



# EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/SEPTEMBER 2013

## Matthew 18:3-10

[3] [Jesus] said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

### IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO...

[5] "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, [6] but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. [7] "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! [8] And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. [9] And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. [10] "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."



## Receiving Jesus

The spotlight of the world was on Cleveland, Ohio when news broke that Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight had been found—alive. Each of the girls were allegedly kidnapped, over a decade ago, by Ariel Castro, and enslaved in his Seymour Avenue home as their childhoods passed.

"Doesn't He care?" Yet we know from Scripture that God is not absent. He allows things we don't understand, and He cares very, very much about how children are treated.

God knows every detail of every minute Amanda, Gina, and Michelle were enslaved by this stranger, and He knows each child who is sinned against in the middle of night in the "comfort" of their own home.

When faced with the reality of such wickedness many ask, "Where was God?" "Why did He allow this?"



**TEACHING TIP.** Be prepared for the fall semester by making an inventory of the supplies you'll need for the various crafts and lessons. Then take advantage of the bargain, back to school pricing.



**TEACHING TIP.** School isn't easy for everyone. Sometimes kids can face intense pressure in their studies and peer relationships. Remember to intercede for your students and model how to take concerns to the Lord in prayer.



**TEACHING TIP.** We want to wisely build into the lives of our students. If you are using curriculum for your classroom, confirm that the lesson emphasis lines up with the context of Scripture.

In the face of his own oppression, the psalmist David cried, “Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous—you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God! My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.” (Psalm 7:9-11)

## Our God feels indignation every single day.

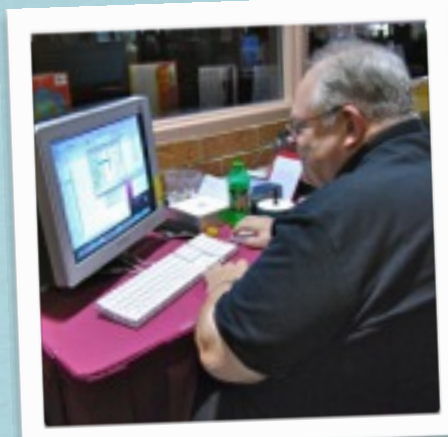
According to Merriam-Webster.com, indignation is “anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean.” Our God feels anger every single day!

David warns, “If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.” (Psalm 7:12-13)

If you are the one out of four women, or the one out of six men who was abused before your eighteenth birthday, God knows, and His indignation burns. Trust that in time He will judge the unrepentant—those who never place their faith in Jesus Christ. But until then, take comfort in the truth that what your abuser meant for evil, God intends to use for your good when you find your rest in Him. (Genesis 50:19, Romans 8:28)

As teachers or clergy we must recognize that most children will never tell us what is happening to them. But by knowing the potential indicators of

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**Bob Baldwin**

*ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U highlights and honors one of our faithful volunteers.*

Dozens of people work quietly behind the scenes during our Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference. One of those volunteers is Bob Baldwin, who serves with ICEA’s Media Ministry. Using his computer skills and love of technology, Bob helps deliver workshop CDs to attendees who want to share ICEA sessions with others. Thanks for serving, Bob!

abuse and neglect, we may hear their silent screams for help and rescue them from a childhood of abuse. We can receive a child in Christ’s name, knowing we are really receiving Him.

The battle is spiritual: Satan hates children. He is the thief who wants to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus loves kids, and the light of His Word brings hope and healing to those oppressed by sin.

God forbid if you are abusing a child—Repent! The evil you are perpetrating is not hidden from His eyes. He knows, yet He is choosing to offer you forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ. Will you receive Jesus today?

### FROM THE EDITOR



Child abuse is a topic that no one enjoys talking about. But for the millions of children suffering worldwide, I thank you for choosing to not close your eyes to the issue.

If you need to learn how to recognize and report child abuse and neglect, make plans to attend the October 19 workshop at the Equipping U Church Ministries training conference or check out the helpful resources at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov).

Serving with U,

Kimberly von Oeyen  
EquippingU@iceaOnline.org

### REGISTER TODAY & SAVE!

September 27 is the last day to receive \$35 early bird registration for the October 19 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference at Ward Church in Northville, MI. Register today and save! [www.iceaOnline.org](http://www.iceaOnline.org).

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### CONTRIBUTORS

Writer  
Kimberly von Oeyen

Photographers  
Sheri Dillon  
Pat Kush

istockphoto from:  
Gerville  
fstop123  
fatihhoca