



## **ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR CHILDREN AT HIGH RISK SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017**

We have a great burden to pray for children who face the reality of death every day. In January 1997, Oakseed Ministries Founder Dr. Ed Bradley participated with fifty-one representatives from thirty-eight ministries from around the world in an international consultation on children at risk. Out of these meetings came a two-fold resolve to be better informed and to be more diligent in prayer.

The *Oxford Statement on Children at Risk* begins:

“We feel it necessary to draw attention to the increasingly vulnerable position of our world’s children. We affirm that all children are at risk from the very moment of conception. Even within our own families, we are aware of the destructive effects that the rough edge of society can inflict on our children.

However, it is for the neglected and exploited children of our generation that our hearts cry out. We can no longer stand by and watch them suffer and die in the millions while their enemies are left free to stalk them on every side. The issues that face children at high risk today are not their problem, but our problem.

Children at “High Risk” face death daily through violence, disease, hunger, or abuse. We can no longer stand by and watch them suffer and die. We call for prayer and action in addressing these concerns:

### **MALNUTRITION:**

35,000 children (under the age of 5) die every day as a result of malnutrition or starvation [Source: World Vision].

### **ABORTION:**

Every year 40 million children lose their lives through parental consent [Source: UN documents]. This means 29% of all children are never born.

### **FAMILY DISINTEGRATION & ABANDONMENT:**

There are at least 100 million children who live and work on the streets of our cities [Source: UNICEF, 1994]. Most of these children are confronting the dangers of life in this hostile environment as a result of family breakdown.

### **SEXUAL ABUSE:**

There are at least 10 million children in forced prostitution with another 1 million added yearly [Source: World Vision, UNICEF]

**WAR:**

From 1984-1994, more than 1.5 million children were killed in war; over 4 million were disabled or blinded; and 12 million lost their homes. Thirty-five nations are known to have conscripted children into their armed forces [Source: Save the Children].

**SLAVERY/ABUSIVE CHILD LABOR:**

Over 100 million children are currently involved in child labor [Source: UN Children's Fund].

**DISEASE:**

1.5 million children are currently infected with AIDS [Source WHO/UNICEF]. Two million children die every year through lack of immunization against preventable diseases [World Vision].

**SUICIDE:**

Forced with situations such as these, many children see suicide as the only way to escape the suffering.

We are compelled to challenge anyone who feels able to continue with business as usual in full knowledge of these facts. This generation of children is the future of our societies, and too many of them are dying. If there is no hope for these children, then our societies have no future. It is through the eternal hope of God's Kingdom planted in our hearts that we seek solutions to such overwhelming issues. With this hope, there is a future for the children currently at risk in our generation." [From Section 1.0 of the *Oxford Statement on Children at Risk*, January 1997]

The second Sunday in June is National Children's Sunday. Oakseed Ministries International is sponsoring a national prayer initiative for this Sunday, June 11. This prayer initiative is a wakeup call to be aware of the tragedies, injustices, and horrific conditions thousands of children face every day. It is a call to pray for these children and those who minister among them. It is a call for ongoing support for those who labor to make a difference.

Jesus welcomed children. The Gospel of Mark describes how Jesus took a child in his arms—one who the disciples had denied access to Jesus—and blessed the child. He turned to the disciples and said, "do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).

Please consider participating in the Annual Day of Prayer for Children at High Risk on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Resources are available on our website to equip churches, small groups, and families to pray for children throughout the world. Please visit [www.oakseed.org/adop](http://www.oakseed.org/adop) to download materials and share them with friends.

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*Oakseed Ministries International is celebrating 25 years of faithful ministry and service. Since 1992, Oakseed Ministries has been assisting indigenous ministries by serving abandoned children and the poor in the Developing World's largest cities, bringing the good news of Jesus through word and deed.*

[www.oakseed.org](http://www.oakseed.org) (703) 876-9020 P.O. Box 1139, Wheaton, IL 60187