



▶ PRAY TCE STUDENTS WILL BE EXCITED TO COMPLETE THEIR OUT OF CLASS PRACTICUMS IN REAL-LIFE SETTINGS AND THAT THEY WOULD SEE FRUIT FROM THEIR MINISTRY.



▶ PRAY GOD WILL HELP US GROW AND EXPAND OUR CLUB MINISTRY THROUGH TRAINING AND CHURCH PARTNERSHIP.



▶ PRAY GOD WILL STUDENTS TO HIS GREATER VISION AND THEY WILL COMMIT THEIR SUMMER TO MINISTRY SERVICE.



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Prayer focus

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INTERCEDING FOR THE NEEDS OF THIS MINISTRY.
POINTING CHILDREN TO AN ETERNAL FUTURE.

Children in the Community

Understanding children today is super important if we desire to minister to them in the fullest possible way and give them the opportunity to respond to the leading of the Lord Jesus Christ. Being aware that there are children in our community affected in different ways by varying circumstances, helps us minister to their specific needs. So very many children today are living with some sort of trauma, like divorce, serious illness or abuse. I was shocked to learn in my most recent CMI class that 28% of children experience some sort of abuse before the age of 8 years old.



Children touched by trauma act differently, seek comfort and satisfaction in things they shouldn't, and, from a very young age, they might even have a negative outlook on life itself. Not surprisingly, religious background plays a tremendous role in their life, their views, and their behaviors as well. We need to be taking all of these things into account when we go about praying for the children we minister to through *Good News Club*® and other *CEF*® ministries.

While not all children have the same experiences, entire communities share the

burden and bear the weight of lives touched by sin.

This month I would like us to focus some specific prayers on children that identify with a religious background but rarely, if ever, attend or they may be faithful attenders at a church where a clear presentation of the Gospel is not part of typical instruction. Children with this type of religious background usually aren't receiving basic Christian discipleship either. Regularly reading God's Word or memorizing scripture are foreign concepts.

While some churches simply don't demonstrate the value of being transformed by the truth of God's Word, some actually reject the absolute authority of the Bible; arguing instead, "It's good to reject *sola scriptura* and submit to the mind of the (*Roman Catholic*) Church." (Armstrong, 2004) These traditions firmly stand on the premise that the Bible alone is not the sole, infallible rule of faith. And to avoid the confusion of personal interpretation, they must submit to the authority of the church itself.

In many traditions, rather than personal communication with God, prayer is formalized. Reciting short, memorized prayers before meals or bed in no way captures the intimacy of a relationship with the Creator or the power of a prayer spoken in faith.

Jesus challenges us as believers to continuously check scripture to be sure what is being taught within the church isn't contrary to what God says. This is why

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

—Proverbs 22:6

Martin Luther wrote his 95 Theses, so that we would be protected from deception and hold fast to what God's Word is telling us.

In every avenue of CEF ministry, we engage children from diverse religious experiences on a regular basis. It is our commitment to ensure the Gospel is thoroughly communicated at every club. The message of salvation is linked closely with an invitation to receive Christ. And caring, concerned counselors are available to guide them toward their waiting Savior.

Will you pray for each of our ministry volunteers & teachers as they minister to children living in traumatic circumstances or those from diverse religious backgrounds? Pray that as these children hear a clear Gospel presentation, maybe for the first time, that the Holy Spirit will make their hearts responsive to His leading. Will you pray that they would see the truth in scripture and recognize God's Word as ultimate authority?

I pray you will,

Specifics to pray for:

- Pray teachers would rely on the Spirit to guide their teaching & counseling.
- Pray there would be conviction of sin in the hearts of the children.
- Pray the children would be led to read and memorize the scriptures.
- Pray Christ would be recognized as their only Salvation.