

The Story of JESUS for Children in Haitian Creole

Background

Ever since it became the first black republic in the world in 1804, after a slave revolt against their French colonizers, Haiti has had a troubled history of bloodshed and dictatorship. There is a notion that Haiti is a dangerous place. The condition in the country is quite unstable and it takes little for a crowd to turn into a mob. A situation could erupt at the slightest provocation. Haiti has a reputation of being the backwater of the Western Hemisphere. In fact, with 80% living in abject poverty and 70% unemployment rate, it is considered the poorest country on this side of the world.

HAITI

7,063,722
population

39.5% below
15 years old

Animistic
religion

6,000,000
Creole
speakers



The Need

Children aged 14 years and below comprise over 39.5% of Haiti's more than 7 million population. Up to 300,000 children are *restavecs*, or unpaid servants or child slaves, who live apart from their families. Most of them are girls as young as 4 years old to 16. Parents from poor rural areas in Haiti often send their children to work for relatives in the city in exchange for food, and hopefully a chance to be sent to school. Children who remain victim of this inhuman *restavec* system, a long-accepted Haitian institution, have no privileges, rights, and worst of all no love to hold nor heal them. *Restavec* children, who

are vulnerable and easy to manipulate, are treated worse than slaves.

A joint report by UNICEF and the International Organisation for Migration revealed that more than 4,000 Haitian children are smuggled into the Dominican Republic to work as farm labourers, building workers, or beggars. Parents pay smugglers up to 80 dollars per child with the hope of earning extra income through these children. Although child smuggling also happens on a large scale in Guatemala and El Salvador, the most lucrative trade is found in Haiti. Sending their children across the border is a relatively new phenomenon.

A Harvard study indicates that more than 5,000 children, under the age of five, die from starvation each month. AIDS has also affected Haitian children. Of the estimated 6,000 to 8,000 street children in Port-au-Prince, about half are infected with the AIDS virus. Thousands more have been orphaned in Haiti because of the AIDS epidemic.

Haiti



The Opportunity

Although 85% of the Haitian people are Catholic, most Haitians practice an animistic (“spirit-based”) religion called *Voodoo*, which may well be considered Haiti’s national religion, inasmuch as Roman Catholicism is its official religion. In 1791, Haiti was dedicated to Satan. Voodooism permeates every level of society, and is used by the black elite as a means of control. The children of Haiti need to be rescued not only from the gripping poverty they are born into, but also the bondage of ignorance and evil perpetrated by a

satanic religion.

Studies support that children are more open to the Gospel than any other age group. They are receptive and have very impressionable minds. There are advantages to reaching children, foremost being that an early decision for Christ allows them their entire lives to learn, grow, and serve Jesus, and to experience His peace and hope. A second reason is that children will seek answers to their spiritual questions. They need to hear the truth about Jesus. Aside from reaching children, the video will also reach the adults watching with them.

Project Description

The Story of Jesus for Children, is a 62-minute video using over 40 minutes of the original *JESUS* film and a newly integrated 20-minute story of children who might have lived in 30 AD. The video allows children to hear and see the whole story at once, answers questions in clear and concrete terms, provides fast action, and ends with an invitation, by a child to children, to accept Christ into their lives. The format for the video close is a significant element that makes this video a powerful tool for reaching children. This version communicates at the level of a child between the ages of 4 and 14. In less media-sophisticated areas this could extend to 18.

The child characters in the film hear the stories of the Man from Nazareth who heals the sick and raises the dead. They struggle to make sense of it all—some are from families who believe Jesus is the Son of God, others from families who do not. They watch Jesus from the crowds. They follow Him to see what this incredible man, who loves children, will do next. They see Him betrayed, wrongly accused, crucified, and buried. But they remember the promise of Jesus and believe they will see Him again.

With the video in their own language, Haitian children will easily understand the Gospel message through *The Story of Jesus for Children* and young believers will be encouraged to share the good news about Jesus to their age group. Adults watching with them will also be reached with the gospel.

Haitian Creole Children's Version Distribution Partnership

For many years, 30-40% of those attending JESUS film showings in Haiti were children. At many of these showings, children were pushed away by adults, who mistakingly thought that the decision to receive Christ was an adult matter. The Crusade staff of Haiti look at this children's version as an answer to prayer, and they intend to show this version to as many children as possible.

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Exposure to the film would occur through video showings and distribution. A film team would go to places such as schools, orphanages, children's homes, camps, and anywhere else children can be found. CCC staff also intend to approach television networks to organize broadcasts.

Through the use of a duplication system, CCC staff in Haiti will be able to make many copies of the Haitian Creole children's version. These videos will be distributed among churches, schools and to any interested person or organization who wishes to receive a copy.

It is hoped that through all of these methods and strategies that every child in Haiti will be given the opportunity to see JESUS and can then make the decision to accept Him into their lives.

Budget

Distribution Costs:

Total First Year Distribution Plan	\$24,295
Total Second and Third Year (\$10,500 year)	<u>\$21,000</u>
Total Costs for Distribution	\$45,295

Haiti