

CHRISTADELPHIAN SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

The factors that motivated the commencement of the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund came from two incidences, both similar in nature. We visited two very sick children, one in hospital in Toronto, Canada and one at home recovering from amputation of a leg due to cancer. One purpose of our visit was to bring cheer to these dear children, but it soon became evident that very little effort on our part was necessary to brighten their day. Both children were uncomfortable and in considerable pain. We brought a small gift for each child. When presented with a kit that contained Bible learning supplies and items that captivated their interest, pain was soon forgotten and tears were replaced with smiles. For that brief moment, it became clear that a small amount of love and compassion could help replace the cruel distraction of pain. Some might question the effect that the moment had on the life of these suffering children. Evidence proved the value of love and goodwill. Compassion shown can help relieve an insurmountable mountain of pain and help motivate others to act similarly. Acts of compassionate helps both the recipient and the benefactor and in a very small way changes the tide of human suffering.

Start of the Save the Children Fund

These events stayed with us 30 years and became the inspiration for the establishment of the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund. Its focus is to help destitute children worldwide – children we do not know but whose suffering we want to help alleviate. Our purpose is to help elevate these children from their current economic, emotional and spiritual status and to encourage them to acknowledge and honour the God of Creation.

Our Purpose

Some may feel that we offer children only temporary respite, a tease, a lick of the lollipop. While our help may be temporary it is a Biblical response to those in need. It is a small step but nevertheless a helpful and positive action to a broad-based need that will only be fully resolved when our Lord returns. Children in wealthy developing countries enjoy many benefits: a supportive ecclesial life, regular fellowship, Bible instruction, learning supplies, access to Bible Schools, youth groups, etc. The objective of the *Christadelphian Save The Children Fund* is to motivate to “good works” both the giver and recipient.

A Light in the World

But should we only offer help to those within our ecclesias that we know and love? Is there room in our hearts for the fatherless, stranger, widows? The ecclesias, Sunday Schools, Sisters’ classes, CYC members have answered this question with a resounding “yes”. Through donations, labors of love, knitting and sewing circles, workdays, bake sales, Sunday School fundraising, children separately instigating fund raising efforts people have assisted destitute children of the Christadelphian world.

“Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.” Mark 9:37 Let us all continue to good works to glorify our Father in heaven.

How Contributions have been used

Since November 2001, the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund has raised over \$140,000.00 that has been used for supplies and projects in 26 countries. (Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Philippines, Africa, Brazil, Turkey, Pakistan, India, Kazakhstan, Belaurus, Latvia, Tobago, St. Lucia, St. Maartin, Panama, etc.)

- Over 4000 **“Bible Learning Kits”** have been distributed. *(a Bible Learning Kit includes some or all of the following items: children’s Bible, pencils, crayons, Bible colouring books, notebook, Bible puzzles and a small cloth bag to carry these items.)*
- Bibles in native languages have been distributed
- Provision of clothing & personal items (soap, tooth brushes, etc.)
- Financial assistance for over 400 children & young people to attend Bible Schools
- Child adoptions of homeless and disabled children have resulted in baptisms

A collaborative effort is under way with the Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas (CBMA) to provide Sunday School children in the Caribbean and Latin America with lessons, supplies and crafts, funded fully by the Christadelphian Save the Children Fund (CSTCF). All work is coordinated with the Christadelphian Bible Missions throughout the world. As well distribution of materials is coordinated with the Christadelphian Isolation League (CIL) and the Christadelphian Sunday School Union (CSSU).

Help from Many Sources

By the grace of God, children need never be denied an opportunity to learn God’s Word and the grace of the Gospel message and will witness active ecclesial fellowship no matter where they live. We thank you for your continued support of this fund. We cannot continue to do it without you. For further details on the fund and how you can help or benefit from the fund, contact:

<p>Christadelphian Save the Children Fund, PO Box 25651, 395 Wellington Road South, London, Canada, N6C 6B3. Web site www.christadelphianchildren.com Dave & Louise Birchall, Administrators.</p>
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