- ☑ **Watch the movie *Amazing Grace: The William Wilberforce Story*** to understand more about the abolition of slavery in Britain. The film is "a powerful story of how a person of faith can change the cultural and social landscape of an entire country," said Geoff Tunnicliffe, International Director of the World Evangelical Alliance. "Every generation needs to be inspired by this remarkable story."
- ☑ **Receive breaking news on Burma and how to help.** Sign up at www.uscampaignforburma.org. The U.S. Campaign for Burma is dedicated to empowering grassroots activists around the world to bring about an end to the military dictatorship in Burma. They recently acquired 59 signatures of past and present presidents and prime ministers who demand the release of Nobel Peace Prize Winner Aung San Suu Kyi from House arrest in Burma.



IDP (Internally Displaced People) in Burma.
Photo source: www.dictatorwatch.org/chrono.html

¹ www.iabolish.com/slavery_in_depth/carpet-slavery-india.html accessed July 3, 2007

² www.globalangels.org/pages/3289/Child_Slaves.htm accessed July 3, 2007

Get Moving

WITH KNOWLEDGE comes responsibility. We all have unique resources and abilities to help those in need.

- ☑ **Equip churches to respond to global challenges.** Walden Media has launched the Amazing Grace Resource website at www.amazinggraceresource.com, which provides guides, sermons, video clips and other tools to educate and link people to action steps.
- ☑ **Sign the No-Fly Zone petition for Darfur** at www.lifenets.net/nofly/noflyA.php. The UN enforced no-fly zone would prevent Sudanese attack helicopters from continuing to decimate entire villages.
- ☑ **Send needed school³ and mother/baby⁴ supplies** to IDPs (supply list below). Partners Relief & Development does critical relief work in Burma. Learn more about what they are doing and how to help at www.partnersworld.org. Although monetary gifts are often more efficient, collecting these packs is a great opportunity to engage churches, clubs, or friends in caring for the oppressed in Burma. Mail packs to: Partners Relief Development PO Box 27220 Albuquerque NM 87125-7220 USA.

³ School Pack: 3 pencils, 3 pens, 3 notebooks, eraser, ruler, small box of chalk, pencil sharpener, State/country postcard

⁴ Mother/Baby pack: 6 Cloth diapers, Small fingernail clippers, Mosquito net, Brush/Comb, Multi-vitamin with iron-adult, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Multi-vitamin Drops-baby, Shampoo, Adult blanket, Karen Bible & songbook, Baby blanket, Photo of sender/group, Towel, Postcard/handwritten Bible verse, Alcohol swabs

About Just Children:

Just Children is part of ACTION, a registered charity in the US (501c3), Canada and other countries. To support the work of Just Children, make checks out ACTION and note for **41006**. You may donate by phone or donate securely online now at: <https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=114&VER=1&LNG=EN&PID=221>. Just Children wages peace by: 1) **MOBILIZING CHILD PEACEMAKING**: a) **Educating**: providing peacemaking education that strengthens children's ability to heal self and others; b) **Distributing Resources**: expanding and distributing well researched resources on ethical and effective child peacemaking; c) **Partnering**: forging strategic partnerships that help mobilize child peacemakers; and d) **Coaching**: delivering coaching that strengthens peacemaking projects; 2) **TRANSFORMING AWARENESS INTO ACTION**: a) **Informing** creatively and accurately of civil war tragedies; and b) **Connecting** individuals and organizations with unique, specific, urgent opportunities to help children impacted by civil war.

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