

"Go into all the world and preach the good news..." Mark 16:15

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An update of the various
missions endeavours supported by
Hillview Baptist Church

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JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

While Jesus loves everyone, as I read the Gospels I get the distinct impression that Jesus had a very special place in his heart for children. He displayed his affection for them many times (see Matt. 18:1-9; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46:48). Thus when we love and serve children, when we show them compassion, we are not only emulating Christ, we are in fact loving and serving Christ himself (Matt. 18:5).

In this day when there is so much child abuse and neglect, when millions of children are discarded by their parents and often rejected by society itself, we have an opportunity and an obligation to reach out in love and compassion and "Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people" (Ps. 82:4 NLT).

Thus one of the missions endeavours we as a church support are agencies that minister to these kinds of children. Specifically, we support Chain of Love in Brazil and Compassion Canada which works internationally. In this issue I will highlight



This ministry was born in the hearts of Ken and Jerilyn Bayer, who were at the time serving as NAB Conference missionaries in southern Brazil as evangelists and church planters. (By the way, Jerilyn is the daughter of our Herman and Ardath Effa who themselves, together with their young children, Allan and Jerilyn, served as pioneer missionaries in Brazil for many years prior to this.)

Seeing the thousands of neglected and abandoned children in their area of Brazil who were living in slums and by garbage dumps or aimlessly roaming the streets, broke the hearts of Ken and Jerilyn, and they felt compelled by the love of Christ to do what they could to rescue some of these children from their hopeless situations. And out of that burden in their hearts Chain of Love was born in 1994.

CHAIN of Love is an acronym for Caring Homes for Abandoned Infants in Need of Love, and has been operating under the auspices of the NAB Conference, with Ken and Jerilyn being its directors for the first 20 years. When they returned to Canada, a very capable and committed national from Brazil, Telmo Camargo (former police officer), became the executive director of Chain of Love. His love for God and for the neglected children of his city have been the hallmark of his leadership.

Fast forward. Today there are 103 children in the care of Chain of Love. Children are accepted from birth to age twelve, and under normal circumstances, they stay until they are mature enough to function independently. Most of them come to them physically and emotionally scarred, having been victims of abuse and neglect, and often drugs. Chain of Love is not an institutional facility, but a unique home-based ministry. Currently there are ten group homes where the children live with loving Christian houseparents and their own children. They are not there only during the daytime or on weekends, but live with these parents 24/7 just like their own children. Here the children experience genuine love and acceptance, as well as biblically-based moral and spiritual guidance. And perhaps for the first time in their lives, these children are able to experience a true mother and father figure and a happy and loving home setting.

As much as possible, Chain Love tries to bring the children into a genuine relationship with Christ, as well as prepare them - educationally and vocationally – to be responsible and productive citizens of society once they leave Chain of Love.

But to do all of that, requires not only loving houseparents and dedicated staff members, but also finances to cover the costs of the facilities (such as houses, gymnasium, cafeteria, guest house, playground, etc.), equipment, food and clothing, salaries for staff, medical expenses, as well as numerous other things. While the government provides some financial assistance, for the vast majority of its financial needs, Chain of Love is dependent on support from churches and individuals.

How can you assist Chain of Love?

- By praying for its children, houseparents and staff.
- By providing financial support.
- By becoming a child sponsor (info available at Resource Centre).
- By participating in a future missions trip to Chain of Love.

If you have any questions or want further information, please contact me.

Kurt Redschlag

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