

CHILDREN IN CRISIS MINISTRIES

FOCUS

Bringing help, healing, and hope in Christ to vulnerable children

A PUBLICATION OF ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

ISSUE 1 // 2022

SHAPING A LIFE

ACCORDING TO EDUCATE A LIFE, Angola was a Portuguese colony for nearly 500 years, and acceded to independence before enduring a brutal 27-year civil war that finally came to conclusion in 2002. In the wake of the protracted conflict, countless numbers of people died, were displaced internally, or fled seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Additionally, the war left the country's infrastructure in utter ruin and disrepair. As a result, almost an entire generation of Angolans were left illiterate, having grown up without the opportunity for an education. Since the end of the war, the country's population has doubled and currently stands at 24.4 million – half of which are adolescents under the age of 14. At present, Angola ranks 149th out of 188 countries on the UN Human Development Index and has one of the highest infant mortality rates (one in 6 Angolan children die before the age of 5) in the world.

ACTION missionaries Paulo and Dayse Costa wanted to reshape a country for the Gospel. In their ministry, they

As a result of war, almost an entire generation of Angolans were left illiterate.

lack of food. At night, he roamed the streets and to satisfy his hunger, Manuel stole food.

At the age of 12, he entered the educational program called

encounter Manuel who lived in a needy community that had no school. His parents worked all day in the fields, and he was left with his siblings. There was no supervision and a



Focused on the future.

Project Ser. During this time, Christ came into his life and instead of running wild he became focused in his future. Christ has shaped his life.

Manuel is now 25 with a wife and child. He has become part of the Project Ser staff with many responsibilities. He shows exemplary character because of being shaped by Jesus.

Please pray for Manuel, his family, and Project Ser. If you want more information about Project Ser, please contact info@actionintl.org.

PRAYER

WHEN I WAS a child in Sunday school, the teacher encouraged us to pray for children in crisis – children who were hurting because of war, natural disasters, or lack of resources. In both poor and rich countries, children in crisis struggle daily. And poverty is not only an economic issue, but also psychological, as its victims face loneliness, fear, and sadness.

There is a way to help children overcome these inner hurts: the prayers of the saints. How did Project Ser begin? It was through the prayers of missionaries and others who wanted to facilitate a change in the Manuels of Angola.

Our assignment to the reader is to pray for these children in the following ways:

FAITH

We can pray that they will come to faith in Jesus and have assurance that he is with them. We can also pray that God will enable them to walk by faith, rising above their world of brokenness and harm.

HOPE

What does hope look like for children who live in poverty and see depressing scenes every day? We can pray that God will provide them with a bright new world of hope, as loving children's workers bring care to them.

LOVE

These children sometimes never hear the words "I love you." Often, their surroundings are rough and dark. They live in a void. But we can ask God, our Father, to fill this void with love, and that it will reach beyond them to their families and communities.

Paul reminds us of the importance of prayer in Ephesians 6:18 (NIV): "At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all God's people."

We challenge you to pray for children in crisis.

For more information, write to: info@actionintl.org.

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:



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