



BIBLE CLUBS

BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2009

Sometimes the plight of inner-city children seems overwhelming. The abandonment and neglect are heartbreaking—living in cardboard boxes, being sexually abused or cruelly ignored. Their sad eyes and broken spirits make me want to turn away.

But I cannot do that. Jesus would not have done that. And, I know you would not do that, either.

For 44 years, World Impact Bible clubs have brought healing and hope to thousands of urban children and teenagers.
And this month, Bible clubs begin again!

Tamisha and Nicole are two of seven children. Their alcohol- and drug-addicted parents could not pay the rent and were forced out of their apartment.



With no place to go, they joined the ranks of the homeless. Tamisha, Nicole and another sister stayed with our staff women.

Then, their parents fought in front of the girls; their father physically beat up their mother. The parents separated, so Tamisha and Nicole live in a small apartment with two second cousins, left without adult supervision all day. The four girls sleep two in a bed, seldom seeing their siblings or mother.

Both girls have come to know Jesus in Bible clubs and are keenly aware of God's love for them. Every day, inner-city children arrive at Bible club, eager to be loved by their teachers, and to play with their Christian friends.



Bible-club children enjoy field trips and camp. Preschoolers attend reading-readiness classes. Many children enroll in our Christian schools. In times of need they are given food, milk, clothing and medicine in Jesus' name. Most importantly, our Bible-club children receive personal attention and love from their Bible-club teachers.

Mike is a perfect example. He is 16 and lives alone. Mike cannot live with his mother because her boyfriend dislikes him. His father's girlfriend has five children, and there is no room for Mike in their apartment. Mike could turn away from God, believing that He has forsaken him, but he does not.

Mike clings to God and will not let go. His Bible-club teacher is his best friend. Even though he has to be tough to survive, he loves to be hugged. Bible club provides a secure, loving environment where Mike learns about hope and compassion.

For Reggie, Bible club is a place of solace. He plays high-school basketball, but sleeps on the sofa. His oldest sister shares a room with her boyfriend and their baby. His three other sisters share another room (one also has a baby; another is pregnant). His youngest brother shares a room with his mom. Reggie is upset that his sisters free-load off of his mom and are disrespectful towards her.

Amanda, age eight, lives with her mother, sisters and many other family members. She craves attention and spends countless hours on the porch of her World Impact neighbors, telling them about her day.

Our home is a place of love and security. Even when Amanda's missionary neighbors cannot play with her, she sits contentedly on the porch by herself, still feeling a part of their home and

activities. She loves Bible club. Her relationships with our missionaries are built on love and trust—the perfect foundation for sharing the love of Christ with a child.



Three years ago, Dominique, a tall young lady with a sweet, quiet spirit and a beautiful smile, joined a girls' Bible study.

At first, Dominique kept her thoughts to herself, but as time went on she gained confidence and participated in discussions, showing a depth of wisdom and maturity.

Now, kids in school come to Dominique with their problems, finding a listening ear. Because of Bible club, Dominique came to know Christ and is able to share what she has learned with others.



Five years ago, Shonda was listening to her Bible-club teacher tell the story of the crucifixion. As the teacher talked about our sin being on Jesus, tears streamed down Shonda's face.

Shonda was about to hear the Easter story for the first time! Since then, she has regularly attended Bible club and church. She has grown in patience and confidence, and soaks up God's Word, thirsty to hear more.

Now Shonda's parents are opening up to our missionaries. Through Shonda's life, God is transforming her family.



Four-year-old Khalil sat on the hard ground, eager for Bible club to start. He never wants to miss a bit of it! Bible-club teachers visited his home and built a relationship with his parents. Over and over they were invited to a Bible study. Finally, his mom came. She found good teaching, fellowship and a Savior. A few weeks later, her husband followed her in giving his heart to the Lord. They were baptized and dedicated Khalil to God.

Today, Khalil's parents are leaders in our church and are being discipled. They serve on the worship team, help with office work and organize activities. Because of Bible clubs, a whole family is being transformed through the power of the gospel.

Now you know why Bible club is so important. For many, it is their only source of hope; for some, it is the difference between life and death.

Because our missionaries teach, encourage and listen to these young people, they have hope. We are among their closest friends—available to love, comfort and feed them spiritually and physically.

Many of our Bible-club children have accepted Christ. They need encouragement as they mature in Him. Others are exploring the grace of God. They need our prayers and faithfulness as Jesus becomes real in their lives. New children are coming to Bible club all the time. And hundreds of others want to come.

This year, it will cost \$139,250 to continue the long process of teaching children, like Khalil, about Jesus in communities all across America. Our dedicated missionaries are ready to love these children and to make a difference in their lives.

Thirty dollars (\$30) will pay for an entire year's expenses—which include a Bible, Christian literature, craft materials and outings—for one Bible-club child, like Shonda.

Khalil and Shonda, and thousands like them, are excited about another year in Bible club. All we need now are people, like you, who will say, “Yes, I want to make a difference in the lives of children who have nowhere else to turn.”

Please give generously. And, send your offering today. Thank you, on behalf of the children!

Yours in Christ,



DR. KEITH PHILLIPS
President



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