

Investing in Future Generations: the Core of World Mission



Invest Wisely!



Make an Investment that Leaves a Legacy



Life is about relationships! Only thing will last and can take into eternity- **other people.**

Invest in those going to be here the longest- **children and youth!**

Leave an **eternal legacy**, affecting coming generations.



Samuel: Prophet, Priest and Judge

“Samuel’s ministry...led the Israelites into a whole-hearted love relationship with God, resulting in Israel’s victory over the Philistines and brought temporary peace to the Israelites.”

-Samuel Schultz

I. God often calls people at a young age for powerful ministries of transformation.

Wess Stafford, president of Compassion: “When God has something really important to do, He usually calls and uses a child.”

Joseph, Daniel, Esther, Josiah, David, Timothy, and Jesus in the Temple at age 12.

Great spiritual revivals of history: Wesley’s praying kids, Evan Roberts and Welsh Revival

Child’s warning prophecy that saved some Armenians from genocide of 1915.

Children's natural sensitivity to God- 85% come to Christ before 15 years of age

- Mark 10:13-16: Jesus becomes indignant, filled with anger. Why? His disciples were hindering the children from coming to Him. “**Let** the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (“**Facilitate**” or “**bring**”)

Unless adults receive God's kingdom like little children, we won't enter it. We are all just kids with God!



Some provocative questions:

1. Want to enter God's kingdom? Become like little children.

2. Want to be great in God's eyes? Become like little children.

3. Want to let Jesus know you welcome him? Then welcome little children.

4. Want to avoid judgment at God's hand? Don't lead little children astray.

5. Want to identify with God's plans? Don't belittle or despise little children.

6. Want to follow Jesus' example? Love, pray for, accept, be with and bless little children.

- Roy Zuck

Children as Agents of Transformation

- Royal Kids in India- more than 8000 kids and run ministries; TV program reaching over 2 million; 24/7 prayer for the nations
- India National Prayer Network leader- began as child in prayer
- Sri Lankan leader of denomination for South Asia- prophetic sensitivity and ministry to political leaders

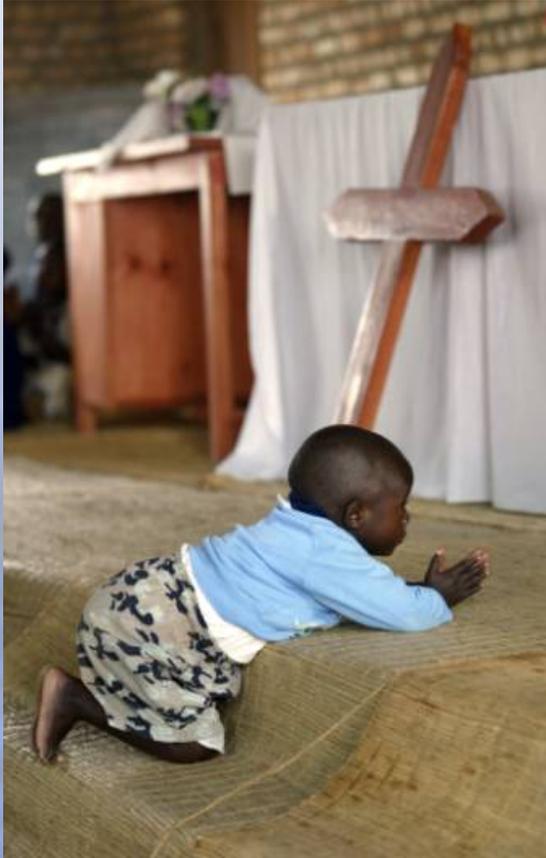
2) Adults can have a crucial role in encouraging children to know and serve God

Samuel's mother- Hannah- dedicated and released him.

Eli, the priest, taught and encouraged him.

Generations influence each other. Deuteronomy 6 tells parents to teach children the ways of the Lord. Psalm 22:30 “Future **generations** will be told about the Lord.” Psalm 145:3-13 “One generation will commend your works to another...your dominion endures through **all generations**”

Calling of Abraham demonstrates God's heart for investing in future generations. (Genesis 13:15-16, 17:1-7, 18:19)



- Investing in youth and children an Abrahamic kind of calling with an Abrahamic type of impact. Like Abraham who did not live to see all the promises God made him, we are investing by faith in future generations.
- “We are living for generations to come.” (Bill Johnson, 5th generation pastor)
- Our lives like seeds, John 12:24-26; Matthew 13:31



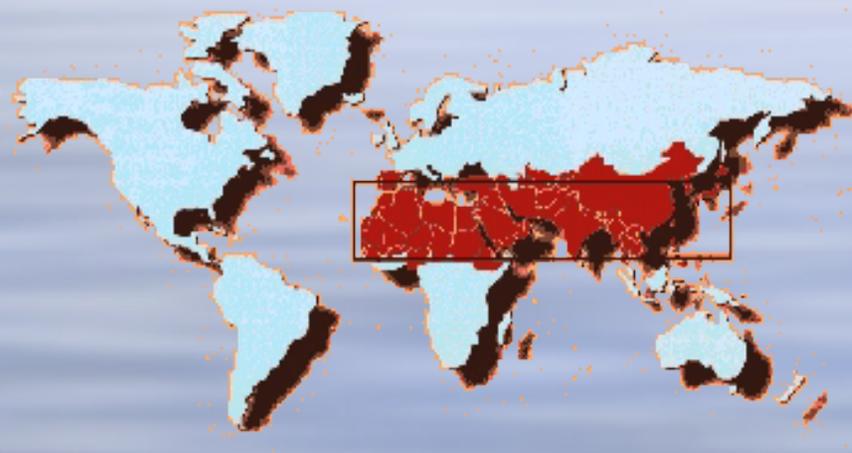
“We are sowing seeds of the Kingdom that will have an enormous impact one day!”

“If you want to have a lasting influence upon the world, you must invest in people’s lives; and if you want to maximize that investment, then you must invest in those people while they are young...

There is no better investment than nurturing our youngsters for an eternal payback.” - George Barna, leading church researcher

3) Importance of Prioritizing “4/14 Window”

- Over 1.2 billion children between 4 and 14 years of age
70% (833 million) in 10/40 Window nations of greatest spiritual and material need



- 4/14 Window within the 10/40 Window is “the core of the core of world mission”

Compelling facts about 4/14 Window:

- 4-14 year span “profoundly formative period when perspectives are shaped either positively or negatively.. when a view of one’s own significance (or lack of significance) is formulated”
- Huge social and physical need- malnutrition kills 30,000 children per day. More than 100 million street children. 10 million forced sex trafficking and prostitution. 15 million AIDS orphans.
- Satan seeks to destroy children in the womb through mass abortion or to deceive and enslave through Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, other false religions, cults and political ideologies
- Up to 50% of remaining Unreached Peoples made up of children and youth

Luis Bush, International Director of the *Transform World* Movement:

“It is imperative that we act decisively, inspired to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world. If we don’ t, an entire generation of young people will be lost.”

Biggest and most important mission challenge facing the Church in 21st century. *This is God’ s very heart for our world!*

4) Children's awesome potential to change their communities and our world

Luke 10:18-22: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." God chooses to reveal himself to little children and through them (and childlike adults) bring about Satan's downfall in their communities.

- World Vision survey of impact of children's prayers in 5 countries: relatives healed, parents and leaders to Christ, wells and clinics, community conflicts settled. Spread to many nations, organizations.
- Political leaders and diplomatic officials affected.



President of Bolivia

High official of DR Congo

Children and Youth as Equal Partners in Ministry

- 30 at UN Prayer Initiatives in 2007 and 2009
- Vision and prophetic word at Children in Prayer Global Consultation in 2008



5) What can we do to reach the children of the 4/14 Window?

All the great moves of God in Scripture and history occurred through prayer-

- Samuel, spiritual revival and restoration of Israel
- Book of Acts- over 30 times before breakthroughs eg Pentecost or launch of Gentile mission

All great revivals “Whenever God gets ready to do a new thing With His people, He always sets them a-praying.” - J Edwin Orr

Start with God through prayer and adopt 4/14 Window children as spiritual parents and grandparents through intercession.

What would the Lord have me do? (Each of these will put a smile on Jesus' face!)

1. Work with kids in your church and/or community.
2. Educate yourself about needs of children around the world.
3. Give to ministries already working to meet material and spiritual need of children, eg Compassion, Viva, World Vision and local ministries and orphanages.
4. Go as short term or long term volunteer with a mission organization or orphanage where the need is greatest.

“Instead of cursing the darkness, light a candle” - Mother Teresa

You can't reach every child, but the one you help could become a modern-day Samuel for the generations to come!

Practical Suggestions to Get Started

1. Creative ideas will come as you start. Children will probably have the best ideas. Ask what they think.
2. Initially children may need to be coached by being given basic prayer vocabulary ("repeat after me prayers" or prayer games); but once they have the basic concepts, they need to be released to pray as equals with their adult counterparts. (The same Holy Spirit working in adults is present with children).
3. Ask the children to pray for you as their leader. Affirms importance children have in prayer and gives opportunity to watch the Lord work in your life from week to week).

Practical Suggestions

4. Prayer needs to happen with "clean hands and hearts." Ask God to wash our hearts as begin prayer. Confession should be introspective, focusing on the transformation of the child.
5. Encourage children to talk simply and directly with God about everything in their lives and communities, bringing to Him every concern, problem and need their families and others face. Remind them that they can talk to God any time, anywhere.
6. Practice conversational prayer, praying specifically in clear, brief sentences, agreeing with each other in faith and listening to God quietly for what He may say through insights or thoughts that come.

Practical Suggestions

7. Encourage them to share what they are feeling or receiving as they pray. Children are likely to pray very short prayers, but will often pray multiple times. Longer times of silence than accustomed with adults. Expect and foster as time to listen to God.

8. Use stories of prayer from the Bible to share God's promises and build their faith.

9. Share community and national concerns simply. Watch the headlines and share with children what is happening. Bring newspapers, photos, or other visual aids to make these concerns as well as answers to prayer tangible.

Practical Suggestions

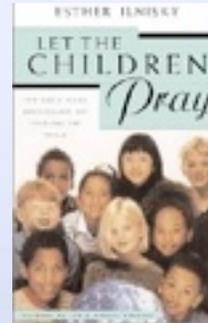
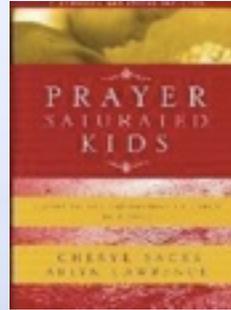
10. Keep a journal of what the children have asked God for and write down how He answers their prayers, reporting back to them to increase their faith and expectation.

11. Encourage prayer in pairs or triplets so the children learn to partner with others as Jesus teaches us to do (Matthew 18:19-20).

Discussion

1. What is the status of CiP efforts in my church, city and region?
2. What are some potential hindrances to starting or further developing a CiP movement and how might they be overcome?
3. What are some actions we or I should take to ignite CiP?

Resources



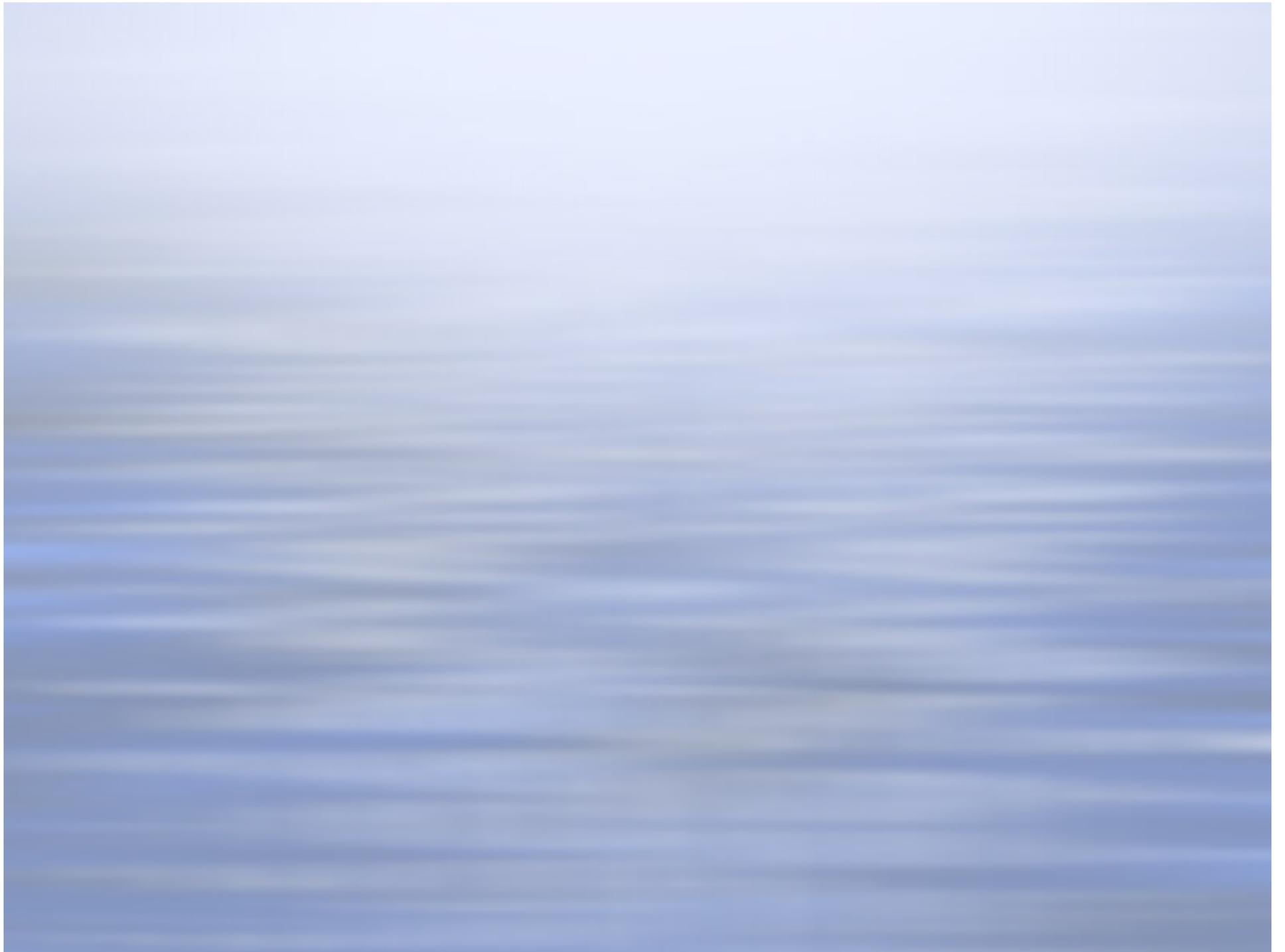
1. Children in Prayer website- for various resources, tools and helpful materials
www.childreninprayer.org

2. International Prayer Connect/ Council-
four videos on CiP under “Resources” at
www.ipcprayer.org

Conclusion

Invest in Future Generations through CIP!

- How can you maximize that investment?
- What is the most strategic thing I can do when I return to my home to facilitate the movement of children towards Christ in prayer?
- What is God calling me to do?
- How can I best sow the seed of my life so that today's children and future generations of children will realize their potential in Christ?
- Write down anything He is asking you to do for the children of your city or region. Put into action as He leads.



历代志下 (2 Chronicles)

20:15他说、犹大众人、耶路撒冷的居民、和约沙法王、你们请听、耶和华对你们如此说、不要因这大军恐惧、惊惶、因为胜败不在乎你们、乃在乎 神。 20:16明日你们要下去迎敌。他们是从洗斯坡上来。你们必在耶鲁伊勒旷野前的谷口遇见他们。 20:17犹大和耶路撒冷人哪、这次你们不要争战、要摆阵站着、看耶和华为你们施行拯救。不要恐惧、也不要惊惶。明日当出去迎敌。因为耶和华与你们同在。 20:18约沙法就面伏于地。犹大众人和耶路撒冷的居民、也俯伏在耶和华面前、叩拜耶和华。 20:19哥辖族和可拉族的利未人都起来、用极大的声音赞美耶和华以色列的 神。 20:20次日清早众人起来、往提哥亚的旷野去。出去的时候、约沙法站着说、犹大人和耶路撒冷的居民哪、要听我说、信耶和华你们的 神、就必立稳。信他的先知就必亨通。 20:21约沙法既与民商议了、就设立歌唱的人、颂赞耶和华、使他们穿上圣洁的礼服、走在军前赞美耶和华、说、当称谢耶和华。因他的慈爱永远长存。 20:22众人方唱歌赞美的时候、耶和华就派伏兵击杀那来攻击犹大人的亚扪人、摩押人、和西珥山人。他们就被打败了。

出埃及记 Exodus

14:13摩西对百姓说、不要惧怕、只管站住、看耶和华今天向你们所要施行的救恩、因为你们今天所看见的埃及人、必永远不再看见了。 14:14耶和华必为你们争战、你们只管静默、不要作声。

马太 Matthew

17:20耶稣说、是因你们的信心小。我实在告诉你们、你们若有信心像一粒芥菜种、就是对这座山说、你从这边挪到那边、他也必挪去。并且你们没有一件不能作的事了。 17:21至于这一类的鬼、若不祷告禁食、他就不出来。〔或作不能赶他出来〕