

Discipling the Unchurched Youth:
Experiences with Street Children
By

Dr. Eigbadon Gregory E.

Galilee Foundation

THE COMMISSION

Mt. 22:1-10

Parable of the King that prepared a banquet for the son's wedding.

- The “who is who” in the society were invited to the wedding banquet.
- They all turned down the invitation with excuses.
- Some even went as far as killing some of the servants sent to them.

The King's Reaction:

- He sent armies to destroy those wicked people.
- He sent his servants to the highways (**fringes/street**) to gather as many as they can find both **“good”** and **“bad”** to the wedding.

GALILEE FOUNDATION

Over the last 30 years Galilee Foundation has consistently work as a rescue mission to destitute particularly among street children in different parts of Ibadan.

Our Approach

- Establishments of **street schools** (counselling centers) in some specific areas like Agbaje/Agbeni, Bodija market, Iwo-road, Mokola /Sabo.
- Consistent interactions with street children by Street Counsellors.
- Home Tracing.
- Collaboration with relevant government establishments like Police, NSCDC and State Ministry of Women Affairs.
- Referrals to Kings Kids Children's village (an arm of Galilee Foundation).

Kings kids Children Village

This is the
**Rehabilitation /
Discipleship**
Component of
our Programme.
Each child is
expected to go
through series of
modules geared
towards;

- Spiritual reformation and development.
- Psychosocial life skill training for behavior modification and orientation.
- Enrolment into schools for formal education
- Enrolment into various vocation of interest.
- Mentorship / Discipleship programmes.
- Family / Societal Reintegration.

Some Activity Pictures



Interacting with some street children

Activity Pictures Contd.



Group Counselling session



General Ministration to the children

Some Activity Pictures



Galilee Children reaching out to other children on the street

CHALLENGES

➤ Staying focused as a Minister

1. Being a Faith Based Organization, that operates as an NGO: **tendency to concentrate only on meeting the social needs** of the children.
(Seeking the Applauds and Acceptance of Men) Acts 5:29, 4:19.
2. **Temptation** to exist just to be **pursing grants** and meeting the demands or specification of donors – Distractive (1Cor.3:10, Lk.21:34)
3. **Maintaining balance** between Personal life and Ministerial demands.
1Tm.4:16

CHALLENGES CONTD.

➤ **As a Ministry**

- **Confrontations on the Street:** Touts (bigger boys) and other people taking undue advantages of these Children. Acts 16:19, 2Tm.4:14.
- **Relapse cases among the children** (Attrition rate sometimes can be very high and sometimes after years of investments in time and resources - very disheartening) 2Tm.4:10.
- **Cultural and other Religious barriers** (Acceptability)
- **Provision for the basic needs** of these children.
- **Paying your bills as an entity** (administrative cost and other utility bills)



End of the Year Party for Street Children



Children Activity Pictures



Practical Session in Raising a Poultry Pen



Relaxation time in one of the dormitories

Children Activity Pictures



A Cross Section of Children Removed from the street committing their lives to Christ

On the Occasion of the Wedding Ceremony of one of our Children



Discipleship Experience

➤ Intentional Approach

Children who had responded to the call for salvation genuinely

- **FORMAL** Discipleship Programmes
- **INFORMAL** Discipleship Programme

➤ Unintentional Approach

- Care-givers and Entire Staff are **MODELS**

OUR RESOLVE

EVEN IF ALL OUR EFFORTS IS
FOR THE SAKE OF THIS ONE
SINGLE **SOUL** CRYING OUT, WE
WILL NEVER RELENT IN OUR
EFFORTS.

THE FULFILMENT AND JOY
DERIVED IN THE **SPIRITUAL,**
MENTAL AND **PHYSICAL**
TRANSFORMATION OF A
MANGLED LIFE IS
UNPARALLELED

