

## **CBF Offering for Global Missions 2011-2012 Children's Sermon "Sharing Hope in Miami and Sub-Saharan Africa"**

Materials:

ABC poster, book or some visual representation of ABC's

Globe or world map (optional)

*When the children come forward and are seated, begin by pretending you are learning your ABC's. You can sing or say the ABC's over and over.*

Say: Good morning! I'm glad you are all here – I'm working on learning the alphabet this morning. Do any of you know your ABC's? (Allow the children to answer)

Ask: Where did you learn them? (possible answers: school, home, etc.)

Ask: Did someone help you learn your ABC's?

Say: You know, one of the best ways to learn is for us to have someone teach us something new. That's why going to school is so important. School is one place where we learn lots of things. If we didn't learn things like our ABC's, we'd grow up not knowing how to read. We'd have a very hard time in life.

Do you know that our church thinks education is very important? We even give money to the CBF Offering for Global Missions and some of this money helps kids like you go to school or receive the extra help they need.

Some of the money goes to Miami, Florida. **(Show children Florida on the map or globe.)** This money helps a ministry called Touching Miami with Love to provide after-school help to children. This is important because in the Overtown community where Touching Miami with Love (TML) is located, many of the schools are not very good. Almost all of the elementary school children that come to TML go to a school that has been given a very bad grade by the state of Florida. Did you know that schools can get grades too? These schools have gotten a "D" or an "F" when it comes to being a good school.<sup>1</sup> That means that the children aren't able to learn as much. This extra help at TML gives children in Overtown a safe place to learn and play each afternoon.

Our money also goes to Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, two countries in Africa. **(Show children these two countries on the map or globe.)** Here, the money helps children in the Congo to pay school fees and go to school. Many of these children have been affected by war and conflict. Their country is not always safe.

And in Uganda, the money helps refugee children and their families to learn. A refugee is a person who had to leave their country and move to another country because of war or a

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<sup>1</sup> According to TML, 96% of elementary students who attend TML's ministries attend a school rated "D" or "F" by the state of Florida. 80% of students who attend TML who are in middle or high school attend failing schools.

conflict. Often these refugees need to learn new languages and new skills in order to find work. Refugee children also need help because they're now going to school in an entirely new country, and possibly learning in a language that is not familiar.

You know, most of us here probably know our ABC's well, especially the kids here who are older. But learning is not always easy for kids around the world. Some kids go to schools that are not good, and some kids can't go to school at all because they can't afford to pay the fees. When we give to the Offering for Global Missions, we give kids around the world a chance to go to school.

Let's pray:

God, we are thankful for the chances we have to learn new things each day. Please remind us to give, so that children all over the world can have the same opportunities we have. Amen.