

SPAIN

Can I give you a hug?

“Different than other kids”, is never something we as parents want to hear about our child. But where can we turn to find the kind of help our child needs? What if there was a children’s ministry with leaders who are trained to reach kids that learn and express their thoughts differently than the other kids, who have trouble socializing with others, and yet are bright and capable? This describes Roberta, one of the many precious kids Grain of Wheat is equipped to care for.

When she began coming to our Day Camp, she rarely spoke, and couldn’t read or write. Little by little, she blossomed and one day, tenderly asked her leader, “Why are you so sad, can I hug you?”

We saw the true power of God at work through our children’s ministry as her leader responded, “It was like a hug from Jesus through the arms of a child.”

We long for churches to see God at work in the lives of their children in this way, and the powerful impact it will have on the church of tomorrow. Will you join us in casting this vision to our local churches? By your prayers and financial help, God will build His Kingdom through the hearts of children fully devoted to Him.



Praying

Close to 80% of adult Christians made their decision to follow Jesus before the age of 15. Many did so because they grew up in Christian families, but what about those who live in non-believing families? Who will introduce them to Jesus and accompany them in their faith journey?

Let us pray that:

- Local churches will make it a priority to reach children who are outside its walls.
- God will not only make His people aware of the spiritual needs of children, but give them opportunities to personally invest their lives in coming alongside children as mentors.
- God will inspire His people to prayerfully and financially support those involved in serving children.



The Family Corner

Have each child make a list of 5 school friends who don’t know Jesus.

Then as a family, pray once a week for 3 months for each of these children.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Grain of Wheat International
info@grainofwheat.org / www.grainofwheat.org
IBAN: CH72 0900 0000 1748 7675 5



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

“Bringing hope to children”

NEWS

Autumn 2022

Challenge: Children Ministry Awareness

Dear friends,

Challenges, we all know what this is like from personal experience, and it’s no different for our country directors. As you read this newsletter, I believe you will be deeply encouraged when you learn the creative ways the Lord has helped our directors overcome their challenges, and that if He does it for them, He will do it for you too! One of the greatest challenges our directors face is how to convince church decision makers why children’s ministry needs to be one of their most important priorities. The Barna Group’s research on how faith and culture intersect, reveals the relevancy and importance of making it our priority to equip children to live their life-changing faith in this generation. Be inspired as you read testimonies of the way the Lord has turned big challenges into great opportunities to make children’s ministry the priority that will change not only families, but also reach their communities.

God Richly Bless You!

Rob Hondsmark
CEO



ROMANIA

Young Roxanne, The Great Evangelist!

Many times we adults learn important lessons from children, and 11-year-old Roxanne is one of them. She was so passionate about the summer camp she had enjoyed in 2021, that when school started up again in the Fall, all she could talk about was camp.

She told her teachers and her fellow students with so much enthusiasm, that 30 kids from non-Christian families along with their teacher, registered for the 2022 *Alo!Copii* summer camp!



In our excitement, we discovered there were two big challenges we needed the Lord to help us overcome.

First, these children lived in a small village and their unchurched parents were highly skeptical about allowing their children to come to a Christian camp. Secondly, these families were poor and unable to pay the camp fees.

But the good news was just about to begin. The parents decided to let their children go if their teacher went along to supervise. And with the help of Grain of Wheat, along with contributions from the local town hall, all of the kids were able to come to camp where they heard the Gospel and now want to live for Jesus! But not only this, these kids and even their teacher are now eager to bring others along with them next year.

The ripple effect our young evangelist Roxanne has had on her teacher, fellow students, their families and even the local authorities, shows us the valuable lesson of the exponential difference the life of a child who loves the Lord can make.



COLOMBIA

Church of the Future

We can find many churches that prioritize sharing the Good News of Jesus with adults in prisons, hospitals, and on the street. While ministering to children is relegated to one hour on Sunday morning. But Children are not only the church of the future. They are also the church of today!

One of our greatest challenges is to turn the focus of the church toward engaging children in the here and now and by doing so, investing in the future of the church, which lies with children who know and love Jesus. This truth in itself should be motivation enough to make children's ministry a top priority. But even more importantly, when Jesus' disciples were shooing children away from Him, He said, *"Let the children come to me, don't hinder them, for*

the Kingdom of God belongs to ones like these" (Luke 18:16).

Humberto is a perfect example of how children's ministry grows the church. He was 9, when he moved to Colombia. It wasn't long before he discovered the Grain of Wheat club in Santa Marta, and was welcomed with open arms. It is here that his new faith was nurtured and has matured. Now at the young age of 12, not only is he bringing his family and friends to club, but he's also teaching the younger children!

Today, many churches in Colombia are prioritizing children's ministry as they become aware that not only it is the greatest mission field, but it is the heart of Jesus and the future of the church.