



THE CHILDREN'S *friend*



SUMMER
update
2021



working to EXTEND His friendship

While visiting a church this spring, we sang a hymn that I've never sung before - Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend (866 LSB). Here are the first three verses:

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend
To each of them Your presence send;
Call them by name and keep them true
In loving faith, dear Lord, to You.*

*In Christian homes, Lord, let them be
Your blessing to their family;
Let Christian schools Your work extend
In living truth as You intend*

*That caring parents, gracious Lord,
And faithful teachers find reward
In leading these, to whom you call,
To find in Christ their all in all.*

That's the mission of LeadaChild! To share the love of Jesus - His great 'friendship - with children all around the world through Christian education... and that's a great name for Jesus: The Children's Friend!

As the hymn reminds us, it is certainly a great reward to lead children to a true and everlasting friendship with our Lord and Savior. In Christ, they find real peace, joy, purpose, and eternal happiness. The joy for those who work or support Christian education is participating in the development of a blessed relationship between our Lord and His beloved children!

Thank you, all of our friends of LeadaChild, for joining us in our efforts to build everlasting friendships between our Lord and the children whom we serve.

Throughout this summer update, you can read about some of our friends of LeadaChild who help us make our mission a possibility, some friends who are doing great work as they serve God's children in Cambodia and Uruguay, and some of our young friends who shared their Easter artwork pictures with us.

Dr. Phil Executive Director

What a friend we have in Jesus. Can we find a friend so faithful?



Easter Art

AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT,

we sent a picture to the leaders at our project sites. It was a sketch of a cross with 40 sections to color (one for each day of Lent). The children were instructed to color one section a day as they said the Lord's Prayer and remembered what Jesus went through to rescue us from sin, death, and the devil.

Once we reached Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection, many of the children sent us a photo of their artwork to enjoy. Rejoice with us as we see children around the world thanking their friend Jesus for His great work of salvation.



UPDATE from Uruguay



The work of the Lord continues in Uruguay, even in difficult times. During recent years through activities supported by LeadaChild we have made many new contacts with children and their families in the nearby public schools. We are so thankful to be sharing Jesus with more and more people.

Some of our new contacts needed basic groceries to help feed their families during this time that they are out of work. The church sent out requests for donations of food to many people, some who have children involved in the same activities, and we have seen a loving response. It is so wonderful to see families helping other families all as a result of our LeadaChild program. God has blessed this food donation project and the church was able to put together 30 baskets.

Something fun for the children was added besides the necessities. During Holy Week, we wrote devotions for all the children involved in our programs talking about each day of the week and included an activity for each day. The children made crafts, drew pictures, wrote prayers, and even baked unleavened bread. We hope to continue this project as long as it is needed. Thank you for your support and prayers for the people of Uruguay.

2021 Latin American Symposium

MAY 13 & 14 VIA ZOOM

Our 2021 educators' symposium was a great success! Over 160 educators from 10 Latin American countries participated in the event.

We are grateful for the leaders and pastors throughout the region who led devotions and shared valuable ideas and tips in our ongoing effort to assist educators in providing a high quality, Gospel-rich learning environment for the children whom they serve at our project sites.

Some of the topics included technology tips, music in the classroom, connecting church and school, connecting with the community, and creating a "Confirming" Culture.

As ACLEA (the developing Latin American education association) grows, more resources, workshop, and activities will be planned for educators so that more and more children hear and learn about the love of Jesus at all of these Christian educational sites.



SPOTLIGHT

Cambodia A Ray of Hope

By Joe Stoltenow, missionary

Greetings! We are Joe, Viya, and Ray Stoltenow. We have been missionaries serving in Cambodia for the past seven years working in and around Battambang city with poor and homeless children. We believe firmly that the most important role we have here in Cambodia is as an instrument for the Holy Spirit to enter into the lives of the children we serve here. Through various programs here we have worked with a wide variety of children in Battambang. From poor village children to starving street kids, we aim to spread the gospel of Jesus through our love and actions as we work to strengthen not only the children's faith but our own faith as well.

In July 2017, with the help of Global Lutheran Outreach, we opened a brand-new street kids ministry here in Battambang called Ray of Hope. At Ray of Hope we are able to work directly with street kids and their families with a primary goal of teaching and showing them the love of Jesus by providing a safe, homelike experience, where we can teach them God's love through our words and actions. We began the 2017-18 school year with five students in our program and are up to sixteen students here in the 2020-21 school year.

Every day we pick the street kids up off the street, bring them to our center, bathe them, feed them, dress them in their school uniforms, and take them to school. While the kids are at school our staff works on preparing lunch and planning our afternoon schedule as the majority of our ministry takes place after we pick

the kids up from school at 11:30 am. When the kids return to our center, they change out of their school clothes and we all eat lunch as a family. After lunch our staff provide small group tutoring sessions, English classes, and Bible classes.

In Ray of Hope's first four years, we have witnessed tremendous growth in our students, both physically and spiritually. With a consistent food intake, our students are growing at a much faster rate and have transformed from tired, frail, and malnourished children into children who are healthy, strong, and full of energy. Their relationship with, and their faith in God has seen even greater success. Our students love their Bible classes and learning about their Savior Jesus. They each have their favorite Bible stories and verses, and they never hesitate to give answers and ask questions.

When we first enroll new students, they are typically bad mannered and ill-behaved as a result of the practically limitless amount of freedom they have when they're at home, but as they continue in our program, we have seen them apply the lessons they've learned from Bible classes and through the examples set by our staff. Now, we can see His influence on our students in the kind and loving way they treat and speak to each other.

Thank you to all the supporters of LeadaChild for partnering with us and helping us teach these children about the great love of Jesus!

Sign up
FOR OUR
2021/22
KIDS
HELPING
KIDS

Drop us an email to sign up
or ask any questions about
connecting your day school,
Sunday school, or vacation
Bible school children to our
international mission of sharing
Christ's love!

executivedirector@leadachild.org



Lisa Hellyer, Director of Engagement & Outreach . lisa@leadachild.org

This summer bikers can participate in one of 2 Bike4aChild events! This is an exciting time to be part of LeadaChild by biking with us.

Our virtual ride is for anyone who can ride a bike and wants to raise funds so that more children around the world can receive a quality Christian education. Choose your own date! Choose your own route! Sign up on our website by clicking on the picture of a biker or choosing Bike4aChild in the Support drop down menu.

Our long distance in person ride will be from July 16-23 and will have riders biking throughout Iowa. The distance ride will be around 400-500 miles. We will not be joining a larger ride but will instead map our own route and have our own support team. Mark Zillinger, LeadaChild's Board President is spearheading this ride. If you are interested, you can register through the LeadaChild website.

Support our riders with a financial gift! We ride so you don't have to! If you are not a biker but would still like to be involved, please consider supporting this fundraising effort by going on the LeadaChild website and making a donation. On the donation page there is a place for you to designate Bike4aChild event.

Last year 230 people supported Bike4aChild helping us to raise about \$38,000.00 for child scholarships and teacher salaries. This year, we are looking to increase that by finding 350 individuals, businesses and churches to support us with a goal of raising \$55,000. Will you be one of our 350 people? Will you help send more kids to school in one of our 76 project sites in developing nations around the world? Please join us!

Brian & Sara Wetzel

Mission Partners

Lisa Hellyer, Director of Engagement & Outreach

For many years LeadaChild has been blessed by the generosity of others, for which we continue to be grateful. Our Mission Partners are those who have chosen to be generous by giving a monthly gift. Brian and Sara Wetzel have been Mission Partners since attending our 2019 Celebration. I had a chance to ask Brian and Sara a few questions about their lifestyle of giving back and why they have chosen to be one of our faithful Mission Partners.

What motivates your generosity?

For starters, God sacrificed Jesus, His only son, on the cross to save us from our sins. For that, we owe Him everything. We have also been incredibly fortunate to have been born in the richest nation in the world where we have the opportunity to get an education and find high paying jobs that have blessed our family beyond measure. Our pastor preached a few weeks ago on stewardship. He said, "God doesn't need our money. He can accomplish anything he chooses with or without it. He is giving us the opportunity to be a part of what he is doing." That is a privilege we don't want to miss out on.

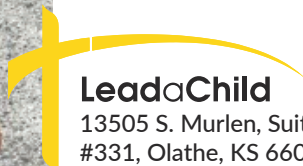
What is it you love about LeadaChild's ministry that leads you to being a Mission Partner?

We have both been to Guatemala and had opportunities to spend time in public elementary schools there. The children are absolutely precious, and the teachers are amazing, but the resources are limited, and many children do not have access to these schools. It is a joy to be able to support a ministry that not only helps fill the education gap in these countries but also brings the message of the Gospel. It is our prayer that these kids (and their families) will receive Jesus as their Savior and also be blessed by the education they receive.

What might you say to others about why they should consider being a LeadaChild Mission Partner?

Leadachild has a long track record of using education to spread the Gospel in many countries throughout the world. These schools would not exist without our giving. The teachers and families in these schools need our support and this is a chance to help spread the good news of Jesus in places where we cannot always serve in person. You'll be blessed if you do.





LeadaChild

13505 S. Murlen, Suite 105
#331, Olathe, KS 66062-1600

www.LeadAChild.org

get INVOLVED

Pray for the children and international Lutheran schools

Host a LeadaChild Sunday at your church

Sign up your school / Sunday school for our *Kids Helping Kids* program

Sign up for our monthly e-news or phone app

Give generously

Sharing the love of Jesus with children around the world through Christian education.

FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION

we are looking for 30 people to host a Celebration Party in their homes with guests of your choosing. Are there some friends and family members who may share your passion for supporting children

in developing nations so they can receive a quality Christian education? Would you be willing to invite them to your home and participate together in our virtual Celebration that can be broadcast right from your TV? There will be an auction, stories of impact, entertainment and lots of fun! If you are willing to be a Celebration Host, contact Lisa Hellyer at lisa@leadachild.org.



Save the Date!

**Friday
October 1
at 7 pm**



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATION ITEMS for our Celebration Auction. If you have items with a small, large or somewhere in between value, please reach out to Lisa Hellyer, our Director of Engagement & Outreach. Donation items for the auction will be accepted through August 15.