

ANY NATION'S GREATEST RESOURCE

Why Every Child Ministries?

Every life is precious—that's why Every Child Ministries exists, and that's why Every Child Ministries is important.

ECM's slogan is:

Children are any nation's greatest resource—
A precious treasure from God!

This is especially true in Africa, where children make up 50% or more of the population.

When you think of natural resources, what do you think of?

Forests
Salt, like at Ketu
Oil
Fish
Diamonds
Animals good for food, valuable for hides
Gold, like the Ashanti are famous for
Great forests full of timber

All these are valuable gifts from God. They provide for us financially, for our well-being.

Yet the greatest resource, one we often overlook, are the continent's children. Children are any nation's greatest resource. Children are Africa's greatest resource. Children are Ghana's greatest resource.

We often overlook children when we think of valuable resources, perhaps because they are

Small
Untrained, uneducated, illiterate
Weak compared with adults
Powerless
Dependent

Children are precious in God's sight, created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Children may be small and weak and undeveloped, but they are FULL of potential.

When the sperm of the male and the reproductive egg of the female unite at conception to form a new human being, that tiny embryo has 48 chromosomes the same as adults, and those chromosomes contain genetic codes that will direct his or her development throughout life, and that child will NEVER receive any more chromosomes than he or she has at conception!

From the very beginning,

- Each child is fully human, created by God in His image, and as such having dignity and worth.
- Each child is full of all kinds of creative potential.

How do we treat children?

Matthew 18:1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ““Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ““Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.”

Does the way we speak to children show what we believe about them?

There are several common pitfalls:

- Calling children demeaning, derogatory names that diminish their worth and show no respect:
Like Stupid, Good for Nothing, Simpleton, Worthless, Beanbrain, etc.
What other names are common in your culture?
Do you see how these names put children down?
- Making no time, no place in our lives for children. Being too busy to include them, thus treating them as if they are not important.
- Using overly harsh discipline that breaks the child’s spirit and causes him to become fearful and bitter.
- Continuing customs that degrade children, like trokosi, where young innocent girls are forced to pay for the sins of adult male ancestors
- Using practices that can physically damage children
Hitting them on the head, shaking small babies, rubbing hot pepper in eyes
- Selling children for money, forcing them into slavery or prostitution
- Using children primarily for our own comfort and convenience, ordering them around as if they were our slaves.
- Putting curses on them, pulling them into occult activity against their will and sometimes without their knowledge
- Abortion & infanticide, sacrificing the lives of babies
- Neglecting the spiritual training of children.
Refusing to answer their questions, treating them as non-important
Refusing them a part in the life of the church
Refusing to allow them to receive Christ even when convicted of sin
Ignoring and neglecting their teaching
This is why Sunday school is so important

How do we treat other people’s children? All children are valuable—not just your own children.

How do we treat poor children?

Homeless children?

Street children?

Dirty, smelly children with runny noses?

Children who don’t know good manners?

Children who don’t speak well?

The mentally deficient?

The blind, the deaf?

The physically handicapped? The child with no arms?

Children of other tribes?

Children of other countries? Other races?

By the way, in Biblical terms how many races are there? Only one—the human race!

You welcome Americans. But do you welcome Nigerians? Pygmies?

Every person should be treated with RESPECT, according to God’s Word, because every person is created in the image of God. In this way we honor the Maker of us all.

Remember—Children are Africa’s (or any nation’s) greatest resource—a precious treasure from God!

Every Child Ministries

www.teachingforafrica.com

Any Nation’s Greatest Resource by Mama Lorella Rouster



