



Faith based interventions that transform the lives of children, youth, and adults suffering from the grief of loss and change.

Hope for Grieving Children | AFRICA

Saturday Morning Brunch

On a beautiful Saturday morning in February, more than 75 individuals gathered on behalf of Hope for Grieving Children. It was a morning filled with good food, fellowship and a wonderful celebration of the global expansion of HGC. Everyone in attendance enjoyed hearing inspiring stories of caregivers helped through our signature grief trainings. Reports were given on the distribution of our training curriculum to established faith-based groups in more than 15 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The morning was capped by a generous response from those present where more than \$13,000 was raised. The funds were raised to provide four grief trainings in refugee camps located inside Zambia, close to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Praise to the Lord, by the end of the morning all four trainings were funded. Soon thereafter, the HGC staff was inspired, encouraged and equipped as they drove on the dirt roads of Zambia to carry out our mission!



FEBRUARY BENEFIT BREAKFAST AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, RIVER FOREST

For a more detailed report on the impact complete with refugee stories visit www.hopeforgrievingchildren.org/refugees.



Hope for Grieving Children | AFRICA

HGC REFUGEE TRAINING AT UNHCR AND ZAMBIA SUPERVISED TRANSIT CAMPS

HGC Makes a Positive Difference to Those in Refugee Transit Camps

Zambia has welcomed over 80,000 refugees who have fled the conflict in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. When these refugees enter Zambia, they are housed in transit centers. Life is hard in the camps. Children and separated families are everywhere. Our International director Cyrus Mfula had this to say about life in those camps:

“There are huge numbers of unaccompanied children who end up in these camps. These minors have grief written on their faces...visibly in shock and numbed by the traumatic experiences they went through.”

With special permission from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and at the invitation of the Zambia government, HGC was invited to bring our How to Love a Grieving Child curriculum into the camps. From late February to May 2020, our staff conducted four separate trainings in these transit centers. Our efforts equipped the Transit Center staff to effectively provide hope and healing to a traumatized and grieving refugee population. Using our Train-the-Trainer approach, the transit camp staff are now able to help thousands of refugees during their stay in these transit centers.

Cyrus summed up the impact of the four training classes:

“During the trainings we were confronted by real life stories with gruesome experiences which the curriculum brought to light.”

The training helped to inform the camp staff of how to help refugees cope with the grief, pain, bitterness, and anger of their experience, to begin the healing process and rebuild their lives.





One Refugee Story - She found hope in the camp

One lady in the transit center shared how the rebels attacked her Congolese village.....her husband was taken hostage. She and her children fled into the forest. They were captured by rebels, beaten, forced into manual labor and subjected to all manner of abuse, however she said there was always a silent voice urging her to keep on fighting. She knows now that was Jesus talking to her. One night she recalls how God caused the rebels to fall into a deep sleep. During that night she and her kids escaped in pitch darkness, one child died of exhaustion before they were picked up and taken to the refugee camp. She thanked the HGCA team for bringing the training, because she just realized that she was still grieving and in need of healing herself before she could help others.

A Worldwide Reach!

We continue to experience a tremendous growth and extended reach with our signature *How to Love a Grieving Child* training. Through our partnership with a like-minded ministry, International Needs, our curriculum was made available to established faith-based organizations in 20 different countries, including Turkey, Romania, Slovakia, Uganda, and Columbia.

- In Zambia, we were able to deliver the message of hope and healing from grief, to a large group of Zambian youth which was broadcast via radio nationwide to over 100,000 listeners.
- Our refugee trainings in Zambia were delivered at transit centers and taught in four different languages.
- Our International Program Director, Danette Johnson, was invited to deliver a recorded webinar to an international ministry called Romania Without Orphans. There were over 25 people who participated. Some gathered in groups in their homes to watch the webinar together. Scheduled as a 45-minute broadcast, the webinar went for almost 90 minutes, as questions and discussion continue to flow. Danette is continuing to field requests for our material that have come from all over Eastern Europe in response to this online presentation.
- A ministry leader from Turkey, reviewing our curriculum, sent this incredible message to us; ***we have many house church fellowships that include refugees (Syrian and Iraqi). We wanted to be able to help them with something encouraging and practice expression of the gospel. This can be it!***

We continue to be *amazed* and *humbled*
at our international impact.



Self-Paced Digital Format

We are so excited to announce the completion and distribution of our online digital version of the signature *How to Love a Grieving Child* training. The material has now been adapted into a video curriculum. This digital package, entitled **Unstuck** contains five instructional videos, video workbook and corresponding Training Manual. The package also contains access to Danette Johnson's book *Unstuck, How to Grieve Well and Find New Footing*. Danette's book continues to provide practical help for those struggling with loss and change. A reader from Atlanta shared this testimonial:

“Danette, your book was so helpful....Moving down to Atlanta with no friends or family was rough...we were really struggling. I pulled your book off of our bookshelf and you described exactly what we were going through along with wisdom and actions that helped guide us through our time of grieving. Thanks so much!”

You can access this resource for purchase and digital download by visiting our web site hopeforgrievingchildren.org/unstuck-training-resources.

HGC RESPONDS TO COVID-19 IN ZAMBIA

Cyrus and Prisca have received calls from caregivers trained through HGC ministry whose orphans in their care are experiencing great psychosocial strain related to anxiety, grief and the negative impacts of restrictive quarantine due to Covid-19.

In response Cyrus and Prisca have put together a “Pandemic Social Support basket”. Each support basket contains a small food parcel, protective masks, soap and cleaning solutions and an informational resource on equipping caregivers to respond to unique needs experienced by quarantined orphans.



DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLEANING SUPPLIES AND FACEMASKS TO CAREGIVERS AND ORPHANS TRAINED AND HELPED BY HGC SINCE 2018.

