

Prayer for Child Laborers

We pray for child laborers around the world,
88 million boys and 64 million girls,
Half of whom are between 5-11 years of age,
Who must work because of family poverty, migration,
Conflict and other injustices.

We pray for the 72.1 million children in Africa

Who toil in mines and plantations;

We pray for the 62.1 million children in Asia

Who work in quarries and making bricks;

We pray for the 10.7 million children in the Americas

Who labor in recycling dumps and farms;

We pray for the 5.5 million children in Europe and Central Asia

Who are trafficked workers;

We pray for the 1.2 million children in the Arab States

Who serve as domestics and street laborers;

We pray for each of these children, who has a name and a human face:

We pray for Ibrahim, 8, who picks cocoa beans in the Ivory Coast, West Africa

We pray for Jyoti, 14, who works in a stone quarry in India with her migrant mother;

We pray for Maria, 11, who picks onions in Texas with her migrant family;

We pray for Anya, 9, who works in a dump site in Nicaragua, picking through trash;

We pray for Raed, 14, who works as mechanic in Gaza;

We pray for the organizations who are working to end the tragedy of child labor,

For the progress they have made, for the children they have helped,

And for their determination to continue their research and advocacy.

May their work be recognized and supported.

We pray for ourselves, that we may take the time to care about these children

And support those who care for and advocate for them,

For they are our children, made in the image of the Creator,

Children who have names, who are precious in God's sight.

—Jane Deren, Ph.D.

Statistics and information in this prayer are from:

“Child Labour,” *International Labour Organization*, n.d., <http://bit.ly/2wti8vC>.

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