

DUNCAN DYASON MBE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Duncan Dyason MBE was born in Canterbury in 1960 and, due to various factors, had to relocate every two to three years, which impacted his education and early life choices.

Duncan's book, *Miracle Children*, tells the story of how his life quickly led to crime in his teenage years and then to drinking heavily and eventually to attempting suicide.

His life changed when he was 21 as he cried out to God and sought help in his desperation.

Soon after becoming a Christian and dedicating his life to God, Duncan began working with young people at Christchurch in Tunbridge Wells, and he felt a particular call to help children and youth who, like him, had faced or were struggling with life's challenges. Duncan knew in 1981 that his life would now be committed to championing the cause of children and young people who were on the margins of society.

In 1994, Duncan studied a youth work and theology degree at Moorlands College in Dorset. It was there that his passion for mission began as he helped initiate a mission project to help the struggling church in Poland. The early trips were fraught with danger as he and his friends had to smuggle in Bibles and medical supplies through communist East Germany and saw firsthand the miraculous protection of God in getting all supplies through to the Christian church in Poland.



YOUTH WORK & MISSION TO AT-RISK KIDS

In 1992, Duncan watched a TV documentary on BBC Everyman entitled "They Shoot Children Don't They?". The programme presented a significant challenge, which led Duncan and his wife, Jenni, to move to Guatemala City, Guatemala, in 1992 after founding The Toybox Charity.

Duncan began working on the streets of Guatemala City, where an estimated 5,000 children and youth were living on the streets. The early days were very difficult for Duncan, who received death threats and learned the bitter reality of those children on the streets, so many of whom he had to bury after being killed by police, private security forces or found themselves in the midst of gang wars on the streets.

In 2000, Duncan parted from Toybox Charity and founded Street Kids Direct, a unique online charity that guarantees 100% of all donations go directly to the project the charity partners with.

Duncan continues to live and work in Guatemala with high-risk children and youth, and has volunteered with the SKDGuatemala project to date, a charity he founded to help reach children living on the streets and to impact the lives of high-risk children who are at risk of street life.

The specialist mentoring programme Duncan developed after three years of research has helped prevent many at-risk children from viewing street life as an option. The mentoring programme has also been implemented in Honduras, where a mentoring centre has been established and now supports over 65 at-risk children.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

In 1998, Duncan's book, *Miracle Children*, was published and was awarded Christian Book of the Year in the United Kingdom by Hodder & Stoughton at the Christian Booksellers Convention.

In 2002, Duncan received the Paul Harris Fellow award from The Rotary Foundation, sponsored by the Great Missenden Rotary Club, for his work in Guatemala.

On the 13th of January 2015, Duncan moved back to live full-time in Guatemala after taking time out in the UK for his degree in International Development. Over the next three years, Duncan researched, wrote, and published the *Street Kids Direct Mentoring Manual* to train volunteer mentors in reaching children at high risk of entering street life.

In August 2017, Duncan embarked on the first Camino por Amor (Walking for Love) sponsored walk from Costa Rica to Guatemala City. The walk was the first of many and the longest he has achieved to date, walking 750 miles in three weeks.

In 2017, Duncan was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen, and this was presented to him by the then Prince Charles. The honour was sponsored by the British Ambassador to Guatemala, Carolyn Davidson, and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, in recognition of his work over 25 years on the streets of Guatemala City, and for his role in reducing the number of children on the streets from 5,000 in 1991 to zero.

The Guatemalan Municipal Government acknowledged Duncan's work as a street worker in 2017 when the City Mayor and his wife welcomed Duncan to the city after his sponsored walk from San Jose, Costa Rica to Guatemala. Municipal police met Duncan on the outskirts of Guatemala City and provided him with a police escort to the city centre, where he was greeted by city officials and the press, and was also accompanied by British Ambassadors Carolyn Davidson and Tom Carter.

CONTACT

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PUBLICATIONS & APPEARANCES

Duncan has been featured or appeared in the following:

- BBC Songs of Praise
- The Daily Express, February 1993
- Ripon Gazette, September 1993
- Bedworth Echo, October 1993
- Reading Evening Post, May 1994
- GODTV, 1995
- Kent & Sussex Courier, December 1995
- Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail, May 1996
- Leighton Buzzard Observer and Linslade Gazette, September 1997
- Gloucestershire Echo, March 1998
- West Sussex Gazette, October 1998
- Premier Radio, 1998
- Littlehampton Gazette, June 1999
- Matlock Mercury, November 1999
- Wolverhampton Express & Star, March 2000
- Dudley & District Chronicle, September 2000
- Crosby Herald, March 2001
- Hemel Hempstead Gazette, March 2001
- Newry Reporter, April 2001
- Belfast News, May 2001
- Diocese of Oxford, September 2021
- Inspired Podcast with Simon Guillebaud, [July 2022](#)
- The Forge, [August 2024](#)
- Inspired Stories of adventure, risk-taking & God's faithfulness, by Simon Guillebaud (Book), [July 2025](#)
- New Life, New Life Publishing, [Autumn 2026](#)
- God Reports, [July 2026](#)