



JEDIDIAH

Empowering Lives And
Building Broken Dreams



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VOLUME 1 Issue 1

NEWSLETTER



VISION STATEMENT

Empowering Lives and building broken dreams

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering and promoting the success of children and their caregivers who have been negatively impacted by parental incarceration.

VALUES

- > Acceptance
- > Forgiveness
- > Equality



WHO WE ARE

Jedidiah Trust seeks to interrupt intergenerational incarceration and provide opportunities for children with incarcerated parents (COIP) to receive support they need to develop into healthy, productive and successful members of society. We endeavour to reconnect children with their imprisoned parents, create positive memories and moments for the children and facilitate increased likelihood of successful reunification. Also, Jedidiah Trust seeks to mitigate childhood trauma and stigma, and overcome antisocial behaviours caused by the arrest of and, separation from parents by engaging various stakeholders, social services and the public in understanding the children's needs.



LET'S INTERACT!



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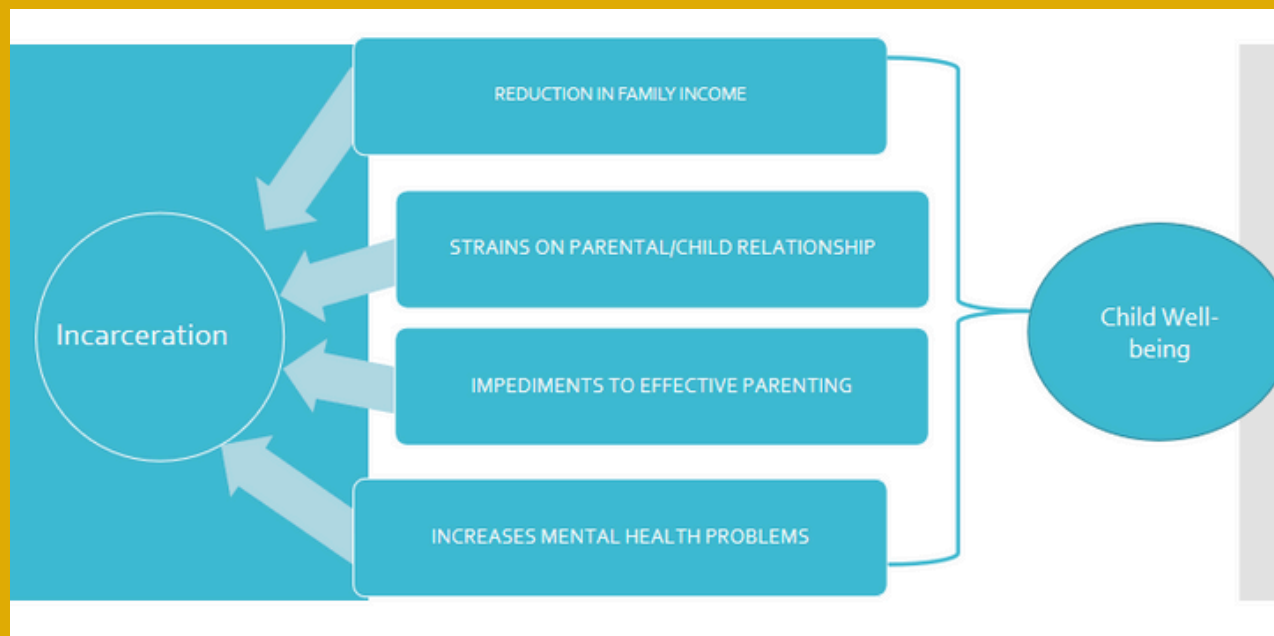
Children who know their parents are in prison are often ashamed of this fact. Some families find this situation so shameful that they do not tell children where their parents are or to explain the situation to them. This often leads to feelings of fear, confusion, abandonment and low self-worth. And, it's not hard to understand why children feel ashamed of their parent's incarceration, as well as worried about what might be happening to them. Books, TV, movies and media all portray prisons as scary places and inmates as 'bad people'. Cops and robbers' toys or games also contribute to stigma. Sayings like 'the apple doesn't fall far from the tree' and questions about what parents do for a living also make these children uncomfortable. Lets all work together to help them!

Our newsletter series aims to introduce the public to the many challenges of working with this key population and to provide the public with information on how to assist children and families separated by incarceration. There are two types of children with parents in prison and these are children that stay with their mothers in prison and those that are left behind. As Jedidiah, we work with both sets of children providing psychosocial support, educational support, economic strengthening and family reunification. We also work with the incarcerated parents such that they can better support their children once released as well as the caregivers left behind with the children to offer a holistic family approach to the child.



Reunion of Mother and child at
Chikurubi Female Prison

**IMPACT OF INCARCERATION ON
CHILDREN**





Jedidiah event in Norton graced by various dignitaries !



POEM CORNER!

Children in Prison

In the shadows of the prison walls,
Where freedom seems so far away,
A child sits and dreams of open halls,
Of endless skies and sunny days.

Her mother's there, behind the bars,
A captive of the world she knows,
But still she dreams of open stars,
Of flowers and fields and gentle blows.

For though the world may be unkind,
And though their days may seem so dark,
Their dreams remain, and in their mind,
The hope of freedom lights a spark.

And so they wait, with patient heart,
For the day when they'll be free,
When they can fly, and play, and start
A life that's filled with liberty.

For though the prison walls are high,
And though they seem to hold them tight,
Their spirits soar, and they defy
The chains that bind them day and night.

And so they dream of better days,
Of open skies and sun-kissed seas,
Of life that's free from darkened ways,
And filled with joy and endless ease.

So let us stand with open hearts,
And fight to break these prison bars,
And give these children a fresh start,
A life that's free, beneath the stars.

Extracted from Dertli Bulbul

How many children are affected by parental incarceration?

Unfortunately, we don't know for sure. There may be as many as 46000 or more children with incarcerated parents in Zimbabwe during any given year. It's not possible to know for sure how many impacted children live in our community, though we can look for indicators to locate them. (World Prison Brief)

Why are those problems different than other children?

Mostly, it comes down to two things: trauma and deprivation. Children do not have the physical or mental maturity to cope with their situation or to change anything about how or where they live. They have suffered great instability at a young age. They need help. If they don't get it, the negative impacts are lifelong. If they do, studies from other countries show that they are able to become resilient and live positive lives.



Social Work for children of incarcerated parents

By Becy Machoko

As a qualified social worker and counsellor, who has been working with Jedidiah Trust for the past three years, there are a lot of challenges that the children we work with face in their daily lives. Social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversities are central to the social work profession. For me, steps that I found that have assisted me and still assist me in conducting my work are as follows; As a social worker, I first had to understand and acknowledge my own feelings about incarcerated parents and how I was going to work with them and help them. There is need to then explain the stages of grief to the child in an age-appropriate way and alleviate the child's uncertainty. From the therapeutic group sessions we have been holding with children, they often ask why their parent did what they did, what has happened and when they will see their parent again, what will happen next, and more many questions

I ensure that I answer all these questions as honestly and as best as I can and I reassure and ensure that it is not the child's fault that the parent is incarcerated. The bond and connection that the child has with their parent should always be preserved to ensure a smooth re-integration process. Regardless of the parent's past actions, he or she plays a central role in the child's world and influences their well-being and future development. It is essential to maintain this connection by every means possible, including visits, mail, and phone calls.

I would like to invite more colleagues, social workers, counsellors, development practitioners, psychologists to partner with Jedidiah to understand these children and better understand their needs so as to better prepare them for life. We must all work hard to break the cycle of children following their parents to prison. I believe it can be done. !



Becy Machoko
Bsc Honors Social Work
Systematic Family Counsellor

We would love to hear from you!

We would appreciate any comments or feedback about our program.



If you would like to comment about something that appears in this or any other issue of Jedidiah Newsletter, or advertise with us, please do so!

Address your comments to: The Editor
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(be sure to put "Newsletter comment" of the subject line for us to respond to you faster!)

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