

July
2014

Memory Books For Children



Teaching children the truth that God has a loving plan and purpose for their lives

Dear Friends,

In the following pages, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Stacy Bennett and Andrea Balogh, Directors of Memory Book Club Development. In 2008, they traveled to South Africa to introduce Memory Book Clubs to help children re-establish self-identity, purpose, and hope through lessons, crafts, songs, and personal sharing with caring adults and peers. Thank you Stacy and Andrea for your creative and courageous dedication to the Lord's children.

The Letter Writing Campaign 2014 is now accepting handwritten letters from caring adults and children for 1000 orphaned Ugandan

children. Time and again children have disclosed to us that a personal letter or card is their favorite item stored inside their Memory Books. To participate, please e-mail info@memorybooks4children.com. Imagine a child treasuring your letter!

In August 2014, I will be traveling with Dr. Virginia Phillips, our U.S. Representative and Founder of Women of Purpose International, to Nairobi, Kenya to attend the Annual WOP International Conference. There we will introduce the use of Memory Books for children living in the midst of loss to representatives of neighboring African countries.

Thank you Dr. Phillips for your partnership and enormous heart for children everywhere.

Please continue to pray for the direction and provision of our efforts, our wonderful international caregivers, and most of all, the children whom God loves and offers to call His own. Thank you for being a part of this amazing step of faith.

With Deep Appreciation,

Tamara Faris, Founder
Memory Books for Children



...gifting vulnerable children worldwide through Memory Books...

Hand to Hand, Heart to Heart

The ministry of Memory Book Club worldwide



Stacy Bennett and Andrea Balogh support Memory Book Club Development by providing lessons and supplies to our international clubs. Below they share about their work:

Memory Books are lovingly put together by women, men, and children in the United States. Their hands-on contribution has helped place over 25,000 Memory Books into the hands of children worldwide. Memory Book Club is designed to meet once a month to invest in children, heart to heart, as they write, create, play, dream, and collect these memories in their books.

In 2008, we flew to South Africa where we initiated the first Memory Book Club and delivered art supplies, craft kits, baby bundles (a blanket, clothes, and toy) to nine sites of children with Memory Books.

This introduction to Memory Book Club is today the model for Memory Book Clubs everywhere. We open with the song "I am Somebody" to connect with the kids, then teach a lesson about being chosen by God to be His child. We make crowns with the children to remind them that they are royalty, a child of the King! With laughter and tears, children share parts of their stories as we have the privilege to sit quietly

and witness who they are and how they feel. We share a snack, singing, playtime, reading, and talking. At some sites, we braid hair, sit under trees and sing songs, give piggy back rides, and hold babies, sharing in the beauty of God's love in rich community.

Memory Book Club lessons vary in their message. The lesson "God Comforts Me" shares about His rescue and comfort in times of trouble. The children make bracelets that says "JESUS <3 ME" to remind them that God is always near. Another lesson, "I Matter to God," shares about God's search for us before we knew Him and His joy when He finds



Andrea crafting a crown with a child



...helping children preserve and tell their stories...

us, just as a shepherd rejoices when he finds a lost sheep. The children make cotton ball sheep keepsakes to store in their books as a loving reminder. "The fruit of the spirit" is another popular theme comprising a year's worth of lessons that include "Love One Another," "Being Kind," and "Roots of Faith." A fruit-bearing tree craft reminds the children of the difference they can make in others' lives.

The idea for Memory Book Club started when a pastor in Nigeria asked, "Can you give us advice as to how to use the Memory Book?" That same pastor now coordinates Memory Book Clubs for over 1,000 local

children. In Tanzania, nearly 800 Congolese refugee children enjoy weekly Memory Book Clubs. A pastor in India reports the excitement of children who are about to attend their first Memory Book Club and enjoy their first attempt at craft making. Our Uganda representatives report children learning valuable life skills, including spelling, writing, and using scissors, through Memory Book Club's crafts and lessons.

Looking back, it was a true honor to be a part of the first club in South Africa. We were invited into the homes and communities of the children and their caregivers. It felt as if we were visiting old friends and

family as we shared the common bond of God and Memory Books. We were amazed by the love shown by the caregivers, gogo's (grandmas), and site leaders who guided the children as they worked through their Memory Books, explored their thoughts and feelings, discovered their identity, and began the healing journey.

I know God is at work through the Memory Book Clubs in South Africa and around the world, and with His hands and ours, we are touching and healing the hearts of children all over the world through this wonderful ministry.



Stacy sharing in a child's story

...leading children to know grace through Jesus Christ...



Who We Are

Memory Books for Children International is a non-profit organization that gifts disadvantaged and vulnerable children from all around the world with Memory Books and Memory Book Clubs.

Memory Books are interactive booklets that invite a child to tell their story and discover their special role in God's greater story. Memory Book Clubs encourage

children to share their stories with other children through storytelling, art, crafts, and drama.

Since our founding in 2005, we have reached 25,000 children in Africa, India, Haiti, Mexico, and the United States. Many of these children are living in refugee camps and orphanages where they are recovering from the effects of disease, poverty, and war.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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...teaching children the truth that "I am somebody!"...