

CBSI Children & Youth



COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

The trusting innocence of childhood often is overwhelmed by the poverty and violence children face in many parts of the world. These children need to know that Jesus loves them, and that message is a key component of the mission of Community Bible Study's International Children & Youth (C&Y).

Several children with no shoes and always wearing the same clothes began to show up every Sunday at a church C&Y program in Tocoa, Honduras. The leader asked the children who their parents were and if they were Christians.

The children said, no, they weren't. "We come alone from another neighborhood."

The teacher asked, "Why do you come?" They answered, "The snack."

After some time of showing love and care for the children, some church members gave them shoes and clothes. When the children asked for Bibles, someone gladly provided them.

One day the class was discussing what they wanted to be when they grew up, and one of the boys, who first came only for the snack, said, "A CBSI leader."

These Christians in Honduras are living out Isaiah 55:1, "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money come, buy and eat."

CBSI's C&Y Ministry has grown 150 percent this year to more than 20,000 students worldwide. Please take a few minutes to read the amazing stories of lives that have been changed by getting to know Jesus!



Honduran kids are lovingly fed a snack—and God's Word.

CBSI Children & Youth Program Is Thriving in Honduras!

"My daughter has peace when she comes home now," says a

thankful mother in Tocoa, Honduras. "She no longer fights with her siblings."

Only God can bring that kind of emotional healing—through the study of His Word!

Children's lives are changed when they encounter Jesus in CBSI's Children and Youth (C&Y) programs, and the need is especially great in Honduras, where violence, gangs and drug trafficking are rampant.

Pastor Gadiel Rojas and his wife, Sandra, pioneered the C&Y ministry in Honduras, in their church's bilingual school. In August 2013, all 116 children in the school began studying the Gospel of Luke using CBSI materials. In 2014, seeing the benefit of the

curriculum, the program was expanded to the church, and another 157 children finished Luke as well.

Parents are happy with the Christian values their children are learning. A very grateful mom of a little 4-year-old girl shares that her daughter was unhappy with her because she was not keeping up with her part of the deal. She said, "Mom, you signed a paper that said you would listen to me tell you the Bible story of the week, and you haven't let me."

The C&Y Ministry in the Tocoa church proved to be a powerful pilot ministry. But the heart's desire of the church leaders was to help other churches start the C&Y ministry in their own communities. Pastor Gadiel's brother, Noel Rojas, is a pastor in Tegucigalpa.

See Page 4, Honduras →



We hope there will be a CBSI class for children at this church in Tegucigalpa soon!

Kids' Zone

India

"I was a very impatient girl in my house; for every small thing I used to shout. In Community Bible Study I learned about patience in James 1. Now I am learning to calm down whenever I get angry. I like this Bible study very much."

Sri Laxmi, 10th grade, Hyderabad, India



India

"I have been coming to CBSI Bible study for one month. In this Bible study I learned that we should control our tongue, and our words should be pleasing to God. But so many times I told lies to my mother. I confessed my sin to Jesus. Now I am not telling lies to my mother."

Victoria, 10th grade, Hyderabad, India



Uganda

These children go to a Children & Youth class at their school. In March, a main C&Y leader visited the school and more than 40 children gave their lives to Christ.

They are growing in their new relationship with God through what they learn at their Children & Youth class.



Ecuador

This little girl learns about God's love for her through her C&Y class. Pray for her and others like her to grow in knowledge and understanding of Jesus.

C&Y in Uganda and South Sudan

C&Y Uganda is experiencing rapid growth – 6,072 children and youth are studying God's Word in CBSI Uganda. In one diocese alone, 26 teachers are discipling 1,699 children (average class size is 65 students!). Please ask God to call and equip more leaders to join the ranks of these dedicated teachers.

Last summer, Caleb Lynda Blake had the opportunity to train teachers at a new location in Uganda: the Royal School International. During a March follow-up visit there, Lynda and her husband, Dennis, were able to do refresher training with the RSI teachers and then follow God into South Sudan, where He had opened a door into the RSI sister school in Yei. Fifty-four teachers embraced the material and are excited to begin introducing it to the 1,800 children at four school campuses in South Sudan! 🌍



Left: Many children will be in the new C&Y studies in South Sudan. Right: Children participate in their C&Y class in Uganda.



When the Blakes visited the RSI school in Uganda in March, not only did they find more than 450 students studying God's Word and using what they learned in training—they found His Word to be alive and active as the children staged a play reenacting the entire life of Joseph, complete with costumes and props.

Growth in the Philippines

The Children & Youth Ministry in the Philippines is experiencing rapid growth, currently teaching around 175 children how to study the Bible. Praise God for the many young lives He is redeeming for Himself.

CBSI in Cebu

A church in Cebu launched C&Y classes for more than 120 children this February. Ten leaders and two supervisors were trained last November. The children come from different communities, and most from low-income families.

Sally, Class Leader, reports: "In our place, kids seldom own books, because most of them are enrolled in government institutions, and they must return books at the end of the school year. With CBSI lessons, their interest in reading the Bible grew because of the materials they call their own. The kids are excited every time they come to our class, bringing their books with answers from their home reading. Class leaders keep encouraging our children during sharing time, because some are really shy to speak. But I am positive, with God's help, they will become confident, strong and reliable adults who will stand for the Truth in years to come. More power to CBSI!"

CBSI in Agusan del Sur

C&Y Supervisor Rose Marie shared about her students' growing faith: "Last Sunday we talked about Jesus's power over storms, sickness, death and demons. The students became aware that Jesus



was and is really powerful.

"Toward the end of class, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to ask the children for their personal prayer requests, encouraging them to share, because our God is more powerful than any problem we have.

"Previously we have prayed silently, and then someone closes in [audible] prayer. But this time was totally different. A 15-year-old boy, who is noticeably shy, shared the story of trouble in their house. His father is having an affair with another woman, and he wanted us to pray for his mother and siblings.

"He said he learned how powerful Jesus is; so he believes, 'Jesus is the ONLY solution to all my problems.' Indeed,



Top: Sally leads her C&Y class. Bottom: Filipino teens learn to bring their problems before God.

nothing is impossible with God!"

Rose Marie adds, "I am thankful to God as He continues to work in the lives of these teens ... I have learned a lot from them." 🙏



Above: College students gather to study James in Thambos's class. Left: C&Y student-turned-leader, Thambos.

New Dynamic Leaders in India

In India, 2,126 children and youth study the Bible in 113 C&Y classes! Translation of C&Y lessons into India's many languages continues, and we praise the Lord for all the translators, proofreaders and people involved in typing.

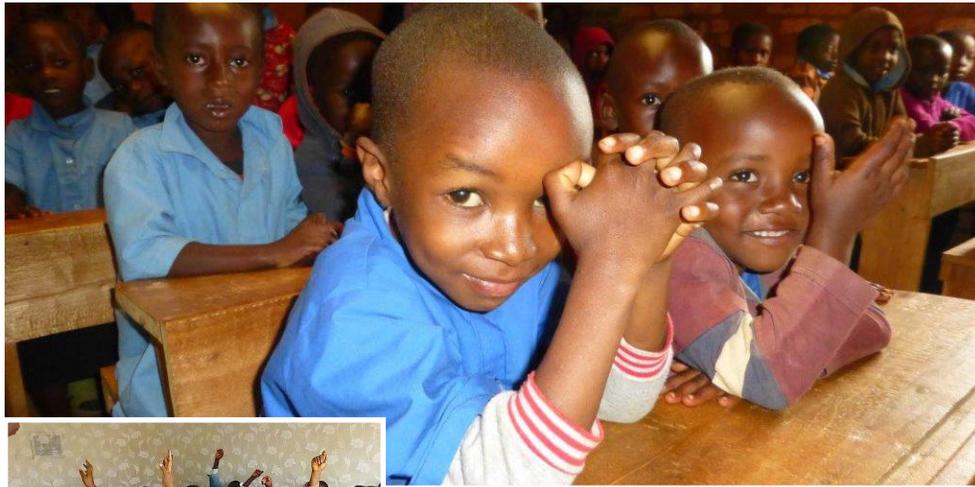
God is raising up a generation of young people who are zealous for His Word and have a burden for lost souls. Pray that He calls and equips leaders to disciple them.

Sometimes He calls leaders from among the students themselves.

Thambos, now a college student, experienced C&Y study firsthand several years ago. He said, "It impacted me so much that I reached out at my college to share the book of James.

"CBSI gave me the strength to pursue and share the Word with them so they might experience a change in their lives."

Thambos is a trained C&Y Class Leader and leads 10 of his college classmates in a study of James. Please pray for two who attend but have not yet trusted Jesus. 🙏



Burundi Children & Youth Pilot

Diana Nally, Caleb to Burundi, told us, "The Burundi Children & Youth pilot is off to a good start as gifted and committed children's leaders and teachers respond enthusiastically to the CBSI lessons. They may be poor in material items—no resources to speak of—but they are so rich in the love of God and the truths of His Word."

Pictured clockwise from the top: Burundian children are now able to study God's Word; graduating class of newly trained Children & Youth class leaders gather together; C&Y trainees actively participate in training.

Please pray for these groups as they continue to grow and expand. Pray for more children to be impacted! 🙏

Pray with Us!

Africa: Praise God for the continued growth of the C&Y ministry in Africa. May His name be glorified as more and more children are reached for Him. Praise God for the opportunity for joint ministry with the Royal School International in South Sudan and Uganda; thousands of children will be reached with His Word.

Europe: Pray that Europeans will see the urgent need to disciple their own children in the Word of God.

South Asia and East Asia-Pacific: As we expand and grow, pray that C&Y leaders will stay focused and committed to their calling. In countries where C&Y has seen slow growth, pray that leaders will catch the vision of equipping the next generation with the Word.

The Americas: Praise the Lord for C&Y growth and potential. Pray that we will be able to launch C&Y in Chile this year. Ask God to continue to call committed leaders for all CBSI Americas countries, including National C&Y Supervisors for Mexico, Honduras and Cuba.



New C&Y leaders

Honduras, from Page 1

The brothers presented a CBSI C&Y proposal to their denomination two years ago.

In March 2015, many in Tegucigalpa were ready to expand C&Y into their churches and schools. More than 200 trainees from 16 churches and a couple of schools attended the CBSI C&Y training there, led by a CBSI team from Mexico and Honduras.

Two young pastors traveled from Managua, Nicaragua, to learn about CBSI at the training. They are praying about launching the first CBSI ministry in their country.

One young leader, who attended the recent training, organizes 26 groups of street children in very bad neighborhoods. Each week he reaches 600 children, and we pray CBSI can be used to disciple these children. He said parents are very glad their children go to study the Bible. The gangs, however, do not want the children learning the Bible, and they try to draw them away.

Please pray for a Children & Youth team for Honduras. Praise the Lord that two national Children's Leaders from Tocoa have been prepared as C&Y Trainers. Please ask God to call more trainers for Tegucigalpa and other areas in Honduras. 🙏

These are just a few of the stories about what God is doing through CBSI's Children & Youth Ministry. We have a responsibility to help as many children as we can to grow in the knowledge and discernment of Christ in these difficult days. Many voices are calling for the children, but only the gospel call can bring them life and peace.

Training nationals and translating and printing Bible lessons in so many languages requires significant resources. **Would you pray about helping us touch the lives of children around the world?**

To make a tax-deductible gift, please go to www.communitybiblestudy.org and click "donate now," or you can mail your gift to Community Bible Study, 790 Stout Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

Thank you for joining us in impacting the lives of so many children!