

# MAKING A CHANGE

**WHAT IS CHANGE?** One definition of the word “change” is “a replacement for something else.” The replacement is often something of the same kind, but better or newer. When Christ changes a person, it is always for the better.

A young man, Sylvester, experienced a change in his life—a change from evil to good. He had been a gang leader in a South African township. His tool of choice was a pistol, and this gun dominated his life and the lives of others. For creating havoc in his community and

distributing drugs, he spent five years in prison. Sylvester was a man with little hope. There was nothing positive in his life.

But then ACTION worker Pastor Mario

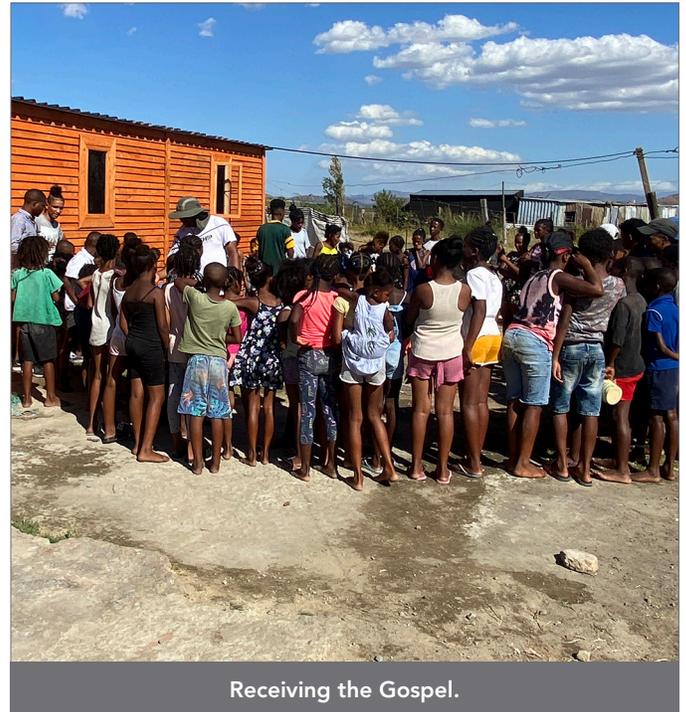
came into his life. After this pastor and Sylvester became friends, he lost his will to fight and his anger subsided. He turned from evil by accepting Jesus into his heart.

At the time, a gang war, in which thirty-two youth had lost their lives, was at its peak.

Regardless of the violence, Pastor Mario continued to disciple Sylvester.

A rival gang wanted to kill Sylvester, but this young man stayed low in his house while hearing taunts and shots going off.

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from evil by  
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into his heart.**



Receiving the Gospel.

Soon, Sylvester was baptized and entered a discipleship training school. He now has dreams of changing his community for Christ.

The words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 best describe the change that has taken place in Sylvester’s life: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (NIV 1984).

For more information about ACTION’s ministry in South Africa, please write to [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).

# VULNERABLE CHILDREN

**WHAT IS MEANT BY** the term “street child”? A street child is typically a child whose parents are out of the picture and who therefore has no home and lives on the street. Street children are sometimes referred to as street urchins.

The street plays a vital role in the everyday life and identity of a street child. The streets are where they both live and work, either on their own or with other children or family members. Their very survival depends on the streets, and they have a strong connection to public places (e.g., markets, parks, bus and train stations, etc.). “Streetism” is a term recently coined to refer to the life situations of street children.

Street children are typically between the ages of nine and fourteen, although this term is sometimes applied to children as old as seventeen. Many street children lack birth registration.

Children migrate to the streets for a wide variety of reasons, including sexual, physical, or emotional abuse; urbanization; HIV/AIDS; being forced into criminal activity; being rejected by their family for so-called “moral reasons”; mental health problems; substance abuse; and issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

Pastor Mario and the South African team have developed a program to address issues such as these, and the team provides training for those who would like to help. If you feel inclined to get involved, please contact ACTION. Someone once said, “Ninety percent of life is just showing up.” Come and be an active participant by showing up with ACTION.

For more information, write to: [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).

*Source: Consortium for Street Children, London, 2019*



*After ministering for many years in Colombia, Phil and Mariela Legal now minister to needy people on the U.S./ Mexico border*

**Find out more!**

**Contact us through any of the following:**



**ACTION INTERNATIONAL**

[www.actioninternational.org](http://www.actioninternational.org)

**CHILDREN IN CRISIS**

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