



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

Hope for Grieving Children

JEFF JOHNSON

New Partnership Opens New Doors

Hope for Grieving Children is enjoying a unique new partnership with *International Needs*, (IN) a mission organization that provides faith-based interventions for the poor and disenfranchised in communities around the world. This has created so many new possibilities for Hope for Grieving Children. *International Needs* enjoys an extensive global reach into more than 23 countries. Their faith-based values, coupled with country-based leadership, provides exciting new opportunities that maximize our reach and leverage financial resources to areas of the world otherwise out of reach.

Through the *International Needs* network, our impact has extended into 18 countries across Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. Leveraging both the Hope for Grieving Children expertise, coupled with the International Needs refugee ministries has provided encouragement and support for displaced individuals across Africa.

Plans are in place to build upon this partnership in 2022 by providing digital trainings and train-the-trainer programs, empowering the *International Needs* workers to an even greater degree.

DANETTE JOHNSON

Reaching across the globe to help people recover from grief

2021 has been another amazing year as God has opened new doors that expanded our reach and provided us with multiple opportunities to address grief and healing. We offered small group discussions, completed a workbook to accompany my book, "*Unstuck: How to Grieve Well and Find New Footing*" and facilitated grief trainings through [online platforms](#).

The year began with a six-week community group, both in-person and via ZOOM at The Point Church in Holland, Michigan, utilizing *Unstuck* and the accompanying new workbook. One person told me they had never heard the information presented in this way before. Many in the group said how helpful the information is in providing tools to help people they know who are grieving.

international needs
transformed lives, changed communities

VIRTUAL DISCUSSION & LEARNING FORUM (VDLF)

Join via **zoom** in one of two sessions as we **explore, reflect and discuss.**

TOPIC: Grieving with Hope

Danette Johnson
International Director
Hope for Grieving Children

On Wednesday
8th September, 2021

Hope for Grieving Children is a faith-based organization that equips pastors, caregivers and community leaders to help bring understanding, hope and healing to those suffering the effects of loss and change.

1ST SESSION
10:00HRS. GMT
Meeting ID: 823 5652 6817
Passcode: 992394

2ND SESSION
17:00HRS. GMT
Meeting ID: 851 0371 8502
Passcode: 379602

zoom



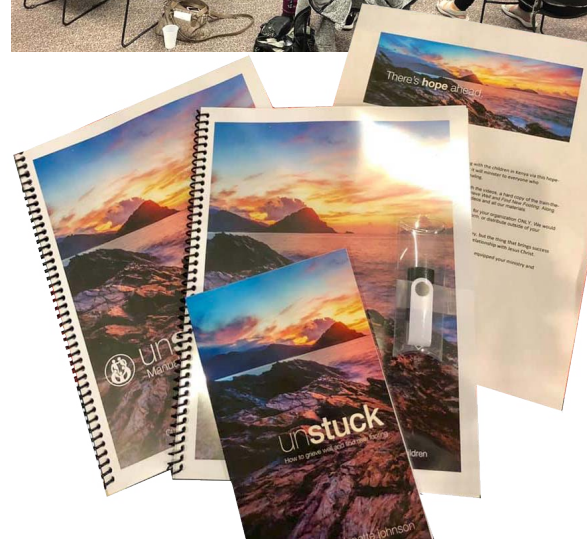
That event was followed by a two-week speaking engagement to share our grief curriculum at BRIGHT Ministries, a ministry for women in the West Michigan area.

During these sessions many people became more aware of those around them and we are grateful for the ability to bring hope and healing through these experiences. One woman said, "I now understand my son and what he was facing." Someone else shared that she planned to read the book with her husband to help him through his issues with PTSD. Another woman shared that she came to understand the reasons for the way she has been feeling and is finally able to give herself grace for the season she is in.

We were also excited to learn that 2021 was our biggest year in sales for our book, *Unstuck*, helping many more to understand and heal from grief.

Our work with the global ministry – International Needs – gave us the opportunity to use our grief curriculum in facilitating two virtual discussions and learning forums, with more than forty people participating representing ministry partners from around the world. These participants have the potential to reach thousands who are struggling with loss and grief in their communities. One partner from New Zealand even joined in the middle of the night. What a commitment to helping those who suffer from the effects of grief.

I also had the opportunity to encourage another International Needs partner working in Kyrgyzstan who had used our grief curriculum several years ago and wanted a refresher for using the curriculum in their new work. We also shared our grief curriculum and materials with a ministry in Romania, where it has been translated and is being used in multiple counseling situations.



CYRUS MFULA AND PRISCA CHILOBE MFULA

Combating the stigma of grief and abuse

During 2021 we had the opportunity to present the Hope for Grieving Children signature grief training program - How to Love a Grieving Child - for two caregiver trainings in Zambia.

The first training, a three-day workshop in Solwezi, Zambia, had more than 30 participants. The group included administrators, teachers, general workers, and community caregivers. The introduction of the subject of grief immediately sparked feedback from participants as they could relate to what was being taught. On the second day, many participants wanted to share their own life experiences and admitted that this training came at an opportune time, with many who needed healing for their own grief.



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www.hopeforgrievingchildren.org

At the second training, held in Misaka, Zambia, we trained over 25 caregivers, including the team from a community school serving more than 500 students from rural Zambia. During this session, a woman shared that when she was very young her mother had died. When her father re-married they started living with her stepmother and her four children from a previous marriage. This woman related that soon after she began to experience rejection and mistreatment from her stepmother and the other children. It became normal for her to cook the meals, but she never had a chance to taste the food. If she was lucky, her stepsisters would leave leftovers for her to eat as she cleaned up. She tried many times to run away but was scared of what the father would do to her. She told us, in between sobs, "Thank you, thank you. Today I have received healing after so many years."

In addition to these trainings, we have continued with the work of producing TV and radio programs to help combat the stigma and abuse of orphans. These programs air across Zambia radio and national television. A compilation of ten short films addressing these issues have reached an audience of five million people across Zambia. Our curriculum has been a great tool for caregivers, pastors, teachers, and social workers in breaking down the stigma, bringing understanding, and seeing many healed of grief. In spite of the lockdowns, we were able to continue our reach into the refugee populations. Utilizing mobile and video technology, we were able to maintain contact and support many of the leaders we trained in previous programs. We are excited to share that these camps are re-opening and follow-up trainings will be available early in 2022.



We are so grateful for all our supporters, who have allowed this ministry to reach and help so many. We appreciate your continued generosity. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jeff and Danette Johnson

GIVE NOW

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