

Reflections and Prayers

Prayer is the key to Pavement Project, the fuel that has kept us on going these 20 years and counting! This collection of reflections, prayers, poems and information can be used in whatever way is most helpful, perhaps as part of a church service, small group meeting, or prayer meeting.

“We thank you Jesus,
for showing your children your power,
your endless love,
and great mercy.
We ask for the children of this world
to grow up with food, water,
family, education
and love,
just like you did.
We pray for all the churches and organisations
to continue fighting for the wellbeing of children-at-risk.
Thanks for listening to the prayers made in your name.”

Almudena, 16 years old, Costa Rica

There are 2.2 billion children in the world.

Every second child lives in poverty.

385 million live in extreme poverty.

- Pray for all those who live in poverty, who struggle to feed their families, who will go to bed hungry tonight.
- Pray that the church will find creative ways to obey God’s command to care for the poor.
- Pray for the provision of food, water, clothing, shelter, education and medicine for those living in poverty.

1.2 million children are trafficked every year.

A child is sold into sex slavery every 30 seconds

- Pray for the uncovering of brothels, pornography and slave trade rings.
- Pray for freedom, restoration and healing for children who have been victims of trafficking.
- Give thanks for initiatives like the Stop the Traffik campaign. Pray that individuals, churches, charities and governments around the world will continue to work together to bring an end to the modern-day slave trade.



121 million primary school aged children don't attend school. 54% of them are girls.

- Give thanks for the gift of education: the opportunities it creates and the skills it teaches. Pray that children all over the world will be given the opportunity to attend school.
- Give thanks for the commitment and dedication of teachers all over the world. Pray that those in developing countries will be provided with the tools and facilities they need.
- Pray for an end to discrimination against girls in social, economic, political and religious spheres. Pray that boys and girls will be granted equal opportunities to receive an education.

There are an estimated 100 million street children.

- Pray for the millions of children who live and work on the streets of our cities. Pray that attitudes towards them will change, so that their humanity is recognised and affirmed, and they are not simply dismissed as a menace or a nuisance.
- Give thanks for the many organisations who seek to reach out to street children, providing for their basic needs and seeking to give them a fresh start.
- Pray for the work of Pavement Project. Ask that each child who is counselled through the Picture Me process will encounter God's love and acceptance. Pray boldly that Pavement Project might be a means to transformation for thousands more children.

Anonymity

They call me Street Child. It means "anonymous".
That's not my name.

My name is Adeline. It means "beloved".
They call me Urchin. That's not my name.

My name is Ilario. It means "cheerful".
They call me Spinning Top. That's not my name.

My name is Cara. It means "precious jewel".
They call me Dust of Life. That's not my name.

My name is Mateo. It means "gift of God".
They call me Little Piranha. That's not my name.

They call me Street Child. It means "anonymous".
That's not my name. That's not my name.

Anonymous • *adj.* Having an unknown or unacknowledged name.



For Lianne, Aged One

As far as is possible, stay as you are,
with the eye clear and open
and washed clean of fear;
with the skin untracked
by the sad workings of the heart,
lips unskilled in spite.

As far as is possible, stay as you are,
the morning's first light
cause enough for joy,
each passing face
judged only by the colour of its smile.

As far as is possible, stay as you are.

Gaze out at the world
with its mystery and noise,
but refuse all offers to join.

Be backwards in evil,
advanced in love.

As far as is possible, stay as you are,
with the upturned face
and the open palm,
with the stumble of faith
and the shout of hope.

For of such is the kingdom.

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