

Bringing Hope to Others



Street Children

- Today we are going to hear about some children, known as ‘street children’ who have spent most of their lives living on the streets of big cities in a country called Guatemala.



Where do they live?

- Some of these children live on the streets, some even live on rubbish tips where they search through the rubbish to find food to eat, clothes to wear or anything that they can sell to make money. Usually there are no grown ups to care for them. They live with other children and sleep huddled together for warmth. Often people are unkind to them and chase them away from their houses and from the shops where they try to beg for food.

The Toybox Charity

- These children have unhappy and difficult lives but there are some people who bring them help and hope. They belong to a charity called the Toybox Charity. They believe that children should never have to live like this so everyday they go out to look for 'street children'. At first they just talk to the children and make friends with them. They give them food, and medicine if they are ill, and if they have cuts or sore feet they clean and bandage them.

Hostels for the children

- When they have become trusted friends to the children, they invite them to a day centre where they can play safely, have a hot meal, a shower and clean clothes. The children also learn to read and write.
- After three months the children are invited to leave the street and move into a hostel where they can stay with adults and other children.

Changes of home for the children

- At first it is very difficult for them, because there are rules to follow at the hostel which they are not used to. They spend about three months in the hostel before having the opportunity to go and live in a home with a new family with a mum and dad. The children can then go to an ordinary school and have people in their new home who love them. They are offered hope for the future.

Who are these people who help the children?

- The people who help the street children of Guatemala do it because they remember that Jesus cared about all children and welcomed them as they came to him.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus

We pray for children who have nowhere to live, no one to love them and no one to whom they are important. We pray for those who try to help them. Please bless all that they do, to bring hope to the street children.

Amen