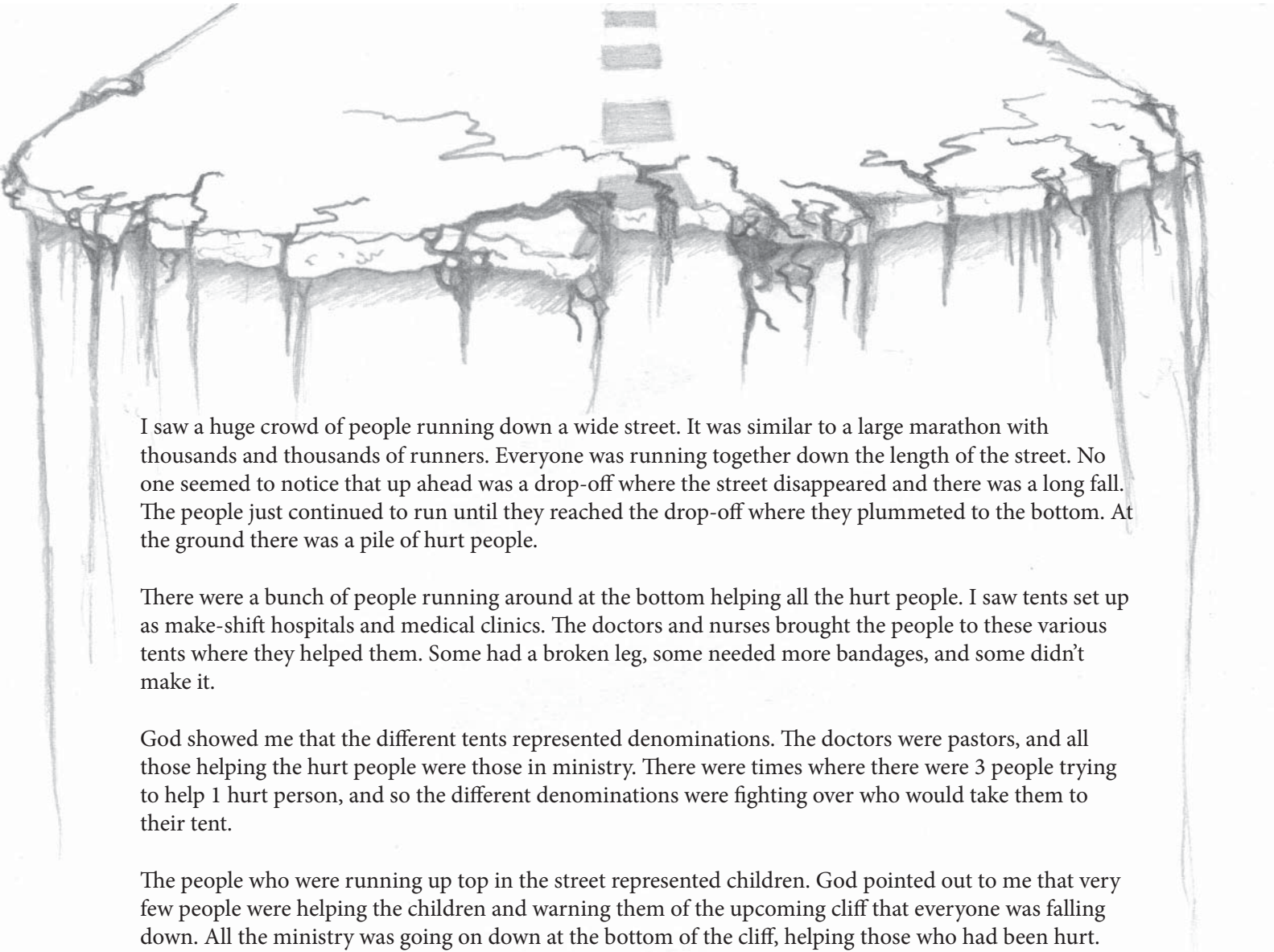


Vision for **Children's Ministry**

One day my husband Dwight and I were on a long road trip and were having a great car visit, when God all-of-a-sudden opened our eyes to the importance of Children's ministry. We were talking out some ministry plans and praying together. As we were praying, God gave me a vision.



I saw a huge crowd of people running down a wide street. It was similar to a large marathon with thousands and thousands of runners. Everyone was running together down the length of the street. No one seemed to notice that up ahead was a drop-off where the street disappeared and there was a long fall. The people just continued to run until they reached the drop-off where they plummeted to the bottom. At the ground there was a pile of hurt people.

There were a bunch of people running around at the bottom helping all the hurt people. I saw tents set up as make-shift hospitals and medical clinics. The doctors and nurses brought the people to these various tents where they helped them. Some had a broken leg, some needed more bandages, and some didn't make it.

God showed me that the different tents represented denominations. The doctors were pastors, and all those helping the hurt people were those in ministry. There were times where there were 3 people trying to help 1 hurt person, and so the different denominations were fighting over who would take them to their tent.

The people who were running up top in the street represented children. God pointed out to me that very few people were helping the children and warning them of the upcoming cliff that everyone was falling down. All the ministry was going on down at the bottom of the cliff, helping those who had been hurt. But many actually died, and those deaths could have been prevented, not to mention preventing all of the pain.

The broken bones and bandages represented pain that people had gotten into before they knew Christ and changed their life. There was the pain of divorce, the pain of robbing a store and going to prison, the pain of marrying wrong, and the pain of getting caught in various sins. There were many people in ministry helping these people with their problems, but very few people helping the children before they fell into it all.

The ministry down below was exciting because you might find someone who was on the brink of death, and you could administer CPR. In a matter of minutes, you saved someone's life! The ambulance would arrive with the sirens blazing and everyone would see what you were doing as you loaded them up and headed to your denomination's tent. But up above, working with children, when you stopped someone from falling off the cliff, there was no fanfare. There was no noise and no one saw anything amazing. There was just a person who quit running along with the crowd and stopped before they fell.

Dwight and I decided to leave the tents below and climb up top, and start working to STOP people from running off the cliff. Since there are so few people working in children's ministry, it seemed important to focus on helping those who do. Our job was to encourage and help those up top, and work to keep them up there.

Over the last 10 years that I have been a missionary in Mexico, I have found that somewhere around 90% of the workers are not planning on staying in children's ministry. They are there until they are given a better position at their church. I totally understand because I did it myself. I ended up serving in children's ministry for 18 years, but I actually wasn't planning on staying there! I started there because it was a place to serve in the church. I always assumed that I would move on to the women's ministry, and then become a pastor's wife. I was thrilled when we became missionaries, because I was higher up the Christian community ladder.

However, I never imagined returning to children's ministry.



On that fateful day in the car, while we were on a road trip, Dwight and I felt God's calling to children's ministry. It was not just a calling, but we felt as though God showed us His reasoning. Someone had to get up on top of the cliff and warn people about the fall. It was better to stop people from falling than to repair the damage down below.

I hope that with this vision, God has also opened your eyes to the calling of children's ministry.

It has nothing to do with actual "teaching". It has to do with working with real souls BEFORE they fall into sins that will wreck their lives.

In children's ministry, we need pastors, evangelists, teachers, cooks, organizers, Facebook campaign managers, sound techs, musicians, artists and MORE. Everything the body of Christ has, children's ministry needs. We are not only looking for teachers. We need everyone's help. We need people to open their eyes, and serve in the children's ministry department for life. We will take the help from temporary workers because we are desperate for help. But we WANT adults that are committed to children's ministry, and are committed to helping real souls, real humans, real people BEFORE they fall off the cliff!

Vision for Children's
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We are located in Mexico.
DK Editorial Pro-Visión A.C.

