

# CBSI Children & Youth



Children are not only the very near future of each country, church, and family; they also can and should be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ today! Giving children and youth the tools for a discipleship ministry is an urgent need! We all have the responsibility to help them. At any age, in any country, the Lord calls His people to be transformed by studying the Word of God.



CBS Nepal



Kids and leaders gather under a bridge for C&Y class time.

## Bible Study Under a Bridge? Yes!

by: Ada Francis Montiel, a Children & Youth leader in Nicaragua

Los Encuentros is the name of a small Nicaraguan roadside village with a poverty level so profound one can feel it as well as see it. Its people have few educational opportunities and little hope for their children's future.

The local cultural trend is to work hard during the week and at the end of the week spend nearly all one's meager income on alcohol.

When we first arrived there, we didn't have CBSI. We spent many days going house to house, trying to get the kids to attend our Bible studies. Those who finally came didn't understand our program.

One day we were introduced to CBSI. What a wonderful day. It was the answer to our prayers. Our teachers were trained and then taught using the CBSI program.

It didn't take long for us to start seeing results. A few meetings later

we noticed how much more the kids knew about the Bible, and their commitment to the meetings. More importantly, we also saw their lives changing, becoming more godly.

One day, when we were ready to start the class, the owner of the house where we were meeting told us we couldn't meet there any longer. "Too many kids, too much noise," he said. We were devastated. We'd finally gotten the children committed and young lives were being transformed. "Now what?" we asked. That was when a little girl in the group whispered, "We could meet under the bridge."

We asked the other children if they would meet there. "Anywhere you ask us to go, we'll go to study the Bible," they answered.

We'd never felt so free or joyful as we felt those days we spent under the bridge. We are truly grateful for God's humble but perfect provision for our meeting place.

Today we can see hope in Los Encuentros—hope that came through His Word, through CBSI, through every one of you praying and supporting this ministry in Nicaragua.

## God Speaks to Me Each Day in My Prison Cell

by: Carlos, incarcerated teen in El Salvador

This is part of how CBSI began to touch my life. These studies help me to improve and to reach new goals. One of the studies that has helped me a lot is *Philippians*, where Paul says he is convinced that what God has begun He will perfect. I thank God, because I receive strength from Him. He helps me to continue each moment in the prison, because it is God who works in me to will and to work for His good pleasure.

As I became familiar with the CBSI program, it motivated me to study and persevere in the Gospel. My hopes were very low, because I realized I was held back by many things. I was a prisoner with very serious problems.

I discovered the truth from Paul's words saying that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Brother Raul told us that it didn't matter where we found ourselves; our mission is to exalt God's name.

see page 3, Carlos →



Carlos (left) with his CBSI leader Raul

# Kids Zone



Nan

## Myanmar

I thought I was a Christian because I came from a Christian home, and my parents are Christians. **I attend church regularly and thought that is what Christianity is all about.** But when I joined the C&Y class in my town of Paletwa in Southern Chin state, I found out that I need to have a personal relationship with Jesus to go to heaven. I did that! **Now, I am a true Christian because I am His child,** not a child of my Christian parents. I found Jesus by studying the Word in the C&Y class.

## Rwanda

My name is Philippe and I am 15 years old. I am a church member of Mugombwa Parish. My life had been characterized by very bad behaviors such as stealing, insulting people, drinking beer, and being guided by peer pressure. I had never experienced a peaceful life. **I was known everywhere in my village and at school as a bad boy because of my bad behaviors.** This reputation made me always feel that I was a person without value.



Philippe, far left

One day my pastor, Rev. Juliette, came to my school and informed children about a program called CBSI and how it works. While she was forming a group, she pointed at me and told me: "Philippe, we also need you in our CBSI class." I was wondering in my heart how such boy like me can be known and given value and be trusted by a pastor to join a group of Bible study. I accepted her invitation and joined the group. **By continuing to read the Bible and discussing the Word of God with my friends in CBSI class, my life was transformed. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior of my life.** Now I have peace in my heart because I'm no longer known as a bad boy but rather a boy of good reputation. Praise is to God.

## Indonesia

My mother took the two of us, my older sister and myself, to this home for children three years ago. The reason for this was, my parents are too poor and could not even afford to feed us, and could not think about paying for education. We landed in this home where we could get both. I am happy here with my friends even though my parents live far away. One of the best thing here is, the Bible study called C&Y where I get to write down my own answers from the Bible and share my answers with my friends. **We are doing the Gospel of Luke and I am getting to know who Jesus is.** I love the study! I am praying that Jesus will help me to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher or a policeman some day.



Adrian

## India



Renuka

When I was in primary, I left school. I could not read or write. In our church I started attending CBSI Bible study for small children. When I joined them, **I prayed to the Lord and now I can read and answer the questions!**

When I was studying the book of Ephesians, I realized that all knowledge and wisdom is from the Lord.



Elizabeth

## Mexican Teen Makes "War Corner" for Prayer

by: Elizabeth, a 14-year-old C&Y student

**M**y family and I are members of a church where we have studied with CBSI Bible courses since I can remember. The Bible studies have helped me with my personal devotions with God, with all the questions that suddenly pop up about God. They have been preparing me for life. Most of all they help me with my faith. My parents had a great part in that, too.

A few Saturdays ago I started going to our youth group at church. In my CBSI group my teacher began to teach us about prayer. I honestly was not taking prayer that seriously. Then again at the second youth meeting they talked about prayer.

That night I made a decision: I was going to do my best to take prayer seriously. I knew if I just left it as a promise, I would forget. So I made a "war corner" in my bedroom like in the movie *War Room*. That way I would remember prayer like I am supposed to—like 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing."



# Rainy Season Brings Joy in the Midst of Challenges

by: Linda Baber, Caleb to Uganda

When it is a rainy Sunday in America, we get in our cars, put up our umbrellas and dash into our churches. In Uganda, however, during rainy season church and Bible study attendance goes down and the challenges are many.

Transportation is a problem because so many of our students walk to church or school where CBSI classes are held. Some ride on the back of motorcycles—difficult when mud is running down the mostly unpaved streets. Classes that usually meet under trees have nowhere to go.

During our last C&Y Caleb visit to Uganda, we saw that some children have used newspaper to make covers for their five-lesson C&Y booklets in an attempt to protect the lessons from the elements. The joy on their

faces shows the high value these children place on their printed lessons!

Despite inclement weather and other conditions, God's Word is being taught to more than 6,000 children in the towns and rural areas of western Uganda.

Nine-year-old Ritah is one of the children studying in a dry weather "classroom" (an outdoor classroom that must close during rain storms). Ritah says, "I enjoy reading the Bible. It has turned out to be my best book. Every time I read it I learn a new thing. Since I joined Bible class my life has changed. Now I know God is my maker and protector."

This is just one example of the difference CBSI is making in the lives of children.

Rain or shine, God's Word is going out among the nations and transforming the hearts and lives of His people.



Ugandan kids participate in CBSI on a dry day in an outdoor classroom.



Kids hold up their lessons wrapped with newspaper to protect them from the rain.

## Kids Have Courage in the Face of Evil

by: Hadassah, C&Y leader

Akansha, 14 years old, has been regularly attending a CBSI Children & Youth class in Tarnaka, Hyderabad. One day the class was traveling together to attend a church function.



Akansha's C&Y Class

Suddenly in the middle of the journey, Akansha fell down unable to talk or breathe, making different kinds of noises. All the children were afraid to go near her. I started praying because I knew the way she was behaving was not due to ill health, but because of an evil spirit. I told the children not to be afraid. Two of them came forward to join me in prayer. One by one the others joined us as we all prayed together. Slowly the girl stopped making sounds. We prayed until we reached our church.

I really thank God and praise Him for these dear children. These children are not from Christian backgrounds. They came to know our Lord through CBSI Bible study. Even though the situation with Akansha was fearful, they were strong enough in Christ to handle it. Please continue to pray for them.

Carlos, from page 1

Each day I study the Word more profoundly through CBSI, and the focus of my life has changed. I have come to realize that just as God was with Paul in Philippi, I can be sure that He will be with me. My faith has grown.

I am learning many verses by memory and putting them into practice. When we share answers in the study, I learn a lot and my understanding of God's Word grows.

God speaks to me each day in my prison cell, and I learn a lot about the Holy Spirit. I remember the stories that we have studied. Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God." **This makes me think that it doesn't matter to God where I have come from or who I am; He makes me part of His people and I find refuge in His love and this produces a change in my life.** Each time I study, I become more aware of His love and I am secure in Him.

I thank God that He helps me greatly each day to grow as a Christian and as a person. I'm sure that God has purposes for my life and I can say, "I am a slave and prisoner of Christ, and nothing can stop me."

I am thankful for each brother who supports us and for the brother who shares these studies under the power of the Spirit.

Thank the Lord for CBSI. God bless you.



Gopal

## From Surface Level to In-depth

by: Gopal, C&Y class member in India

When I was hardly a year old, my parents came to know the Lord and I was raised in a Christian home. My life was full of do's and don'ts. I led a nominal Christian life believing I knew much about my faith and that God worked in people's lives. I attended church every week, took part in all the meetings and conferences and for that period of time, I felt close to God.

However, around the age of 17 I began to question myself, *Gopal, do you really know the God you say you believe in? Are you in Christ?* I realized I needed a personal relationship with God and therefore gave my life to Jesus. I would read the Bible regularly after dedicating my life to the Lord but I realized I still couldn't understand God's

Word very well. Since I was a regular attendee of my church and played the guitar, I was asked to lead the worship team. I did, but there was an emptiness inside. I realized I did not know anything. Everything that I did know was only at the surface level until I was introduced to CBSI.

I thank the Lord for these in-depth studies which we began about two years ago. Studying the gospel of John, I have come to know and strongly believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is the Resurrection and Life. He is the Good Shepherd, and He is the Light and the Vine. I believe the CBSI studies are beneficial to its application in every Christian's life. God has brought about a tremendous change in my life now that I know how to live the Christlike life the Bible prescribes.



Top: Two girls work on their lesson. Bottom: Kids participate in discussion.

## Children Enthusiastic About Starting CBSI in Reading, UK

by: Miriam, C&Y class leader

For six weeks during September and October, we've been trialing CBSI C&Y here in Reading. We met this week to discuss how it had gone. Here are some highlights:

We had 11 children attending. We were delighted with how enthusiastic they all were and how keen to share their answers during the discussion groups.

The children threw themselves into the games and were diligent about doing their homework.

We had some great feedback from the children, with all of them ticking "yes" to the question, "has CBS helped you to follow Jesus?" and all of them saying they would like to come back—some with suggestions for what they want to study!

As leaders, we have felt so privileged to be part of this and seeing the children so enthusiastic about the Bible and discussing their faith together so thoughtfully. We are now looking at how to move forward, so please pray for us!

## Pray with Us!

**The Americas:** Please pray for the newly trained leaders in eastern Cuba as they set out to begin new classes. Pray for a beginning for C&Y ministry in Haiti and new classes in El Salvador. Ask God for more C&Y regional trainers and leaders to support national ministries.

**Africa:** Praise God for how He is growing the C&Y ministry in Africa. Please pray for wisdom as doors open for further expansion. Please pray that the CBS Africa team would be guided by His hand, and not by our own agenda or desires. Pray that God would give discernment, wisdom, provision, and obedience to follow the Holy Spirit.

**South Asia:** Please pray that God will raise up committed leaders.

**East Asia-Pacific:** Praise God for tremendous growth of C&Y Philippines since its launch in 2015—1,333 children and youth, and growing! C&Y Cambodia and Nepal are under new leadership and making a good start. Please pray for committed C&Y leaders in New Zealand, Japan, and Indonesia.

## You Can Help!

Bringing biblical, systematic discipleship ministry to children is an urgent need today. If we don't disciple them, someone else will.

Would you pray about helping us lead children around the world to become disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ?

To make a tax-deductible gift online, please go to [www.communitybiblestudy.org](http://www.communitybiblestudy.org) and click *DONATE*, then *GIVE ONLINE*, and designate International Children & Youth Ministry. Or you can mail your gift designated to CBSI International C&Y Ministry to Community Bible Study, 790 Stout Road, Colorado Springs, CO, 80921.

**Thank you for joining us in making an impact in the lives of so many children!**