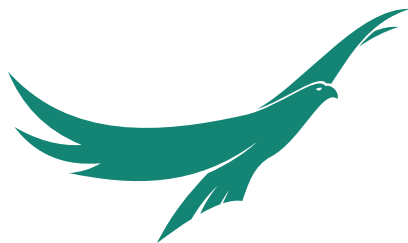


TRUE STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

a
CHANGE
for
LIFE





This material was produced by Pavement Project team, drawing upon stories shared and recounted by volunteer educators. Names have been altered or omitted to respect the confidentiality of those counselled—illustrative images.

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TRUE STORIES *of*

TRANSFORMATION



We often hear people using the image of a free bird to describe how they feel after encountering Jesus through the **Green Bag**. This free bird will accompany you on this short journey of reading our ebook. It is a compilation of some stories experienced by our counselled children, teenagers, and young people with the **Green Bag** through the voluntary efforts of our educators.

We hope you have a meaningful encounter with each True Story of Transformation you read. Try to visualise each story's face, voice, and healing environment. We are confident that reading this ebook will change your life somehow, just as it brought a lifetime change to each of the counselled individuals.

You can share this ebook so that more people become aware of the tremendous ongoing changes, pray for those involved, and offer financial support towards **Pavement Project**.

Learn more at www.projetocalcada.org.br.



My heart tightened upon seeing the sorrow etched on Carlitos' face. At seven years old, his thinness and the wounds on his body revealed the HIV-positive condition that needed to be kept a secret. The disease is a stigma in Guinea-Bissau. Carlitos already knew he would never have a life like other children; his exclusion would follow him permanently, and no one would offer him a job, allow him to date, or get married.

Belonging to the Papel tribe, an animist community, Carlitos grew up being blamed for family tragedies and suffered rejection and lack of love. As soon as Carlitos was born, his twin brother passed away. At that moment, he became responsible for that death, as they believed he had killed his brother to become an only child. Additionally, Carlitos also took responsibility for his parents' HIV.

At 16, things began to change for Carlitos when I introduced him to the **Green Bag**. During the activities, Carlitos grew pensive, and I noticed the first glimmer of joy in his smile.

Carlitos said that God has power, and he readily accepted to speak with Him. He asked God to be patient and make him a good person.

Carlitos' hope and faith, as he envisioned a transformation for himself, renewed my hope. It moved me when Carlitos told me he could see himself differently, like an eagle. He explained that as an eagle ages, it flies far away, uses its beak to pluck out all its feathers, and becomes new again. Upon hearing these words, I struggled to hold back the emotion stuck in my throat. By identifying with this eagle, Carlitos conveyed that he believed in a true transformation, even though it's a metaphor. He could indeed cast aside the destiny imposed upon him and become anew.

This year, Carlitos excelled in all school subjects and opens a smile every time he sees me. I pray that God continues to work in his heart and that he trusts that he is loved and can overcome all the barriers that determined his failure.

Since being trained in April 2023, I've noticed how people share the pains they can't tell anyone else. I can listen to them and speak of Jesus' love in a gentle and non-imposing way, respecting their culture. I can have peace that God will be with them. I regret only discovering the **Green Bag** now. I spent 15 years in this country, witnessing how much children suffer without the **Green Bag**. Still, I thank God and those who contribute to the **Pavement Project**, as from now on, my ministry will reflect the transformation and freedom I've always hoped for these beloved people.

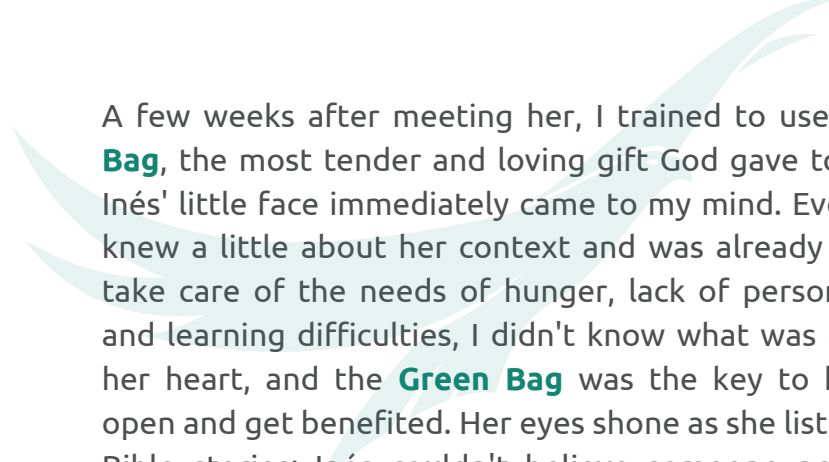
Adriane, Pavement Project Educator in Guinea-Bissau
BY CLENIR XAVIER



There must be a network of care and protection close to each child so they grow up healthy: family, neighbours, friends, school, and church. Often, the family cannot fulfil its role, and supporters help them with their needs.

Inés was 8 when I met her. Her mother had abandoned her and her two brothers to try a life in another country due to scarcity of resources, with no plans to return. Inés and her siblings were left in the care of their grandmother, unable to raise them properly. They were hungry, didn't practice personal hygiene and wore their clothes out.

Laura, the family's neighbour, began interacting and inviting Inés and her siblings to church activities. Before, they would stop by her house, have a snack, shower, and wear clean clothes. When she first went to church, Inés had a sad face and was very quiet; she was suspicious of everyone and didn't play with the other children.



A few weeks after meeting her, I trained to use the **Green Bag**, the most tender and loving gift God gave to our team. Inés' little face immediately came to my mind. Even though I knew a little about her context and was already working to take care of the needs of hunger, lack of personal hygiene and learning difficulties, I didn't know what was going on in her heart, and the **Green Bag** was the key to helping her open and get benefited. Her eyes shone as she listened to the Bible stories; Inés couldn't believe someone powerful like Jesus loved her. At the first meeting, her interior began to change: the sadness due to her mother's absence gave way to joy, and she no longer felt alone, said Inés, as Jesus would accompany her from that day on.

Everyone in the church noticed the flowering in her life: she was letting go, relating better, participating, and growing in faith. Today, at 12 years old, she is a playful, kind, friendly girl and loves God. Four years ago, the **Green Bag** restored her self-esteem, and today, Inés enjoys what the Lord offers her to be happy.

This transformation was only possible because you supported our church by bringing the **Pavement Project** to Venezuela. Thank you very much! Many children still need to know that God loves them. Continue to be part of this network of friends, promoting many positive changes in their lives. Continue supporting **Pavement Project**!

Luisa, Pavement Project Educator in Venezuela.
BY CLEISSE ANDRADE



CHANGES *That*

Take ROOT



Raju is a 13-year-old boy whom our partner organisation is assisting. Raju is good at playing football but has been showing much anger on the field while playing with his peers. The warnings did not help Raju improve his behaviour. That's when the **Pavement Project** educator invited Raju to talk to him with the **Green Bag**. As the educator interacted with Raju, he shared about his mother's tragic death due to his father's alcoholism and extreme physical abuse. Raju's father works as a painter, and his mother was a domestic helper. Every day, the father used to come back home drunk and start abusing his mother and Raju verbally and physically. Life was a struggle as Raju's father spent all this money on alcohol. One day, after one such incident, his mother immolated herself. Raju witnessed the mother being engulfed in fire and later fighting for her life in the hospital until she died.

Raju shared with the educator that he felt like a lifeless stump of a tree which had been cut off and the roots dried

up. He was angry with his father and didn't trust anyone. As Raju heard the Bible stories, especially knowing that God is a righteous Judge and he can go to Jesus with his worries, Raju was strengthened.

Raju kept looking at the card he chose, which had a Bible verse, and said to the educator: "When I feel helpless, I can ask Jesus to help me, right? I can be a tree with strong roots."

Since the counselling session with the **Green Bag**, Raju has been showing a significant change in his interaction with peers. He has become calmer, more loving, and more confident.

Alcoholism among parents is one of the foremost issues that children at risk face in India. Studies show that the problems of alcohol abuse are associated with increased suffering to the family members, which contributes to a high level of interpersonal conflict, domestic violence, financial difficulties, and psychological disturbances, along with increasing the risk of developing comorbidities associated with alcohol abuse by the individual, which further adds to the burden of the family.

Your support for **Pavement Project** is essential for us to reach more children whose lives have been negatively affected by the ill effects of alcoholism of parents and family members. The good news shared through the **Green Bag** can bring restoration to children like Raju.

Abdul, Pavement Project Educator in India
BY SERAH THOMAS

DAY-TO-NIGHT



changes UNVEILED



It was the organisation's outing day, and there he was: Eric. When he approached me, I was moved, remembering what Eric used to be like and who he has become after counselling with the **Green Bag**. He is 11 years old, and the youngest in the family; his siblings are already adults. His parents' relationship didn't last, and they separated before Eric was born. These are common issues in Paraguayan families: separation and new marriages, excessive work, arguments, physical violence, and custody disputes are just some of the situations that afflict children in my country.

Since I met Eric, I noticed he was very lonely, receiving no support from his family. He did his schoolwork alone as if he was 'abandoned within his own family.' He was always sad, lifeless, lacking in vitality. When he had disagreements with classmates, he cried out of anger because he felt abandoned and helpless.

Once, Eric was referred to me by the coordination for a

conversation because he fought with a classmate who always said nobody liked him, not even his father. His face was troubled when he entered my office; he was angry.

I started to break the ice to calm him down, and Eric reluctantly began participating. But as we continued our conversation, he gradually calmed down and opened up. During the counselling session, what came to the surface was his disappointment in his father's remarriage last year. 'I feel like I have no worth, like I'm being passed around,' Eric said.

After that conversation using the **Green Bag**, Eric understood his worth and changed his self-perception almost overnight. His actions reflect this transformation. I can see that he's much happier and hasn't fought or cried as he did before. Today, Eric feels loved by his classmates. The changes are genuinely uplifting. Confident in his worth, Eric told me one day, 'I like coming to the institution because I get to know more about God here. We never talk about Him at home.'

I can only say thank you very much for bringing the **Green Bag** to us; it's incredibly precious and of great assistance to the children we serve. One by one, we are changing lives.

There are still many children who suffer from family issues, go unheard, feel hopeless, and don't know that Jesus loves them. They are growing up without seeing a solution to their difficult days. Please continue to support us so that others like me, can learn to listen to these children and help them find happiness.

Maya, Pavement Project Educator in Paraguay
BY CLEISSE ANDRADE

VALUABLE *keys*

To genuine CHANGE



Catarina told me: *"I thought my father was going to change my clothes after the shower, but he hurt me; I cried a lot"*. For many children around the world, home is not a safe place. Catarina had a complex experience when her father inappropriately touched her at three years old. Because of the abuse she suffered, Catarina had painful signs such as early sexuality, sleep disturbances and anxiety. Now five years old, living with her mother and protected, she is being looked after.

The legal process is ongoing in court so that the father is held responsible and Catarina remains protected. Part of the process is psychological monitoring by a government agency. Weekly therapy meetings accompanied Catarina; however, after a year, the psychologist discharged her because, throughout this period, she did not want to tell him what happened, so he explained to the mother he was unable to help Catarina.

Catarina was excited when she arrived for the **Green Bag** counselling with me. She likes games and Bible stories. After playing with her a little, using the **Green Bag** paper play, we continued talking about difficult situations that children go through. I asked if she remembered any, and Catarina immediately told me, "My father hurt me, and I cried a lot". Catarina spontaneously explained what had happened and how she had felt. I was surprised by how the **Green Bag** helped Catarina open up and tell what made her suffer. I continued showing her the Bible stories, and Catarina said she felt delighted to hear that Jesus protects and cares for children, as they are part of his family.

This feeling of happiness that the Holy Spirit gave Catarina was confirmed throughout and after the meeting. The mother told me that Catarina was lighter and happier after the meeting. *"That day when we went to pray, Catarina told me: Mom, Jesus is always with us."* She is looked after in many aspects, and now, Catarina can also understand Jesus is at her side.

I would say that the **Green Bag** is like a key that opens the child's heart, and by revealing what is inside, they receive relief and hope. Thank you very much for giving our church this valuable key.

Did it hurt your heart to know that a 3-year-old child suffered abuse? You can help by making the **Green Bag** reach more organisations to help children. Join **Pavement Project!**

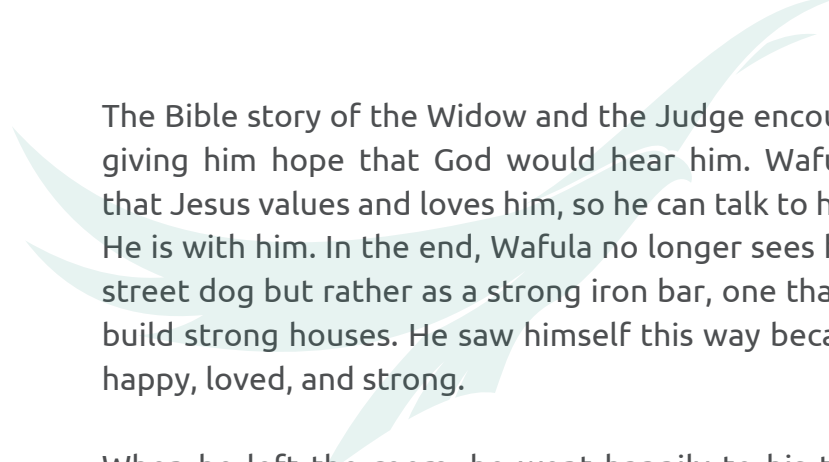
Jane, Pavement Project Educator in Brazil
BY CLEISSE ANDRADE

CHANGES *leading* To FREEDOM



Wafula is a 12-year-old boy from Western Kenya. In his community, most men are into alcohol, and they are abusive to their children and wives. Wafula was part of a group of children from a shelter who were invited to counselling during a **Pavement Project** training session. As they waited, he sat quietly as others played. When the session began, he was emotionally overcome when he saw the photos of other children in the **Green Bag**. He was reminded of his experience that brought him pain. With the worker's encouragement, he calmed down.

Wafula said he was physically abused by his dad on several occasions when he was young and ended up on the streets at the age of 9. He was rescued and taken to a shelter home where he lives. Wafula felt angry and worthless. He desperately needed someone to help him settle back into his family. He saw himself as a homeless and desperate street dog.

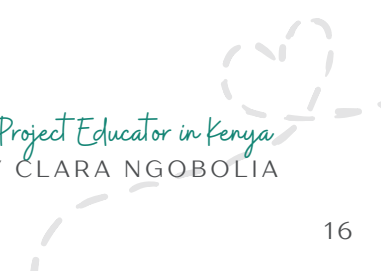


The Bible story of the Widow and the Judge encouraged him, giving him hope that God would hear him. Wafula realised that Jesus values and loves him, so he can talk to him because He is with him. In the end, Wafula no longer sees himself as a street dog but rather as a strong iron bar, one that is used to build strong houses. He saw himself this way because he felt happy, loved, and strong.

When he left the room, he went happily to his teacher and shared his joy at the realisation that Jesus loves him. He asked the teacher to help him make Jesus his friend. It was then that he accepted Jesus.

Wafula returned to the Shelter happy, interacting with other children as they shared stories and played. His renewed strength came from the healing that God had brought to him. It brings joy to see how the words of life get such a transformation, making a life change!

Many children are struggling with pain, like Wafula. Your donation helps us equip more **Pavement Project** Workers who reach out to them and share God's love that impacts the children's lives, causing change and transformation.



Abdalla, Pavement Project Educator in Kenya
BY CLARA NGOBOLIA



IMAGINATION



Linda was a small girl, but she knew well what it was like to live on the streets in a degrading situation. Despite living with her father, who was a drug addict, it was on the streets that she slept, begged for food, sold candy, hid behind cars to relieve herself, and defended herself as best she could. Then, with her father's consent, Linda was taken off the streets by a family from the hill, who brought her to live with them when she was five.

I was used to the context of the hill: a poor place, difficult to access, with little primary care, dominated by drug trafficking, and violent; but even so, I was very impressed by Linda's thinness, aggressiveness, constant fighting, and hostile words. I could see in her typical behaviours of a person using drugs and going through abstinence. Seeing how other children in the community rejected Linda broke my heart.

Less than a year later, the family that rescued her was already exhausted and threatened to take her back to the streets.

Linda replied that if they took her back, she would kill herself. At that moment, the project opened its doors and heart to Linda, even though she was not the minimum age.

As **Pavement Project** had recently trained us, another educator and I started doing **Green Bag** activities to break the ice with Linda and gain her trust. At almost seven, Linda was already more adapted and ready to talk and open her heart. During counselling with the **Green Bag**, it was surprising how Linda connected and was grateful after hearing the Bible story of the lost sheep. She said she saw herself as Jesus, who helps children and makes them happy. Linda asked that Jesus take care of all the children on the hill and that people would not beat her again.

Since then, Linda has been developing well. At eight, she seems more mature when dealing with children; she is very supportive and has a great sense of justice, defending them when something wrong happens to them. She shares her food with those who don't have it and asks God so that they always have food. Linda has a solid bond with the project and with her foster family. The hill is now a home for Linda, where she feels safe and happy. She is always happily playing and full of energy. During the project break in July, Linda sent a message: "This is me with my family. I love this family so much that it makes me cry."

Pavement Project is vital in God's hands because it allows us to think beyond what we do. The **Green Bag** makes our work much more complete and helps us expand our horizons and connect sensitively with children.

Thank you for the tool, training, and support, which are so valuable. We still have a lot to do. Many children can have an incredible change like Linda has. I hope you continue to support us here.

Márcia, Pedagogue and Pavement Project Educator in Brazil
BY CLENIR XAVIER

CHANGES *That*

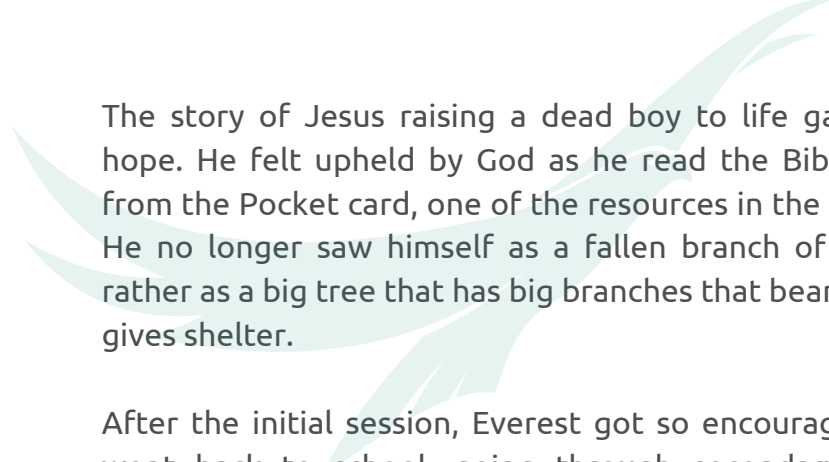
bring HOPE



Everest is now a 23-year-old young man from Tanzania, is a happy, excited, and energetic young man.

He left his home at the age of 14 years after being severely emotionally and physically abused by his stepmother. With the fear that he would be killed, he lived on the streets for 5 years. As a Muslim boy, his community has most families polygamous, and with conflicts. After the death of his mum, he was left under the care of his stepmother who then would constantly abuse him. While on the streets, he desperately longed to find someone to help him. At the age of 19, he was rescued and placed in a Children's home owned by one of our partners. There he met John, a **Pavement Project** trained worker whom he shared his life experience with.

Everest had been through serious abuse, both emotionally and physically. He was deeply hurt, and felt helpless and hopeless, comparing himself to a branch that had fallen off from a tree.



The story of Jesus raising a dead boy to life gave Everest hope. He felt upheld by God as he read the Bible message from the Pocket card, one of the resources in the **Green Bag**. He no longer saw himself as a fallen branch of a tree but rather as a big tree that has big branches that bears fruits and gives shelter.

After the initial session, Everest got so encouraged that he went back to school, going through secondary and high school, and later joined a university. He has just graduated as a Lawyer and plans to advocate for children's and young people's rights. He also volunteers in the same organisation that helped him.

How amazing it is to see the impact of the **Green Bag**, bringing the life words of the Bible to Everest's life!

Many children and young people are at risk looking for someone to help them, just as Everest did. Your donation helps us equip more **Pavement Project** workers who like John reach out and impact the lives of children at risk through the Bible's life words. Thank you for your giving!

John, Pavement Project Educator in Tanzania

BY CLARA NGOBOLIA

UPLIFTING

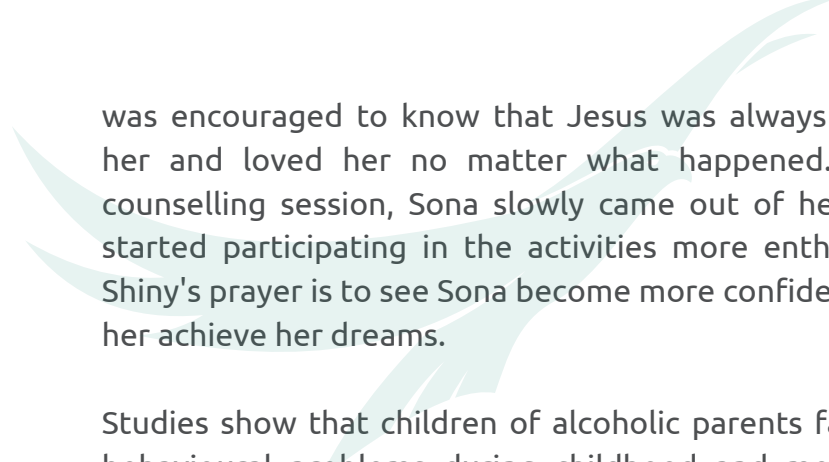


CHANGES



Sona is a 13-year-old girl from the South of India. She comes from an economically weak community where hunger is the daily companion of children. Shiny, our **Pavement Project** worker, has been doing community development programmes in this community. Most of the families in this community are pretty unstable, with the fathers being drunkards and with many anti-social activities; the area is an unsafe place for children. Sona has always been quiet, not mingling much with her peer group.

Observing Sona always being reserved and having difficulty blending in with other children, Shiny invited Sona to chat with the help of the **Green Bag**. When she was 3, Sona's mom abandoned her and left home. Her father has been treating Sona very rudely. He is a drunkard and beats her often, even for the slightest mistake. Sona shared that she has no one to love her, and no one cares how she is doing. With the help of the stories in the **Green Bag**, the worker assured Sona of the love of Jesus, who loves all children unconditionally. Sona



was encouraged to know that Jesus was always there with her and loved her no matter what happened. After the counselling session, Sona slowly came out of her shell and started participating in the activities more enthusiastically. Shiny's prayer is to see Sona become more confident and help her achieve her dreams.

Studies show that children of alcoholic parents face risks of behavioural problems during childhood and mental health problems in adulthood. Identifying these issues as early as possible can significantly reduce the problems in future. Therefore, **Pavement Project** must equip and train more educators in these communities, as the partner churches have limited resources. Supporting **Pavement Project**, you will help children like Sona, who are neglected and have their sense of self undermined.



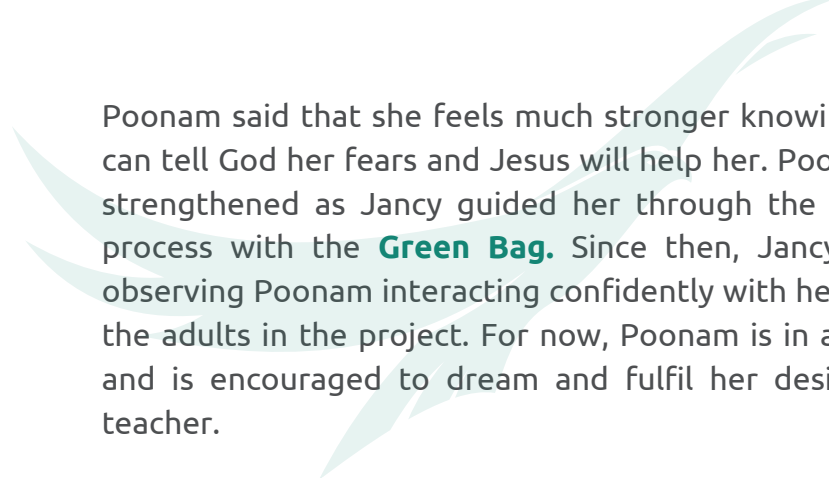
Shiny, Pavement Project Educator in India
BY SERAH THOMAS

STRENGTHEN



Poonam is a 14-year-old girl whose parents are daily wage workers with the means for the day. They live in a one-room thatched roof home where all the family members live in one room. A year back, our partner organisation offered help for Poonam to continue her studies, and she moved to the project. Jancy, the **Pavement Project** worker, said that she noticed Poonam having difficulty sleeping and is fearful when speaking to adults or anyone in authority.

After a while in the project, our educator helped Poonam open up and talk with the help of the **Green Bag**. Then, the teenager shared that her parents fixed marriage to an older man from her village during the lockdown in 2020. Since then, she was threatened daily by her family that she would be sent to her mother-in-law's house soon, where the marriage would take place. She fears that she will be unable to study and will be forcefully taken to her in-laws' house. She shared that she has been having nightmares and wakes up screaming in the middle of the night. At the end of the counselling session,



Poonam said that she feels much stronger knowing that she can tell God her fears and Jesus will help her. Poonam visibly strengthened as Jancy guided her through the counselling process with the **Green Bag**. Since then, Jancy has been observing Poonam interacting confidently with her peers and the adults in the project. For now, Poonam is in a safe place and is encouraged to dream and fulfil her desire to be a teacher.

Poonam's is not a lone case. Child marriage is a prevalent situation for many teenage girls in India. Your support for **Pavement Project** will enable us to help more children like Poonam, who need to be strengthened and be confident to face the everyday challenges and to stand up against the social injustice done to children.



Jancy, Pavement Project Educator in India
BY SERAH THOMAS

RAPID and



profound CHANGES



Children in Chile suffer from complex emotional situations, such as anxiety disorders, stress, depression, loneliness, irritability, etc. In the search to offer practical help to the children we serve in our faith community, we heard about **Pavement Project**.

We serve more than 100 children, and as a psychologist, I have been able to help with the tools I have, and yes, there have been changes and improvements. But progress in emotional restoration was plodding. Identifying the origin of the emotions and treating them took at least 3 or 4 months, with some exceptions. When implementing the resources and biblical content of the **Green Bag**, the difference, without a doubt, was impressive. In the first or second meeting, I can already perceive some changes: improvement in behaviour, in relationships with family and friends, greater spiritual interest, improvement in school grades, and care with physical appearance. A restoration that begins within them shows in its exterior. It is wonderful!

The mother of an 11-year-old girl with severe anxiety and signs of self-harm said after counselling when her daughter slept for the first time in a long time: *"Applying the Bible to my daughter's trauma proves that the Word is alive and effective. I'm thrilled."* It's been over a year since we started using the **Green Bag**, and families share that the changes the children showed after counselling remain to this day. Most families continue to attend church and have brought other family friends due to the changes experienced by their children.

The Church is thrilled and grateful to have the **Green Bag** and to see the children relieved of their pain and happier. The **Green Bag** and the training we received led us to meaningful progress in our church's children's ministry, incredibly rapid progress. Thank you very much!

The percentage of children with mental health problems is high in Chile, and there are still many in this generation who are fragile and in need of restoration. Please keep investing so we can help them be healthy and grow strong and resilient.

Rosa, Psychologist and Pavement Project Educator in Chile

BY CLEISSE ANDRADE

HEALING-POWERED



changes REVEALED

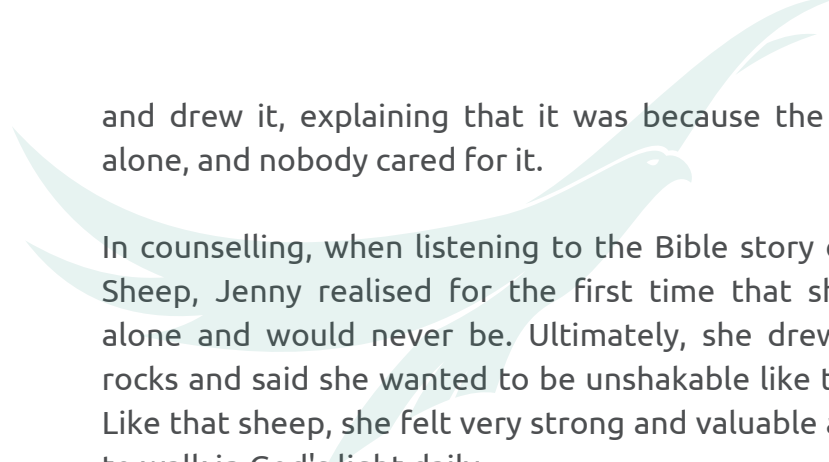


Jenny is a 17-year-old girl from Western Kenya. She comes from a poor community where many girls are at risk of sexual abuse. Jenny was sexually abused, got pregnant, and now has a one-and-a-half-year-old boy. Subsequently, she has breast cancer, and Jenny struggles to cope with the potent drugs' many challenges and side effects. She has a sweet and gentle demeanour, but there is courage, strength, and determination underneath.

Jenny was unwilling and fearful to share her story during group meetings. She would say: "Please don't ask me to remember those things I don't want to think about."

We have trained many Workers from partner organisations in Western Kenya, including one that helps Jenny.

When she was invited for counselling, the worker used the **Green Bag**. Then, Jenny felt welcomed and shared her experience and how she felt: lonely, rejected, lost and valueless. At that moment, she compared herself to a tree



and drew it, explaining that it was because the tree stood alone, and nobody cared for it.

In counselling, when listening to the Bible story of The Lost Sheep, Jenny realised for the first time that she was not alone and would never be. Ultimately, she drew three big rocks and said she wanted to be unshakable like these rocks. Like that sheep, she felt very strong and valuable and desired to walk in God's light daily.

Although she still awaits her cancer test results, she continues to take life in her stride, with a new smile that comes from the healing that God has brought and will continue to bring as she trusts in Him each day. It is a privilege to watch God at work in the lives of children as they are engaged through the **Pavement Project**.

Thanks for your donation to **Pavement Project**! It helps us to train more workers to counsel many physically and emotionally wounded teens like Jenny, who found true healing with God.

Durah, Africa Pavement Project Coordinator
BY CLARA NGOBOLIA



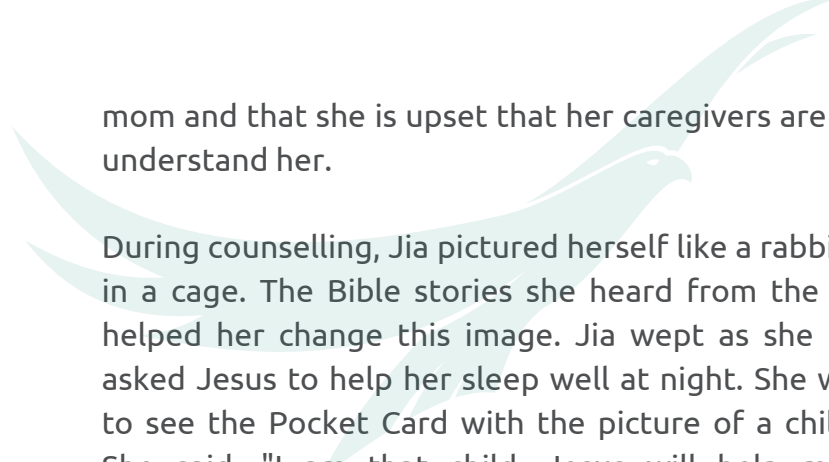
CHANGES *that*

open CAGES



Jia is a 17-year-old girl living in a Children's home for six years. She loves to sing and help in the kitchen. The home director shared that they have been struggling with helping Jia in her studies and following the home discipline. The teachers have been constantly complaining about Jia's rebellious nature. The volunteer **Pavement Project** educator who had recently started counselling in the Children's home has been trying to help Jia. In this process of help, she invited Jia to the activity with the **Green Bag**.

Jia took some time to open up and talk. But as the educator put her to ease, Jia felt comfortable sharing about her insecurities and fears that have been haunting her. Jia said that she was sexually abused by her father when she was nine years old—because of the repeated abuse by her father, Jia's mother brought her to the children's home with the hope that Jia could grow up in a safer environment. Ever since this happened, Jia has been having nightmares of a man chasing her in her dreams. She shared that she longed to be with her



mom and that she is upset that her caregivers are not able to understand her.

During counselling, Jia pictured herself like a rabbit locked up in a cage. The Bible stories she heard from the **Green Bag** helped her change this image. Jia wept as she prayed and asked Jesus to help her sleep well at night. She was amazed to see the Pocket Card with the picture of a child sleeping. She said, "I am that child. Jesus will help me to sleep peacefully. I am not the caged rabbit anymore. I am like a rabbit running freely in the garden."

Jia has steadily improved since her encounter with Jesus through the **Green Bag**. The director of the home is so happy that **Pavement Project** has been able to help Jia and hopes that other children in the home will also get help in the coming days.

In India, an alarming statistic reveals that one in every two children has endured sexual abuse before turning 18, predominantly at the hands of family members or individuals known to them. Child sexual abuse can have profound and long-lasting effects on survivors, impacting their physical, emotional, psychological, and social well-being throughout adulthood. Jia's story gives us hope that Jesus can empower them to live freely. By supporting **Pavement Project**, you have the opportunity to transform the lives of these precious children.



Vihaan, India Pavement Project Coordinator
BY SERAH THOMAS

REMARKABLE



changes UNVEILED



I arrived at the **Green Bag** training excitedly because I was told it would be valuable for my work with the children in our Children's home. We handle ten children referred by the court due to high-risk situations. We assist families in restructuring to reunite with their children as soon as possible. In our Children's home, we provide affection, care, and protection, but we recognise these children intensely feel the absence from their families despite their traumas. Some children stay longer than expected, and we acknowledge the need to improve emotional and spiritual support for their complete development.

The **Green Bag**, which integrates the Bible with psychology, has proven to be a serious and valuable tool to help children deal with their painful emotions and decide about their faith. And I was able to witness that in practice.

During the training, I watched a demonstration of the **Green Bag**, which impressed me with its pictures and illustrations of

Bible stories. However, I soon thought that reality would be different, as our children didn't open as quickly, nor did they have the patience to sit still and listen to stories.

My first supervised counselling experience was with Samanta from the Children's home. I doubted that Samanta would speak or that my efforts and study would make a difference, given the intense bitterness that consumed her regardless of our previous attempts to help her.

I couldn't have been more wrong, as the experience with Samanta was transformative. She shared deep secrets, including the guilt over a tragic incident involving her younger brother, which led Samanta to become a quiet and bitter girl. With that individual conversation, guided by the **Green Bag**, Samanta understood the love and forgiveness of Jesus, which led to a remarkable change.

Since then, Samanta has smiled and appears free of guilt. This change positively impacted the Children's home, inspiring the team and other children to engage with the **Green Bag**. I now feel prepared to assist other children, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide our conversations.

I ask for prayers for myself, the Children's Home, and the children that they may find freedom through our support. I'm grateful to **Pavement Project** and everyone who contributes to making this possible.

Bruna, Pavement Project Educator in Brazil
BY CLENIR XAVIER

CHANGES with

lasting INFLUENCE



Mary is a 14-year-old teenage girl from a slum in Kenya, living in our Rescue Centre. When I first met her, she could hardly look at me, and any attempt to find out more about her was met with hysteric crying. I would comfort her and avoid asking more questions. That made it very hard for me to help her. I would then interact with her in a group.

Slowly, Mary began to relate more comfortably with me, and I decided it was time to invite Mary for a session with the **Green Bag**. I asked her questions that made her interest rise, then a paper play activity. Her response was a wide smile. She loved the paper play colours and reading the Bible text on it. I gave her the chance to share the happiest experience of her life: a new dress she got for Christmas, revealed Mary, who ended the story with a smile and tears. She had been raped several times by different men, and one of them, her stepfather. Her mum did not help her despite knowing about it. The stepfather was the one who bought her the beautiful dress.

By the time I met Mary, she had attempted suicide several times. As a result of her trauma, she compared herself to a dirty rug used by many people and felt hurt and angry.

Her behaviour, interaction, and interest in learning more about Jesus have improved greatly after sessions with the **Green Bag**. Her reading and writing skills have improved, as have her numbers. She enjoys looking clean and fixing her hair, which she never did before. She prays when we have sessions and has become very cheerful. Mary trusts me with her issues, and she shares her challenges. Her favourite story from the **Green Bag** is "Jesus calms the storm", Mark 4:35-41.

Mary still lives in the Centre. She worries about her family's safety and prays her mum could move from the risky place she lives. Mary has influenced her sister, who is also in the Rescue Centre. Mary leads prayers and is the Christian Union Leader in her school. She wants other girls to be helped too. She loves the **Green Bag** and says, "That bag spoke to me!".

Thanks for giving towards the **Pavement Project's** work! Many physically and emotionally wounded teenagers, like Mary, need to hear the voice of God. Your donation helps us to train more workers to find more Marys to exchange their tears of uncertainty for healing smiles.

We appreciate your love, generosity, and compassion and celebrate you for partnering with us!

Adila, Pavement Project Educator in Kenya
BY CLARA NGOBOLIA



CHANGES



I found direction for my ministry in the Pavement Project. Ever since I trained to use the **Green Bag** many years ago, I have participated in five projects in Indonesia. It's truly unique to have such a fabulous tool to support organisations. I feel motivated to contribute when integrating into a project that knows me and carries out serious and competent work, especially in child protection. By partnering with Pavement Project, they receive my dedication and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Together, we offer the **Green Bag**, a complete package to bless lives.

That's how I found myself in a Christian orphanage deeply committed to the Gospel, where I had the privilege of meeting Agus. At the time, he was 22 years old, and I invited him to listen to Bible stories. Agus was the most senior in the orphanage. As he didn't have financial independence or a family, he stayed in the orphanage for a longer period until he was ready for his departure, which is a common practice in Indonesia. But since his arrival at the age of 16, he displayed



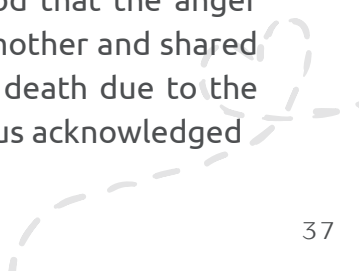
aggression towards girls and women, reflecting deep pain in his heart.

Agus grew up in a nominally Christian family, although they didn't follow the Gospel. The family's identification record they carried with them stated Christianity, which aligns with the customary practice in Indonesia. However, his sister had converted to Islam.

From an early age, Agus began drinking and stealing money from his father's wallet to sustain his addiction and lousy company. His rebellion at home increased. During this period, his mother went to work in Malaysia to support the family, but she stopped contacting them and completely abandoned the family. Later, Agus learned that she had married in Malaysia, which made him feel betrayed and abandoned.

While he was expressing his pain over his mother's abandonment, his father became seriously ill and passed away, leaving Agus even more desolated. With his mother's abandonment, his father's death, and the distancing from his sister, who got married and moved away, Agus moved to the orphanage. There, he heard the Word of God and received attention.

During our conversation in an activity with the **Green Bag**, Agus began to make connections between his past experiences and his feelings. He understood that the anger he felt towards women was related to his mother and shared the burden of guilt carried for his father's death due to the money he had stolen. During the prayer, Agus acknowledged



Jesus's forgiveness, asked for strength not to feel overwhelmed, and cried deeply. It was a remarkable moment when I witnessed the Holy Spirit ministering to the heart of a 22-year-old man through the **Green Bag**, bringing forgiveness and emotional healing to Agus. At the end of the conversation, his expression had already changed, and he now saw himself as a river of clear, vibrant, and flowing waters.

Many noticed Agus's transformation; his respect grew, and his aggressiveness gradually faded. Agus's experience with Jesus was just beginning. Years later, he entered seminary, aspiring to become a pastor.

As a **Pavement Project** educator, the greatest reward is participating in transforming lives and bringing the love, forgiveness, and support that people need to believe that God is with them, even during pain. I pray that God continues to empower me as an instrument of His light and liberation, just as He did with Agus. I thank **Pavement Project** for inviting me to be part of this team of servants.

Anisa, Pavement Project Educator in Indonesia
BY CLENIR XAVIER

OUR utmost



GRATITUDE



If you've made it this far, it's because you show yourself to care about transformative, healing, and restorative changes in the lives of vulnerable children and adolescents. So, our utmost gratitude.

We invite you to support us so that we can reach more hearts through counselling with the **Green Bag** and other initiatives of **Pavement Project** around the world.

Make a one-time donation or commit to recurring contributions through payment methods on our website :
www.projetocalcada.org.br

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