

BB International Projects

COMMUNITY



me and my world



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



15 minutes

Aim: To alert the boys to the difficulties faced by many BB boys in different countries, and to give them an overview of the ways in which the BB as a whole helps. Also, ways in which they can relate the difficulties in different countries to those faced were they live.

Start by explaining to the boys about the different projects that have been run by The Boys' Brigade in previous years, such as the 'Raw Deal', 'On The Edge' and 'Un:covered'. Obviously in years to come other projects will be undertaken and these may be of relevance to the boys.

Discussion:

Through this discussion topic try and understand the boys' opinions on the meaning of the word poverty. Possibly beforehand read out a simple dictionary definition of what poverty means and let them try and derive from that their own opinions on poverty and what it entails.

Game-what do they mean?

The structure is a basic "yes" or "no" game. Divide the room into two parts and ask the boys to go to whichever part they feel is the right answer. If there is confusion, briefly discuss why people were unsure and then clarify the point. One or two of the last ones are a bit ambiguous. Use them if you think your boys will benefit from the challenge, don't bother if it will just confuse them! The comments below are just a few ideas. Anything else you can think of your boys will understand in distinguishing between things that are unfair to them, and what is really unfair, is great!

Ask the following questions:

1. Does poverty mean you cannot watch TV when you want to?
2. Does poverty mean that you don't get pocket money every week?
3. Does poverty mean you get sick because you don't have enough to eat?
4. Does poverty mean you have to go to school?
5. Does poverty mean you do badly at school because you have no books?
6. Does poverty mean you cannot afford to go to see the doctor if you are ill?
7. Is it hard to escape from poverty?
8. Is poverty your fault?

The BB in different countries works as hard as it can to eliminate poverty among children. One example of this comes from the 'On The Edge' project from its time looking into the work in Jamaica.

Jamaica is a country not immediately associated with poverty, more with golden sandy beaches and exclusive golf courses. Once the surface is scratched it is a country that is filled with unemployment for many people, especially young people who leave school with little or no qualifications. This leaves many young people no option but to use crime as a source of income. Many years ago this problem was highlighted by BB members and brought to the attention of the World Conference in the late 1970's. They realised that the best way for the BB to help the development of young boys was to offer them a place in which they could learn more useful and vocational trades. For Jamaica this meant training in such areas as car mechanics and carpentry. These were trades that had traditionally been passed down through

generations and never taught afresh. So they set up such a project in Jamaica. Workshops where boys could come and be taught. New skills were created and new and skilled teachers were recruited. Although this seems a long time ago this is still a project that runs in Jamaica and it still produces skilled young men who can provide a living for themselves.

The best route for many of our boys to understand the way boys in different countries live is for them to communicate directly. It may be an idea if the boys are willing and able to carry it out to obtain a pen friend from a different country, A quick search on the internet can bring up details for BB contacts in many different countries.

On the BBUK website (www.boys-brigade.org.uk) there is an International section which has resources and links to the website of BB companies around the world.

Also the 'Global Fellowship of Christian Youth' has a website at: www.globalfellowship.net.