

CHILDREN IN CRISIS MINISTRIES

# FOCUS

*Bringing help, healing, and hope in Christ to vulnerable children*

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## •• BREAKFAST CLUB ••

**A FEW YEARS** ago, a commercial jingle was written about the importance of eating a nutritional breakfast. It began, “Start your day with Special K.”

Breakfast provides the brain, as well as the rest of the body, with fuel following an overnight fast. That, of course, is the meaning of the word “breakfast”: breaking the fast! Without breakfast, one is effectively running on empty. It’s kind of like trying to start a car with an empty gas tank!

Establishing good breakfast habits in childhood and maintaining them throughout adolescence is an important factor in reducing the prevalence of breakfast-skipping and in developing good eating habits that last a lifetime.

Following the destruction unleashed by typhoon Yolanda, a breakfast club, Breakfast for Kids (BK), was launched in the Philippines. Missionary Catie Smith saw the need to provide breakfast to children in the town of Jolog. Many of them were malnourished, and the lack of breakfast made it hard for them to concentrate in school.

The BK has also taught many of the parents how to make the best use of the nutritional resources available to them. Cooking black or red rice and vegetables available in the barrio, for example, adds vitamins and minerals to their diet.

The mothers of the children run the breakfast by cooking, serving, and cleaning. The goal of the BK is more than just providing a hearty breakfast, however. It’s also designed to contribute to the mothers’ and children’s



spiritual lives. A Bible club was started to bring the Good News to young lives.

Frank (not his real name), age 11, started to come to the BK. His home life was full of abuse and hurt, but as a result of eating a good breakfast and being fed the Word, he came to know Christ. His mother noticed the difference, and before they moved away, she thanked Catie and her colleagues for the change in Frank’s life, as well as in their home life.

Would you like to help serve the Franks of this world with a good breakfast? ACTION has a place for you! Please send a message to [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).



**Click here to learn more about the BK Ministry.**

# LOOKING FOR A FATHER

## ERNEST HEMINGWAY ONCE

wrote a short story called “The Capital of the World.” In it, he told the story of a Spanish father and his teenage son, Paco, who were estranged from one another. Paco had wronged his father and had run away from home.

The father searched all over Spain for Paco, but he could not find the boy. He then placed an ad in a newspaper: *“PACO, MEET ME AT THE HOTEL MONTANA. NOON TUESDAY. ALL IS FORGIVEN. PAPA.”*

When, at the appointed time, the father arrived at the hotel, he couldn’t believe his eyes. Eight hundred boys named Paco were there looking for their father.

According to the Gospel Coalition, increasing a father’s involvement in his children’s lives is one of the most important ways to address both material and spiritual poverty. Study after study conducted in the social sciences

confirms what the Bible teaches—that a father, a dad, matters.

In many of the countries where ACTION ministers, the identity of fathers may be known, but all too many of them are absent from the home. And as a result, their children are known as social orphans. As a male missionary, I have repeatedly seen children gravitate toward me and seek the love that is not found in the home.

In the Bible, the word “father” appears more than 1,100 times. Defining fatherly love is not easy, but a good father contributes significantly to the meeting of a child’s physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. Fathering is a worthy goal.

ACTION is looking for fathers to minister around the world. How might you serve as a father? It could be by showing children how to play various sports, teaching them basic carpentry

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skills, helping them learn English—and the list goes on.

Would you be willing to go to another country and act as a father for a few weeks—or even make a career of it? The Pacos of this world are waiting for a father.

For further information please send a message to [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).

*—Phil and Mariela Legal are missionaries in Chia, Colombia. Phil enjoys being a father to many Pacos.*

## Find out more!

Contact us through any of the following:



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CHILDREN IN CRISIS  
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