

**Viva Network helps develop resources, coordinate work with children-at-risk;
Packet of information on a day of prayer for children is now available**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
LAM News Service

Miami, FL—The statistics are astounding. Seven million children between the ages of five and 17 work in Brazil, many under conditions of slavery. Children work up to twelve hours a day to pay for the things their families need.

That is just in Brazil. Multiply those needs throughout Latin America and then around the world and the enormity of children-at-risk almost seems beyond belief.

Those children have individual faces as well. Lisnah arrived in Miami from Haiti as a small child. Neglected and hurt by her father, Lisnah chose to leave home and live with other men. Only 15, she has often called the bus station home. Now, a church in Miami's "Little Haiti" is trying to help Lisnah and others just like her.

In fact, there are numerous Christian agencies around the world and in Latin America that are reaching out to meet the physical, social and spiritual needs of neglected children. But many of them are working alone and struggling to get by.

Pointing out that 85 percent of people who make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ do so before they are 14 years old, Katharine Miles, the Latin American coordinator for Viva Network, emphasizes the importance of reaching this segment of society in a holistic manner.

"The great commission has to be completable," says Katharine. "God has to have given the church all that it needs to reach children-at-risk. If that is so, then it's just a case of making sure that all the right things are with the right people."

To raise consciousness about the needs of children-at-risk, Viva Network, a Christian organization that develops resources and cooperation between groups helping children, is sponsoring a worldwide day of prayer on June 5.

"The bottom line is that whatever the church is doing, it needs to be praying. Whether one person on their own, the church praying together on Sunday, a prayer group on Saturday, June 5, or people individually praying for five minutes during that week," Katharine says.

To help guide groups and provide material on the problems of children in the region, the Viva Network office in Miami is offering an information packet containing testimonies and information, scripture references, prayers and sources for further research. Also included are a Young Prayer's section, a planning guide and hints for mobilizing prayer groups.

The Prayer Day packet is available by writing to Viva Network, Box 52-7900, Miami, FL 33152, calling 1-800-275-8410, or sending an e-mail to redviva@lam.org.

The Viva Network emphasis in Latin America is a partner ministry with the Latin America Mission (LAM). The two agencies are working together to raise prayer support and help Christian agencies in Latin America find staff and resources for helping children. LAM is currently seeking several missionaries to assist children in Miami and throughout Latin America.

The Latin America Mission is an international fellowship of men and women who, motivated by love for the Lord Jesus and in obedience to His commands, have joined together to encourage and assist the Latin church in world evangelization. The mission currently has approximately 240 missionaries in 13 countries. The U.S. headquarters can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami Springs, FL 33152, by e-mail at info@lam.org, or by calling 305-884-8400. The mission's website may be found at www.lam.org.

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