

# THE C A T A L Y S T

international  
**child care**  
ministries



## *The Journey of Childhood*

ACTIVATING CHANGE LOCALLY TO IMPACT CHILDREN GLOBALLY

The CATALYST is the annual publication of International Childcare Ministries Canada.

International Child Care Ministries advocates for the spiritual, educational, physical, and social development of children by partnering with the global Free Methodist Church through sponsorships, scholarships, and creative initiatives.

## YOUR PARTNERING DOLLARS

Financial accountability is important to us. ICCM reviews its policies biannually and conducts domestic audits annually. Reports, stories, pictures, and videos are received quarterly to ensure funds are used effectively and children are benefitting.



### PARTNERSHIP [receiptable]:

80% benefits your child with food, education & clothing, & the means of getting it to the child or child's school.

20% is directed to Program Development Costs to support services, leadership, & development.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS / FUNDS [receiptable]:

100% of your one time donation goes directly to the field. For more information on which projects are available please visit our website.

### CHILD GIFTS [non-receiptable]:

100% of all funds go directly to the child for their birthday or Christmas gift.

### WAYS TO DONATE by

Credit Card available online at [www.childcareministries.net](http://www.childcareministries.net)

Cheques can be written and sent in quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

Pre-Authorized chequing and credit card transactions, set up for automatic withdrawal from your account monthly.

IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR CHANGED BANKING INFORMATION, PLEASE UPDATE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

# How amazing are kids?

A NOTE FROM  
PAULA, ICCM  
DIRECTOR



I have been reminded over and over again these past few months what a unique gift children are – to their families, their communities, and to you and me! Children who live in the countries we work in have so many struggles to face as they grow up: lack of nutritious food and clean water, no access to education, and a need for the gospel to be spoken into their lives. Children simply deserve better.

But the needs of an infant are different from those of a young adult, and all the stages inbetween! We meet the needs of every child by recognizing where they are in the journey of childhood and taking a holistic approach. And when we do this, there is a spillover effect to their families and communities.

As these children age, we finally see them become young adults who give generously of their time, talents, and resources to support us. We hear stories of ICCM graduates becoming leaders in the church, volunteering at the programs that helped them, or sponsoring a child. They see the value in the lives of children because their sponsors saw value in them five or fifteen years earlier!

We cannot thank you, our partners, enough for joining each child in their journey. Thank you!

Serving Christ together,

Paula Moriarity

ICCM Director, Canada

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### The Journey of Childhood

JOURNEY THROUGH A CHILD'S LIFE AND SEE GLIMPSES OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A TODDLER IN THE CONGO OR A TEEN IN CAMBODIA. SEE THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES THE IMPACT OF SPONSORSHIP!



0-3 years

### Toddler:

exploring surroundings, making noises and learning to talk, growing quickly

4-8 years

### Young Kid:

curious about the world, likes playing with others, starting to be more active

9-12 years

### Preteen:

learning how to make good choices, discovering talents, starting to think logically



0-3 years

# Toddler



IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IT IS A CHALLENGE TO KEEP BABIES AND TODDLERS HEALTHY, SAFE, AND IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY CAN DEVELOP PROPERLY.



Listen to Reverend Luk, National Coordinator in the Congo, speak about how ICCM childcare centers or sponsoring pastor's children from an early age can improve some of the depressing realities for infants.

“Sponsorship, changes everything for young kids! It allows orphans and those from poor families to have the hope that comes from education, and children know they are loved not only by their family but by ICCM staff, their sponsors, and most of all, God!

“In the Congo the infant mortality rate is high – within the highest 20 countries in the world. Not only does sponsoring young infants give the child and family proper food, water, and medical care if needed, but also works to change the reality of infant mortality by educating the next generation and by producing strong future leaders in our church and society.”



13-16 years

## Teenager:

defining self, setting core beliefs, skill development, making big life decisions



17-20 years

## Youth:

gaining experience, skill development, pursuing further education



21+ years

## Alumni:

serving God using the talents, knowledge, and character that was developed as a child

4-9 years

# Young Kid

ICCM PROGRAMS START WITH VERY YOUNG CHILDREN, SO THAT HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT CAN GIVE THESE KIDS A DISTINCT EDGE AND TAKE ROOT EARLY ON IN THEIR LIVES.



HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT (HCD) ENABLES YOUNG CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY, COGNITIVELY AND SOCIALLY. SO, EVERY LESSON AT OUR CENTERS IS AGE-APPROPRIATE AND ADDRESSES THE CHILD'S NEEDS IN THESE DIFFERENT AREAS.

OUR PRAYER IS KIDS WILL DEVELOP LOVE FOR GOD, THEMSELVES, AND THEIR FAMILIES.



“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

*Curiosity*

*Play*

*Active*



# Raising Wholly Healthy Kids

Written by Belle Villanueva, Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia

We spoke to some of our project directors in the Philippines about how Holistic Child Development can change life for children in their early years of growth.

“Children have an early awareness about church, why being a part of a church family matters, and how much God loves them.” -Wenilyn Ducena

“At a young age they learn how to relate with other children through interactive activities and games.” -Fecyl Valleser

“Children become receptive to the Gospel and are given great possibilities to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior at an early age.” -Ruth Tamiok

“Physical and medical needs are addressed as needed as they grow.” -Minnie Grace Sumile

Two girls show the impact of the holistic approach of these centres perfectly. Eight year-old Madelyn and her niece Karen grew up in a dysfunctional family. Madelyn's mother abandoned the family years ago. Madelyn's sister is a single mom to five-year old Karen. Both young girls were left in the care of Madelyn's alcoholic father most of the time.

When Madelyn and Karen first joined the program a year ago, they did not come often and were very quiet and timid, sticking to themselves. They did not go to school or church regularly either because of their unhealthy home situation. However, slowly they started coming regularly on their own



Play is essential to learning and developing the knack for making friends.



to school, church, and the center; in fact, they arrive earlier than most of the older children! Both girls have made many friends at the center, excel in their schoolwork, and are engaged in all of the activities the center offers such as fun days, learning opportunities, and times for spiritual growth.

Despite their hardships and poverty, the center has made a huge difference in their lives; there they know they are well-loved and have been given many opportunities for development.



Caring teachers set the foundation for a bright future.

Investing in a young child is like a pebble cast on the water – its ripples stretch to an ever-widening circle.



God's Word is spreading in Cambodia, where our students treasure their Bibles.



*Talents*

*Critical  
Thinking*

*Choices*

9-12 years

## Preteen

IN PRETEEN YEARS,  
KIDS ARE VULNERABLE  
AND ARE BEGINNING TO  
MAKE DECISIONS- WHO  
THEY WANT TO BE, WHAT THEIR  
PASSIONS ARE, AND WHAT THEY  
BELIEVE.



IN THIS TURBULENT TIME,  
CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM A  
STRONG BIBLICAL FOUNDATION  
TO BASE THEIR LIFE AROUND  
MORE THAN EVER!

SPONSORSHIP DURING  
PRETEEN YEARS MAKES A HUGE  
DIFFERENCE.







Sothea when he was a newly sponsored child.



Sothea today helping out in the center!

## Discovering Who You Are

“My name is Sothea and I was a student in ICCM Cambodia since 2007. I was born into a family of seven, and for most of my childhood my whole family was Buddhist. Until my older sister began to believe in Jesus and invited me to church, I just followed what my family had always taught me.

“I started attending church with her when I was 10 years old – I learned the Bible stories, got to know the people, and eventually felt God changing my mind and heart towards Him. I was sponsored when I was 12, and through my experiences at the Free Methodist church and the ICCM center, I was able to discover my love for teaching and God’s plan for my life!

“I have been helping to teach the children in the centers where I once attended myself, and by God’s grace I

have grown in confidence, love, and teaching ability so that I can help these children. Now I teach the youth in Sunday school and am also part of the worship team while attending Norton University on a full scholarship.

“I am so thankful that God brought ICCM into my life when He did, because without it I would not have been where I am today!



## Prayers Answered

Nethan has been involved with ICCM for a few years because his parents are not able to afford schooling. His father is a pastor in the Wategama area of Sri Lanka while his mother is a pre-school teacher. Without ICCM their combined earnings would not allow Nethan to attend school and develop his God-given talent for music. His parents faithfully prayed that Nethan would be sponsored so that ICCM could nurture their son with his passions to give glory to God, and their prayers were answered! Since being sponsored Nethan has improved his musical skills, developed socially and learned about how to trust in God and glorify His name.



ICCM is so proud of Nethan’s abilities and love teaching him how to grow and use them for the Kingdom!



“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults.”

-Frederick Douglass





13-16 years

## Teenager

TEENS WORLDWIDE FACE A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES, BUT IN MANY COUNTRIES THERE IS THE ADDED PRESSURE OF THE HIGH COST OF QUALITY EDUCATION. TOO OFTEN TEENS DROP OUT BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD SCHOOL OR MUST WORK TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILY. SOME MAY EVEN FACE CHILD MARRIAGE.



THESE HARSH REALITIES STEAL AWAY THE REMAINING DAYS OF CHILDHOOD AND LIMIT OPPORTUNITIES BY CUTTING SHORT THEIR EDUCATION.

BY SPONSORING TEENAGERS, THEY CAN JUST BE A KID AND CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR A FRUITFUL TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD!



In the 12 countries where ICCM works, an average of 1 in 5 children has been forced into child labour.





# Tragedy Into Hope

Written by Stella Bokare, ICCM Regional Coordinator for India

The practice of child marriages worldwide has always been an alarming one, and highly prevalent in the villages and remote areas of India, despite the rate beginning to decrease.

The girl child is sadly considered a burden to the family in male dominated society – but child marriage is a violation of every child's rights and has a negative impact on the physical growth, health, mental and emotional development, and educational opportunities of the child.

Sponsorship is a phenomenal means to impact lives of teens. It is an immense expression of God's love and works as more than simply a money exchange program but is an effective exchange of affinity and connection.

In one of our hostels, a girl lost both of her parents and was placed under the care of her grandmother, the only person who could provide shelter for this girl. Burdened with the societal pressure and the economic



Many girls worldwide do not finish middle school due to child marriage, robbing them of opportunities.

expectation, the grandmother decided to marry off the girl as quickly as possible at just 12 years old.

Fortunately, she was saved by her other relatives from this arranged marriage and was brought to our hostel. Now she is a proud grade 7 student cherishing every moment of her stay in our residential care systems. She can focus on her education and development like all teens should be able to! Children like her who have experienced the impact of sponsorship are creating a ripple effect on other children.



Pastor's kids are under a lot of pressure—financially and socially! Camps like this one in Burundi let them connect with other pastor's kids and worship God together.





*Experiences*

*Skill*

*Education*

17-20 years

## Youth

BECOMING A YOUNG ADULT MEANS FACING SO MANY BIG DECISIONS! UNFORTUNATELY MANY YOUTH ARE LIMITED IN THEIR OPTIONS BECAUSE OF POVERTY.



FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL OR PURSUING MORE EDUCATION MAY BE OUT OF THE QUESTION, WHICH WILL SHAPE THEIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

HERE ARE SOME THANKFUL YOUTH WHO WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF ICCM SPONSORSHIP!

## Opportunities for the Future

“My name is Felicite Nduwayo. I was sponsored by ICCM from primary school to secondary school. Today I am married, have three children, and work as a pedagogic officer while pursuing a Masters degree in Business Administration and Economics.

“I am so thankful because of the fact that my education was assured, giving my family so much peace. I really believe education is the key to overcome poverty, and I can see that evidenced in my own life. I graduated from Hope Africa University with a Bachelor’s Degree



I really believe education is the key to overcoming poverty, and I can see that evidenced in my life.

-Felicite Nduwayo



Our goal is to raise children to become strong, wise, generous, and grateful to God for all His blessings.



in Business and Administration with the help of ICCM, and now work on the campus I used to study at. Once I have completed my Master's degree I plan to go into teaching – but without the foundation that ICCM gave me I would not be where I am.

All the blessings from above for sponsors who are changing lives like mine in Burundi!”



## Motivated To Succeed



“I am Violet Goro, a grad of the ICCM program in Kenya. I grew up in a family of six that relied on my dad's income to support us. We lived in the slums, and went to school in torn uniforms and without shoes when we were able to afford the tuition fees.

“When I was sponsored everything changed. I was so happy when I took my first picture to send to my sponsor!

“From that time on, I worked as



hard as I could, because I knew this was the opportunity that God gave to me to break the cycle and give my family hope. In class 8, I sat for the national exam (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education), where I was the third best student. This enabled me to attend a good secondary school, where I also worked hard and performed well. This, in turn, meant I was able to join Kenyatta University in 2014.

“I am thankful for ICCM – they gave me the chance to be educated through their support and motivation. I have recently completed my post-secondary studies, graduating with a Bachelor of Education in Arts. Because of my connection to the Free Methodist Church and ICCM, I am a born again Christian and love serving God.

“Now, I volunteer in my community through different channels: motivational speaking, mentoring students from my old high school, leading youth camps, and mostly through the creation of a group called Thrive. We advocate for the holistic (spiritual, social, cognitive and economic) development of girls, boys, men, and women in our country. Through this group we have specifically created awareness on gender-based violence and child protection in Kenya for schools and groups. My ICCM sponsor's support during my youth has inspired me to work alongside high schools and young professionals for their development.”



20+ years

# Alumni

IT IS A HIGHLIGHT HEARING FROM ALUMNI—THEIR MEMORIES FROM CHILDHOOD IN THE ICCM PROGRAM. MANY OF OUR ALUMNI WERE POSITIVELY IMPACTED, AND SO TODAY CHOOSE TO VOLUNTEER, SPONSOR A CHILD, OR HELP OUT WITH THE SAME SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS WHICH CHANGED THEIR LIVES.

SEEING OUR ALUMNI THRIVE MAKES IT ALL WORTH IT.



## Overcoming All Obstacles

“My name is Gerphas Onyango Nyakwaka. I am the new National Coordinator for Kenya, and this is how ICCM sponsorship changed my life!



“When I lost my father at five years old, my mum took me to stay with my grandmother because she could not support all 8 of us on her own.

“My grandmother took good care of me, even paying for my schooling. But when I was in grade 3, I was taken away by my aunt to become her ‘free’

babysitter. My family could not find me and I did not see them or attend school for three years, stuck with my aunt.

“One day, my aunt came home from visiting family with tragic news— my mother had passed away months ago. I was distraught, until my aunt finally took me home to my grandmother. I was able to return to school now; however, I had to start in grade 3 while my former classmates were now in grade 7.

“I thank God who gave me hope and strength, and for the fact that I was loved by my extended family. I worked hard and eventually joined the Kibera Free Methodist church which doubled as a Free Methodist Academy.

“In my final year of primary I was within the top three students of my class, and ICCM Kenya offered me a scholarship to continue on to high school, and I was able to graduate!

“After graduation I heard about positions available within the national office for ICCM. For the past ten years I have been working there by helping out around the office, cleaning and doing translation, while pursuing college certification in Accounting.

It’s an honour to serve the Lord through ICCM after all He has given to me, and I look forward to growing in this leadership position!”

-Gerphas Onyango Nyakwaka

“At the beginning of this year, I was able to become the National Coordinator for Kenya. It’s an honour to serve the Lord through ICCM after all He has given me, and I look forward to growing in this leadership position!”



Gerphas poses in front of his high school's sign.



# Dreams Fulfilled

“My name is Sokleap Tray. I have four siblings. Growing up, finances were tight. My father’s business going bankrupt put us into a lot of debt, and we rarely had enough food to eat much less enough money for other needs. So, I joined the ICCM House of Love program.

“After I graduated, I had a dream to be a leader and help children like me, but my family could not afford university. Without it, it would be difficult to achieve my dream.

I continued to seek God, and He was faithful; I received the Free Methodist Higher Education Scholarship to study at Royal University of Phnom Penh. I graduated from that program with courses in self-development, management, and leadership.

“Ten years later I have lots of experience with social work organizations in Cambodia as a youth consultant, manager,



Sokleap as a young girl.

## My life and my family’s have been forever changed!



Sokleap has been blessed, and in turn has become a blessing to many others!

and even director! I currently work full time as Regional Director for an organization that focuses on child holistic development, and volunteer at the ICCM House of Love.

Because of the investment ICCM and the FMC made in my education, my life and my family’s have been forever changed! I have now made enough money to pay off my family’s debt and support my younger sibling’s education. Almost all of my family members have accepted Jesus and are attending my church!

“Without ICCM, I would have had none of the wonderful opportunities in my life such as faith, travel, learning and working in a field I am passionate about, and being able to serve my Lord in it all! So thank you to ICCM and all the sponsors who are changing lives.”



## Child Sponsorship makes a long-lasting, positive impact in children of all ages and backgrounds around the world!

### HELP A CHILD ON THEIR JOURNEY.

You can help instill a sense of God’s love and purpose in a child’s life. Choose your sponsored child today by calling (905)-848-2600, or visit [www.childcareministries.net](http://www.childcareministries.net)





VISIT  
CHILDCAREMINISTRIES.NET  
FOR MORE DETAILS!

YOU'RE  
INVITED

This summer, two of our Regional Coordinators are travelling to the ICCM office in Ontario. It's a much-anticipated opportunity to meet them face-to-face! Here's your chance to hear their powerful stories.

It promises to be an evening of discovering how we can put love into action through worship, reflection, and hearing from Maribel and Neddy about how God is at work through us to spread His love.

# Love into Action

COFFEEHOUSE  
EVENINGS

YOU CAN  
MEET THESE  
AMAZING  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEADERS

Week 1

August 7 - 7:00pm  
Kingston West FM Church,  
Kingston

August 9 - 7:00pm  
Pinegrove Community  
Church, Seeley's Bay

MARK  
THE DATE  
NEAREST  
YOU!

Week 2

August 13 - 7:00pm  
Trulls Road FM Church,  
Courtice

August 14 - 7:00pm  
Cornerstone Community  
Church, Almonte

Maribel Villanueva  
South Asia Regional Coordinator

Maribel grew up in the Southern Philippines with six younger siblings. Though she attended church with her grandmother throughout her childhood, she came to know the Lord when she was 20 years old. She is an experienced worker in the area of holistic child development.

Belle, as she prefers, believes in the mission of ICCM because it reaches children in a crucial stage of life where they need a biblical foundation. By reaching out to these youth now, there is an exponential difference made as they influence their families and communities in coming years.

Neddy Nanjowe  
Africa Regional Coordinator

Since joining the FMC 24 years ago, Neddy has served in positions ranging from Sunday School teacher, to youth leader, to Pastor, to Bible school director. She loves serving! One of her greatest desires is to help improve the living standard for children through sustainable leadership and good sponsorship practices.

In addition to being a wife to Nixon, Neddy has two children, Leslie (19), and Kelsie (15). Neddy is also currently pursuing a PHD in Educational Leadership and Administration. Neddy and her family live in Nairobi, Kenya and are members of the Karinde Free Methodist Church.



# ENCOUNTER CAMBODIA

Last Fall, two Free Methodist churches – Shiloh Community Church and Cornerstone Community Church – joined to begin a partnership with Cambodia. It started with the trip of a lifetime, meeting sponsored children and experiencing the country. Here's what they had to say...

"Even after the tragedy of genocide and living with indescribable poverty, the Khmer people are warm, loving, and welcoming. In spite of the Christian minority and corruption of the government, the message of Christ continues to go out against insurmountable odds through our Learning centers, churches, and programs. These are places where people love them and are truly invested in their lives! This trip made me realize how much sponsorship matters."

-Pastor Jan MacPhail, Shiloh



"God took me out of my comfortable Canadian life and showed me: *this is what you can do – you have the heart I gave you, use it.* With FMC and ICCM allowing the Encounter Cambodia team to partner with those in Cambodia, I can only see Him making my relationship with Him stronger."

-Suzanne Barr

"It was so moving to meet our sponsored child and see a girl from the program when we visited 10 years ago now teaching at the center! These kids are so happy to be able to learn. God is working in Cambodia!"

-Martin & Susan Lovell

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

 **ENCOUNTER**  
*Trips*

Contact ICCM Canada to hear about upcoming **ENCOUNTER Trips** to see projects in action, visit sponsored children, and build relationships.



"We experienced so much in our short time in Cambodia – getting a glimpse into the lives of our sponsored children, learning about their culture and history (especially the genocide of the 70's), meeting grads and seeing how much sponsorship meant to them, and training center staff and pastors! I am so thankful that I get to be a small part of their journey."

-Pastor Dave Moriarity, Cornerstone



A team member gets in on the playtime!



We dream of a world  
where every child is loved, safe, & developed  
to their full, God-given potential.



Holistic Child Development is what we are all about! Child centers provide a safe place where sponsored kids receive high quality education that targets every area of their identity.

ICCM centers in Ecuador and our school in Ghana with built-in holistic curriculum are doing just that in their communities: changing children's lives and promoting their full development.

Go to our website or call us today to support these projects or sponsor a child!

*activating change locally  
to impact children globally*



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