

“Whatever happened to that kid?”

City Kids
Teach Kids article....
M/A 2006
John E. Blake

Hey, enough is enough! I have seen too many city kids reached for Christ and later they seem to vanish off the planet. Caring people invested time, energy, and love. Some of these kids even made real decisions for Christ. Then someone says, whatever happened to that kid?

If ‘that city kid’ is like Maurice, whom I ministered to for two years, he has become a teen intoxicated on homosexuality. How could this happen? Was it because he had no father or a real man in his life? I really don’t know, but Maurice knew what he was doing was wrong. He told me once that he was afraid he would go to hell, but that he just could not stop because he was hooked.

I have asked the same question, whatever happened to Maurice? Why were those two years not enough? What could I have done differently? What were his real needs? They were many, but for a moment let me speak simply about this complex issue.

Most children today have multiple needs. Here is my ‘A List’ of the challenges city kids face: attitude, awareness, and acceptance. I’m sure these categories encompass all the specific needs of the kids you know. Meeting these needs or solving their problems cannot be easily found in textbooks or ministry manuals.

However, they can be found in staying active in the lives of city kids. Josh and Pricilliano are current examples of how I am getting another opportunity to impact such lives. Both are eight years old and very optimistic about their future despite many needs. They live in the heart of the city and rarely go anywhere beyond their neighborhood. I have the privilege to be their tutor twice a week at an inner city public school.

I am learning that I cannot rescue these cool little guys out of the drug infested streets where they live. I cannot force their parents to be responsible, but I can create a pathway for them to become a devoted disciple of Christ. Here are some natural opportunities I have found effective for discipleship while meeting a few of their needs.

- o Take kids out to eat as a reward for personal achievements
- o Hang out in their neighborhood playing games of their choice
- o Tutor, help with homework, and/or assist in their school classroom
- o Sponsor kids for sports camps or enroll them in a sports league
- o Introduce kids to cultural arts activities and participate with them
- o Regularly visit and meet their family

I see Maurice occasionally and still wonder what happen to that kid. But I weekly see my boys and I know what’s happening with them. Let the later be your testimony.