

Ideas for a service focussing on Street Children and the Street Child World Cup.



There are plenty of ideas here so include as little or as much as you like.

20th November is UNESCO's Universal Children Day – what better day to focus on the often forgotten children of the streets?

Resources - this document contains:

- ♻️ Quotes and meditations
- ♻️ The facts about street children
- ♻️ Info on the Street Child World Cup
- ♻️ Ideas for discussions and activities for all ages.
- ♻️ Suggested bible readings

Other resources

- ♻️ Prayers and Readings sheet can be downloaded from www.streetchildworldcup.org
- ♻️ Background information sheet can be downloaded from www.streetchildworldcup.org
- ♻️ Photos - Amos Trust are able to provide free high res. photos to illustrate your service as part of a presentation. Email info@amostrust.org
- ♻️ Film - Go to: <http://www.streetchildworldcup.org/film.htm> to see the short intro film about the Street Child World Cup. You can get a copy of the DVD from info@amostrust.org
- ♻️ Flyers - Amos Trust can provide you with flyers to hand out at your service. Email info@amostrust.org stating your address and number of flyers you need.

Use these resources:

- ♻️ to introduce the issues before running a fundraising event- see fundraising materials at www.streetchildworldcup.org
- ♻️ at a fundraising service with a retiring collection. You could also challenge people to organise their own fun fundraising events and activities;
- ♻️ in a normal service to promote a future fundraising event

Meditation: *This reading is taken from 'Now I am a person' - a book of photos and words from Umthombo Street Children, available from www.amostrust.org/shop (Suggested use – an opening reading with no introduction. You could play some music in the background)*

You don't notice them at first. A visitor's eyes adjusting to the sights of a bright new city on another continent are easily distracted by the bustle of the markets, the ranks of customised minibuses, and construction sites preparing for the arrival of the football World Cup.

It is only when you have spent a few days in the city that you learn to see the signs: a pile of clothes in a doorway; a young boy running barefoot across scorched tarmac crossroads; a small group of bodies huddled in the shade of a lonely tree at noon.

Once you have noticed them they are everywhere you look. They are the children who live on the streets. By day they lie low and stay out of sight. At night they are busy staying alive.

Quotes from street children

(Suggested use: children reading out some quotes from street children, shouting out from their seats around the building whilst projecting photographs. Call Amos Trust on 020 7588 2638 or email info@amostrust.org for images)

Choose a selection of the following quotes:

Thando, South Africa

"When people see us by the streets, they say that we are street boys. But when they see us playing soccer, they will say that we are not the street boys. They will say that they are people like us. We are people like them."

Mbali, South Africa

"Whenever people come across me they laugh. It seems like my mouth is zipped because they talk for us, I wish they could give us a chance to talk for ourselves".

Matteus, Brazil

"When I went to the streets I used cigarettes, marijuana, crack....I slept on the floor of the streets, like a beggar. I only ate once in a while. I wanted to stop using drugs. I wanted a new life, that's why I decided to go to treatment. My life was bad."

"Only the people from [ABC, the Street Child World Cup's Brazilian partner] come to spend time with us, stay close to us, defend us, give hope to us, and when they are here we are not afraid. They take us to the doctor, they play games with us, they help us to make the documents we need to be considered 'someone'."

Jamila, the Philippines

"I never learned the rights of a child in school. I learned it only from the street educators...it was from them where I learned about all my rights."

"I was sexually harassed by one of the guards ... I want to be a policewoman so there will be fewer abusers. I will not hurt them. I will only talk to them. I want to know why they do things like that to children."

The Facts

(Suggested use: have adults read out facts from around the church, perhaps mixing them up with some of the quotes above. Download the Background Information sheet for more information on the Street Child World Cup. Order Street Child World Cup fliers and have one on each seat for people to take away,)

No one knows exactly how many children live on the streets – figures range from 100 million to 150 million worldwide but a huge percentage of these live in the developing world.

Many street children work on the street in the day and return to their families at night, driven by the need to help support their families, missing out on an education in the meantime.

But some are out there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ages range from babies who are born on the street to teenagers on the edge of adulthood.

Street children don't have enough food or access to healthcare and are vulnerable to accidents, violence, abuse and sometimes even murder.

Most homeless children are not orphans. They have left to escape neglect, sexual abuse or violence. Their decision to leave is often the last resort.

Jenny Dawkins, the Street Child World Cup Project Coordinator, commented, *"Typically, hunger, neglect and violence force children onto the streets, and hunger, neglect and violence meet them there. Children participating in the Street Child World Cup will be given opportunities to challenge parliamentarians, decision-makers and the media from their own countries about every child's human rights."*

Bible Readings suggestions

- ☼ Who is my neighbour? – the story of the Good Samaritan Luke 10 v.27-37
- ☼ The bleeding woman – Mark 5 v.24 – 34
- ☼ Jesus blessing the children – Luke 18 v.15-17

See also the Prayers and Readings sheet for readings and prayers from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Garth Hewitt. (Download the sheet at www.streetchildworldcup.org)

Ideas for a talk:

- ☼ Ask the congregation what they think about when they hear the word 'neighbour'. Often 'neighbour' implies to us having a home. So who are the neighbours to the street children? What does God call us to do in situations where we see injustice and poverty?
- ☼ Jesus and the bleeding woman – Jesus not only heals, but makes people notice her. He recognises what is good in her and points it out.
- ☼ Jesus points out the valuable place that children have in his kingdom. Is this about their potential for change?

Ideas for children's talk or all-age services:

Get children to think about and discuss the following:

- ☼ What makes children go and live on the streets? What would force you to leave home?

- ☼ What would it be like to live on streets? What things would you miss about home, parents, family?
- ☼ How do you think children make money on the streets? How do they get food? How would you survive?
- ☼ What would you be afraid of?
- ☼ What do you think street children do for fun?

Activities:

- ☼ Ask them to write prayers for children on the streets. If there is a playground or concrete space outside, how about using chalk for them to write on the streets themselves?
- ☼ Get the children to lie down on a hard, cold floor (preferably stone). Ask them to try to make themselves comfortable ready for a good nights rest. Suggest they use jumpers, coats etc as blankets and pillows. Ask them if they think they would get much sleep like this.
- ☼ Take a short walk outside and ask them to look down at the ground. What do they notice? Why do you not normally notice these things? In many countries, street children are ignored - see meditation at top. Why is this?
- ☼ Show the film about the Street Child World Cup and how important football is to these children. (Go to: <http://www.streetchildworldcup.org/film.htm> or call Amos on 0207 588 2638 and they will send you the DVD)
- ☼ Tell the children a bit about the Street Child World Cup and get them to think about what it might mean for a street child to have the chance to take part.
- ☼ Get the children to come up with ideas of how they could raise money to help pay for a street child from another country to go to South Africa and take part in the SCWC? what new experiences will they have? Use a map to show them where the teams are coming from: (India, Nicaragua, South Africa, Ukraine, Brazil, Philippines, Vietnam, Tanzania)