## Forces

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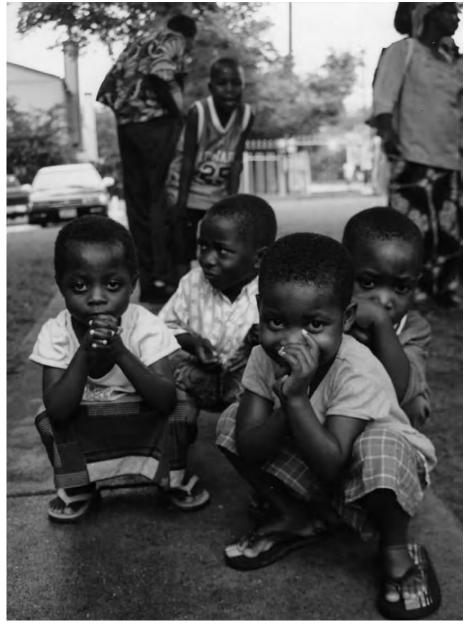
Stephanie Kelly

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Photography Stephanie Kelly



## Trust

Beth Turner Ayers

Powerful words have purpose. They are written and spoken aloud. They pass through time and time again Until the meaning may be muddled, Twisted into contradiction.

Consider the shepherd. Keeper of the flock, Vigilant always, Watching for danger, Eyes and ears alert,

Guiding with the staff, Ready to defend With the rod. To protect. Not harm.

Not hit

In a futile effort to teach. Spare the rod and spoil the child. It has been written and read, Used to justify the unjust.

Guidance. Safety. The truest goals. Protect the child from harm. Deliver defense. Misuse the shepherd's tools And trust is all that spoils.