



## June - July 2010

### June:

#### Country Focus- South Africa

There are over 10,000 children living on the streets of South Africa. South Africa has a history of forcing these children to miraculously disappear when the international eye is on their country. With the FIFA World Cup starting this month, all eyes will again be turned to South Africa.

Durban is one of the cities hosting some of the games, but it is also home to an estimated 6000 street children. In order to raise awareness, our partners, Umthombo, organised the Street Child World Cup, a football tournament for street children from 8 different countries. The children were enthusiastically welcomed and enjoyed a great tournament.

However, during the Street Child World Cup, a journalist from The Sun newspaper photographed some children being picked up by the police and was taken to the Durban Metro Police Station for questioning. There he saw a sign promoting the "beach cleaning operation", which classes street children in the same category as the rubbish and debris which needs to be cleaned off the streets. The police round up these street children, sometimes using tear gas and violence, arresting them in adult jails for loitering, or dumping them in the countryside surrounding the city. Whether arrested or abandoned, the street children are frequently abused and exploited.

Please pray:

- For the police to change their attitudes towards street children.
- That the government would start programmes to help the many children forced onto the streets.
- For our partners, Umthombo, in providing safe places for street children in Durban.
- For God to protect the street children in this time of increased police pressure.



## July

### Project Focus: India

Can you imagine being a young child living with an alcoholic and abusive stepfather, a mother too bullied and frightened to protect you and amongst such poverty that you and your siblings are constantly hungry? That is the reality of life at home for most of India's 11 million street children.

Unfortunately, they soon find that life in the cities is little better than their homes. The railway platform they arrived on becomes their bed, nearby rubbish tips their source of food and occasional income. Before long, the street children start suffering from chronic ill health. They are also at high risk of abuse and exploitation, especially the girls who are likely to be beaten, drugged and sold to a brothel.

We are supporting a project for street children who end up at the railway station in Vijayawada, one of the world's busiest stations. Our project identifies the children most in need and provides shelter and rehabilitation. Wherever possible, the children are reunited with their families. When this isn't possible, the children are accommodated in a home. The children are given counselling, medical treatment, food, clothing and informal education to ease them back into mainstream schools. Older children are offered vocational training if they do not want to return to school and help finding employment.

Please pray:

- That the children will find physical, emotional and spiritual healing.
- For the future development of this project and the realisation of their vision to set up a 24 hour phone line for children in distress .
- That every child reunited with their family will be welcomed and given the love and care that they need.
- That God will protect all the girls at risk of being trafficked and no harm will come to them.
- That the Indian government will recognise the root problems causing the vast number of street children and put measures in place to stem the source of the issue.