



## Pavement Project in a Nutshell

“You can take a child out of the streets, but you can’t take the streets out of a child.”

- Patrick McDonald, *VIVA Network*

Street children are some of the most at-risk children on the planet, vulnerable to disease, exploitation and abuse. That’s where **Pavement Project** began, and where the heart of the programme is still – working with children on the streets, formerly on the streets, or in institutions.

Workers and organisations reaching out to children-at-risk repeatedly report that they struggle to help these children escape ongoing negative and damaging behaviour. Traumatized children cannot accept that they are worthy of help because their self-worth has been destroyed and they are unable to recognise their true value. As far as they are concerned, their story has already been written and they often end up back on the streets. **Pavement Project** exists to break this cycle, bringing the Bible’s life words to the heart of change.

- **Pavement Project** was developed by child psychology / trauma specialists over four years and is delivered by trained workers.
- **Pavement Project** trains and equips workers to use a Bible-based, therapeutic counselling process called *Picture Me*.
- **Pavement Project** is a holistic approach that takes the Bible seriously and works through relationship.
- The *Picture Me* counselling materials are carried in a big green bag that becomes a familiar sight, and a symbol of love and acceptance.
- The *Picture Me* process uses specific Bible stories and tailor-made resources to help children tell their story and express the emotions that they’ve experienced.
- *Picture Me* allows children to see themselves differently – slowly self-worth and a sense of hope for the future emerge.
- Stories are shared ... relationship grows ... transformation comes.

“I have come to know that because God is in these stories and pictures, and at the centre of the whole process, **Pavement Project** creates an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to come in and touch a child’s life, right where it hurts. God can change how that child feels about what’s happened [to them], which ripples out to affect how they behave and interact with others, and so each ripple continues.” Joanna Wakia, former **Pavement Project** Coordinator for East Africa.

### Since Pavement Project was launched ...

- 980 workers have been trained to use it.
- 15,000 children have been counselled using the *Picture Me* process.
- The programme has been active in Africa, Latin America and Asia, with trained workers counselling children in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Columbia, Brazil, Mexico, India, and Indonesia.
- **SGM Lifewords** now works with nearly 200 partner organisations to reach out to children-at-risk.