The Christian View of Children

Children are a heritage of the Lord.
Psalm 127:3
Every child is a promise . . .

with a name,
a passion,
a story,
and a place in
His Story!

Young Peruvian shepherd boy
Definition of *child*:

(n.) A son or daughter; a male or female descendant; the immediate progeny of parents; one unfixed in principles and weak in knowledge, judgment and experience; one young in grace.  
- *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*
Jesus’ View of Children

“Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. . . . And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying hands on them.”

Luke 18:16
Jesus’ View of Children

“A child is the greatest in the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 18:3
Each child is made in God’s image and destined for immortality!

Genesis 1:26
Psalm 8:4-6

This is the central doctrine of Christianity!

Brazilian children
God made me special, 
Like no one else you see. 
He made me a witness 
To His diversity. 
God made me for His purpose. 
He fashioned me to be 
An image for His glory, 
Almighty Father He!
Each child is ennobled with dignity and worth!

Genesis 1:26-27
God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance.

1 Samuel 16:7
In the eyes of God, all children are equal. Each has inalienable rights.

Kenyan school children.
Each is imputed with independent value apart from his station in life and his abilities!
Each child has ‘internal property’ that must be carefully stewarded for God’s purposes:

- Heart
- Conscience
- Mind
- Will
- Reason
- Imagination
- Character
- Giftings
- Temperament
- Attitudes
- Ideas

*Dominican Republic schoolboy*
Each child is fashioned by God for an appointed time and place in history.

Acts 17:24-27
Jeremiah 1:5-6

Bolivian school children...
History is Christ
HIS Story.

God uses individuals and nations to forward the Gospel and liberty.
God has a plan for each child: To prosper and not harm; to give each a future and a hope!

Psalm 139; Jeremiah 29:11
## Two Views of Education

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<tr>
<th>View of the Child:</th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Transformational</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blank slate; Empty; Few gifted &amp; talented</td>
<td>Full; Made in God’s image; Each creative &amp; gifted</td>
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<tr>
<th>Goal:</th>
<th>Behavior modification</th>
<th>Transformed heart</th>
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<th>Spirit of Learning:</th>
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<th>Transformational</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dependent; Leveled; Consumers of facts</td>
<td>Independent; Productive; Masters of subjects</td>
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<th>Methods:</th>
<th>Appeal to the external; Entertain and control</th>
<th>Appeal to internal; Inspire and consecrate</th>
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<th>Curriculum:</th>
<th>Dumbed down; Piecemeal; Driven by information</th>
<th>Elevated; Whole; Taught by principles</th>
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| Result: | Socialization of the child | Attainment of the child’s full potential in Christ |
As a child, Jesus developed wholistically.

The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:40

When He became twelve, they went to Jerusalem at Passover. . .
After three days, they found Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking questions.

Luke 2:46

He continued in subjection to them [His parents] . . .
And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:51-52
Every child thirsts for living water and hungers for truth and beauty.

God promises to satisfy the thirsty soul and fill it with what is good!

Psalm 107:9
What is your vision for this rising generation?

I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me, and about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work.

Nehemiah 2:18

Kenyan high school students
He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God, and not forget the works of God.

Psalm 78:5-7

We must teach God’s Word to the next generation!
Resources

Photographs:
1. Food for the Hungry International
2. “Nino Pastor”: PROMPERU photographer, Domingo Giribaldi
3. African Mafa: www.jesusmafa.com
4. “Painting of Jesus with Children: www.paintedlight.com
5. Elizabeth Youmans, Ethiopia photographs
6. Rubens Cartaxo, AMO Pilot Project, Parnamirim, Brasil

Books: