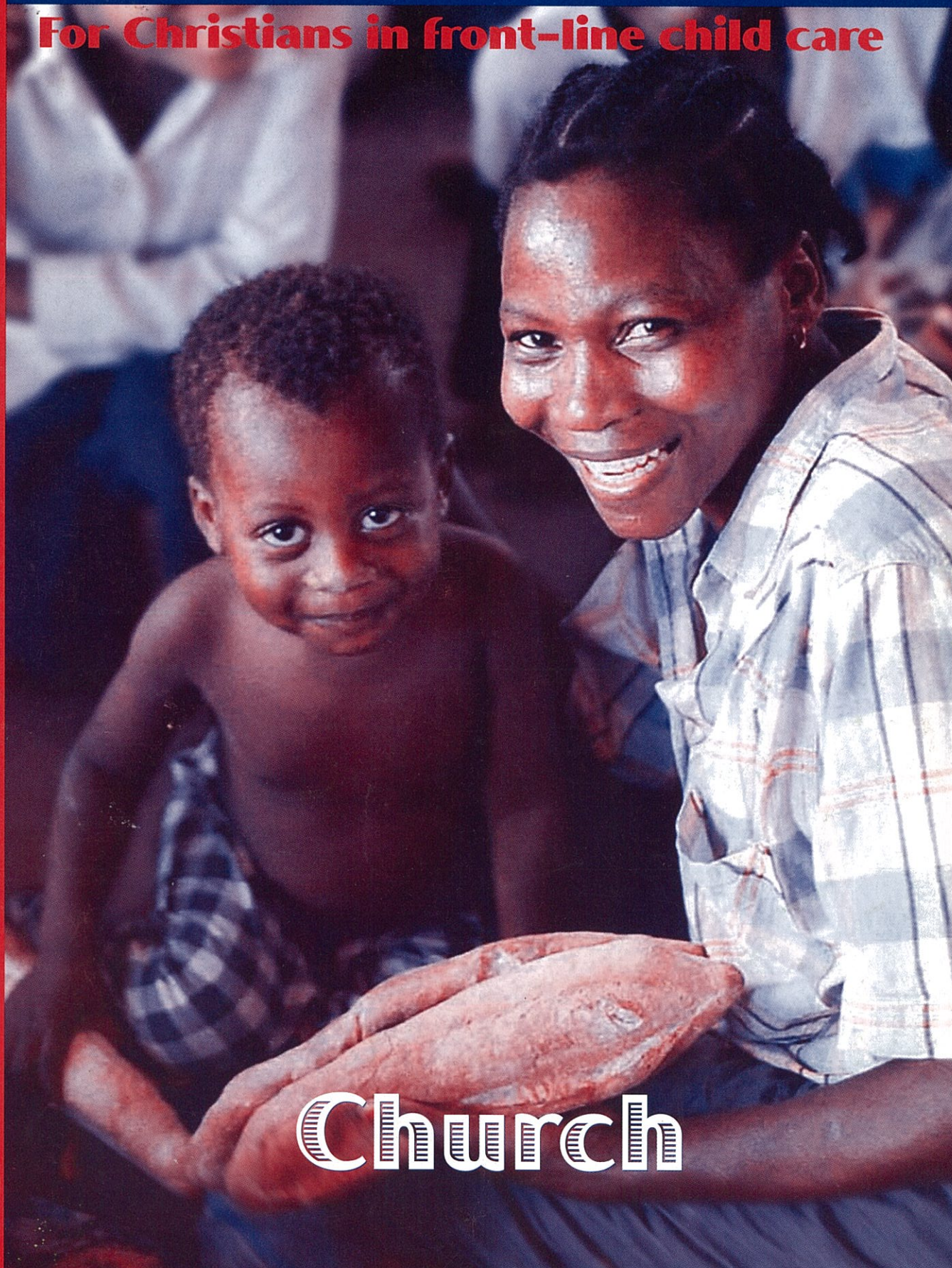


REACHING

Children at Risk

For Christians in front-line child care



Church

Listening to Children

Glenn Miles

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Photos by Glenn Miles

Children



This is the Chak Angre 'Discovery Group' in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Most of the children are not Christians but they have been regularly attending a Bible study using a newly developed culturally appropriate illustrated Bible study series called 'Discovery'. They agreed to be interviewed in a group by Romanear, the youth leader pictured here.



This is Nary, who is 13 years old.

Romanear: What do you think about Religion?

Nary: Religion is about respecting/obeying God.

Romanear: How can religion help us?

Nary: Religion shows us the good way to be. It is a good way of doing things.



This is Srosh, who is 12 years old.

Romanear: What do you think about religion?

Srosh: Religion is good deeds – a good way of doing things.

Romanear: What can Christians do to help cure the world from the bad deeds?

Srosh: They can listen to the pastors to avoid [the] evil spirit and change the heart. We have to obey God in our heart and not allow the evil spirit to make bad things or destroy people in the world.



This is Rith.

Romanear: How can religion help us?

Rith: Religion can help to increase our dignity.

Romanear: How does Buddhism differ from Christianity?

Rith: Buddhism only gives and teaches instructions. Christianity and Buddhism are the same because they are all good but I think Jesus is the best.



The children's answers are quite revealing about their understanding up to the current time. These insights will help Romanear to know how to proceed. Churches need to listen to children to understand what they already know and where the gaps are.