

40 — DAYS

prayer for Africa's orphaned

MARCH 1 - APRIL 9

play your part to bring hope

March 1st: Ask God for His hand in your prayer time over the next forty days. Ask God to break your heart as His is broken for the poor and orphaned in Africa. *Psalm 10:14 – “But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it and take it in hand. The helpless put their trust in you; you defend the orphans.”*

March 2nd: Pray that the hearts of churches and believers will be stirred to stand against injustice to the vulnerable. Ask God to reveal His heart of caring for the orphaned and vulnerable to the church. Pray for an opportunity for you to help spread this message. *Isaiah 58:6-7 – “What I’m interested in seeing you do is to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, set the oppressed free... sharing your food with the hungry and providing the poor wanderer with shelter.”*

March 3rd: Pray for those who are serving vulnerable children in Africa. Ask God to comfort them as they comfort others. Thank God for what He has done in their lives, and express your gratitude for their willingness to be His servant. Pray specifically for anyone you know who is serving in this way.

March 4th: Today, pray specifically for families and households living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Pray for supernatural peace that comes from the Lord, and that His will be done in these homes. Pray for the parents who may not live to see their child grow up.

March 5th: Pray that God washes over Africa with a sense of peace. Pray that He quiet any violence, and that His presence be known throughout the continent. Pray that the war torn communities such as those in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo be bound together by His love. Pray specifically for the children who are forced to be child soldiers. Ask God to bring them release, and to heal their emotional and mental wounds.

March 6th: Today, pray specifically for the young vulnerable girls in Mozambique. Pray especially for those living around the Beira Corridor, a trucking route between Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and a hotspot for the spread of HIV/AIDS, prostitution, child trafficking and violence. Pray that God raises up more people to “speak up on behalf of the voiceless and stand up for the cause of the destitute” (*Proverbs 31:8*).

March 7th: Today, ask the Lord to raise up workers for the harvest from your church and community. Ask Him to call Christians to go to the “fields of the fatherless” to experience the joy of caring for orphans as we are commanded in *Isaiah 1:16-17* “*Give up your wicked ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows.*”

March 8th: Today, pray for the children in the slums of Lagos, Nigeria who are forced to forego their education and become modern-day child slaves. Pray that God have a hand in their future; that they may be found and advocates would act on their behalf.

March 9th: Pray for the thousands of children who will become AIDS orphans today. Pray that they will be granted an opportunity to properly grieve the loss of their parents and that they will experience freedom in it and will walk forward into life with minimal scars.

March 10th: Today, pray for the poor, isolated communities living in the hills of Swaziland; that they will hear the good news God has for them. Pray for more care workers for the 100 thousand orphaned children who live there, and pray for the church in Swaziland to band together and care for their children.

March 11th: Pray for the local Christian volunteers in Africa who are caring for children who would otherwise have no hope. Pray for strength, wisdom and encouragement as they go out today and share the love of Christ with children under their care. Pray over their families and their futures, that all their needs may be met and thank Him for softening their hearts to bring about His purpose.

March 12th: Pray for the widows of Africa who must face their situation with increased vulnerability. Pray for strength and comfort in their times of trouble, and ask for provision for them and their families. Pray that He will arise more citizens with hearts like that of Dorcus, the widow, who, even in her need, found it in her heart to give what she could to others. (*Acts 9:36-42*)

March 13th: Today, pray for yourself and the other prayer team members. Ask the Lord for strength. Ask Him to help you not grow weary in battling for the orphans on your knees.

March 14th: Pray for young teenage mothers of South Africa, many of whom are orphaned themselves and do not have the privilege of a parent to guide them in the ways they must go. Pray that God will be their hope and their guide as they raise the next generation of South Africans.

March 15th: Pray for the doctors and nurses in the overcrowded clinics in Africa. Pray that God will work in their minds, hearts and their hands to bring Him glory, and to serve those who need it the most. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they meet with their patients today. Pray that God gives them an opportunity today to take special notice and care for an orphaned child.

March 16th: Pray for all Non-Governmental Organizations currently working in Africa. Pray that God will provide the necessary resources, people and ideas for them to carry out His perfect purpose for the vulnerable.

March 17th: Pray for the orphan-headed households today. These are children that must raise their younger siblings, foregoing their own childhood when circumstances leave them no choice. Pray that God guide these children as they raise their siblings, and that He will provide a strength to them that cannot be found on Earth. Pray for resources, comfort and an undeniable feeling of acceptance and love from God the Father to the fatherless (*Psalm 68:5*).

March 18th: Pray specifically for the vulnerable children of Zambia. Pray that they may be given a place where they can forget about the responsibilities and needs they have at home, a safe place where they can play and laugh with their friends. Pray for more people to be exposed to the needs of these children.

March 19th: Pray for vulnerable families that will struggle to get clean water today. Pray for their health and for safety as they walk long distances to haul water. Pray that the hearts of those who can provide will be stirred, and that they will be able to provide refreshment not only for their physical thirst but also for their spiritual thirst.

March 20th: Pray for the grandmothers of Africa today. Many are tired and overwhelmed by their burdens, often taking on the task of caring for their children's orphaned children. Pray especially that God will be their strength and security. Pray that "though outwardly they are wasting away, inwardly they are being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16)

March 21st: Today, ask the Lord to help your church be an example of the Lord's love for orphans as written in Psalm 10:17-18 - *"The helpless put their trust in You. You are the defender of orphans. Lord, You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely You will listen to their cries and comfort them. You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so people can no longer terrify them."*

March 22nd: Pray for homes in Malawi suffering from HIV/AIDS, as 18 percent of children in Malawi are living with positive parents. The trauma of having an ill parent has an impact on their physical and emotional development, even more than children who have no parents at all, according to statistics. Pray that they will have peace about their situation and that other Christians will come alongside to support their family and help carry their burdens.

March 23rd: Thank God for raising up Christian leaders all over the world to bring hope to the hopeless. Express your gratitude for the hope that He has provided to children being loved by care workers, for the families He has touched, and the hearts that He has moved to compassion for their suffering.

March 24th: Today, pray for the poor and vulnerable in Zimbabwe, officially the world's poorest country. Pray that they may experience economical freedom as a nation; that new businesses and opportunities may arise for the poorest people. Pray that no child may be put in harms way due to a lack of food.

March 25th: Today, pray that God would break the heart of your city's pastors with the plight of orphaned children. Ask that He would convict them to lead their churches to pray, go, and love in Jesus' name.

March 26th: Pray for yourself today. Ask God to reveal to you how you can stand up for the injustices in Africa. Ask Him to help you be an example of His love for these children, to whomever and wherever you live. Jeremiah 22:16 - *"He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well."*

March 27th: Pray for generosity worldwide; that people will embody the scripture "*He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord*" (Proverbs 19:17)

March 28th: Pray for the government leaders of Africa. Pray that their hearts will be full of compassion for the people that they lead and that their minds will be guarded from corruption. Ask God to reveal the part He is calling them to play to relieve people from their burdens of poverty.

March 29th: Today, pray for vulnerable commercial sex-trade workers in Nigeria, many of whom are forced into this work in order to provide food for their children. Pray for caregivers and counsellors who will support these children and their mothers. Pray that the children of these workers will be guarded from any form of evil.

March 30th: Pray for anyone who has caused destruction or harm to vulnerable children, whether it be on account of greed, corruption or vulnerability themselves. Ask for God's hand in their lives. Ask God to guard their hearts from evil, and ask Him to reveal Himself to them so that they may one day change their lives and testify His beautiful grace.

March 31st: Pray for those who are currently considering serving the hungry and afflicted. Pray that God will guide them so that they will fulfill the mandate in Isaiah 58:10 - *"If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like noonday."*

April 1st: Today, ask Him to continue to challenge the hearts of your congregation that, *"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done."* (Proverbs 19:17)

April 2nd: Today, pray for those who mentor and teach orphans. Because orphans do not have parents, volunteers must do much of the basic work of caring for, teaching, guiding, and loving them. Ask God to bless these workers and relationships they are building with the orphans. Ask that He would convict more of His followers to help serve the orphans in their communities.

April 3rd: Pray for those who have been physically, psychologically or sexually abused in Africa that they may be given an opportunity to heal. Pray that they will experience serenity today, and that any feelings of hurt, regret or suffering would be released to God to be washed away by His grace.

April 4th: Today, pray for the school children in Africa. Pray that they will have all they need to continue school this year. Pray that their minds be clear and free of anything that will hinder their learning.

April 5th: Pray for those in Africa who are attending the funerals of their parents today. Pray that they would experience God's unexplainable comfort. Pray that they will find rest in Him and that they might be granted an opportunity to properly grieve and find healing.

April 6th: Today, pray for an opportunity to give to someone in need. Luke 14:12-14 "Then Jesus said: 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

April 7th: Today, pray for street children. These children live under bushes and in dumps and sewage pipes. They may eat meals out of trash cans. Many people walk by them without seeing them or view them as pests. Ask God to open the community's eyes to help them see the orphans all around them. Ask the Lord to provide food and shelter for the street children.

April 8th: Today, pray specifically for any orphans you may know, by name. Pray for their health and safety. Pray for their shelter. Pray that they will be brought into loving families who will provide for their education.

April 9th: Thank God for the past forty days of prayer. Ask Him to help you continue to be faithful in prayer for Africa's vulnerable, and that He will give you His heart for the orphaned all over the world.

