

40 Days of Prayer for Orphan Care



Hands at Work
A F R I C A

In preparation for our four regional conferences this year, Hands at Work in Africa invites you to join us on a 40 day journey in prayer starting Monday, March 15. Stand with us in prayer as we wait on the Lord with joyous anticipation! Please keep in mind our conference theme, **NOW IS THE TIME TO LIVE IT OUT**, "so that the poor have hope and injustice shuts its mouth" Job 5:16

March 15, 2010

1) Today, pray that the Lord would give you a personal sense of responsibility for the next 40 days (and beyond) for praying for orphans, your pastor, your church, and your community. Ask Him to break your heart for the orphans. Ask that He would help you to see orphans with His eyes and His heart. Ask Him to use this 40 days of prayer to change you and your church.

March 16, 2010

2) Today, pray for your Pastor to have guidance and provision as he seeks to follow the Lord's commands to care for the orphans.

March 17, 2010

3) Today, ask God that of the 2 billion Christians in the world, 7% would show hope to a single orphan, looking after the child in their distress... Ask the Lord to convict the church around the world that if we did this, there would effectively be no more orphans. Ask the Lord to show each of His followers that we can each do something.

March 18, 2010

4) Today, ask the Lord to help your church congregation to feel His heart for the orphans as seen in Psalm 68:5-6. "A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families..."

March 19, 2010

5) Today, pray for the orphaned children in your community. Ask the lord to protect them and to care for them and to defend them and keep them safe.

March 20, 2010

6) Today, ask the Lord to help your church family to live out Proverbs 31:8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

March 21, 2010

7) Today, thank the Lord in advance for all that He is going to do to bring glory to His name in your church and community. Thank Him for the care He is going to provide for orphans through your church.

March 22, 2010

8) Today, pray to "the Lord of the harvest" (Matt. 9:38) to send laborers to the harvest from your church and community. Ask Him to call Christians to go to the "fields of the fatherless" (Proverbs 23:10) to experience the joy of caring for orphans as we are commanded in Isaiah a: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 23, 2010

9) Today, pray that because of God's mercy, He will provide caregivers and counselors for children who have been abused. Also pray for the extremely vulnerable children of commercial sex workers that they will be cared for

*March 24, 2010

10) Today, pray for the start of the South Africa/Swaziland conference. Pray that God would be present and that we would stay focused on His agenda.

*March 25, 2010

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

*March 26, 2010

12) Today, pray that God, the Defender of the orphan, will rise up and secure justice for the oppressed.

*March 27, 2010

13) Today, ask the Lord to lead the lawmakers in every nation to protect and provide for orphans.

March 28, 2010

14) Today, pray that your whole congregation will believe and be convicted by Proverbs 22:9 "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." Ask for the Lord's blessings on those who share their food with orphans.

March 29, 2010

15) Today, pray for yourself as a church member. Ask the Lord to lead you on, that you might walk in obedience. Ask God to show you how to encourage your church family or youth to care for the needs of orphans.

March 30, 2010

16) Today, ask the Father to set the lonely in families. Pray specifically for families in your community who may be in the process of adopting an orphan. Ask for God's provision for all of their needs; physical, emotional, and spiritual.

March 31, 2010

17) Today, ask for forgiveness for Christians around the world who forget the orphans and forget to heed 1 John 3:17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

April 01, 2010

18) Today, ask the Lord to raise up respite care providers to support and give relief to the caregivers caring for orphans who are waiting to have families adopt them.

April 02, 2010

19) Today, pray for your Pastor. Ask God to provide him with resources, encouragement, courage, and a strong prayer team to support him as he seeks to live out James 1:27 "Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us."

April 03, 2010

20) Today, pray that the Christians in your village, town, city, and country would believe and live out the truth of Proverbs 14:31 "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but who ever is kind to the needy honors God."

April 04, 2010

21) Today, pray for Government leaders in your country...Ask the Lord to burden their hearts for the orphans. Ask that they would feel compelled to protect and provide for orphans.

April 05, 2010

22) Today, pray for families who have members with AIDS, pray for the victims themselves, pray for the children orphaned by this disease. Ask God to look with mercy and compassion on these victims.

April 06, 2010

23) Today, ask the Lord to strengthen the faith and resolve of Christians working in orphan ministries.

April 07, 2010

24) Today, pray for any church staff members and leaders. Ask for the Lord's hand of blessing on their lives. Lift up the health and safety of them and their families. Ask also that the Lord would break their hearts for the orphans in your community.

April 08, 2010

25) Today, pray for God's provision for your church's orphan care ministry. Ask Him to provide people and prayers and money and food and supplies to give the orphans all the care they need.

April 09, 2010

26) Today pray for children who are not yet orphans but may only have one parent who may be sick or dying. Pray for the health and safety of their parent. Pray for God's provision. Pray for protection for the children in these households. Pray for strength and resilience through this difficult season.

April 10, 2010

27) Today, ask God to care for child-headed households. Pray that the Lord will provide for their needs. Pray that an adult would come alongside them to help protect them. Ask the Lord to protect them from abuse.

April 11, 2010

28) Today, pray for families who are taking care of their grandchildren or nieces or nephews in addition to their own children. Ask the Lord to bless them for their sacrifice and to provide enough food, clothes, education, and shelter for their own children as well as their family members' children.

April 12, 2010

29) Today, pray for mothers and fathers who might be having trouble caring for their children and feel they need to give them up or abandon them. Ask God to help them find support. Ask the lord to meet them in their time of need and give the courage and resources to be able to take care of their children.

April 13, 2010

30) Today, ask God to protect children affected by war and violent conflicts. Pray that the Lord will protect their vulnerable hearts to keep them safe. Specifically for the Hands family in Nigeria that they would be kept safe through this religious conflict.

April 14, 2010

31) Today, pray for families in countries all over the world who have room in their homes and hearts for a fatherless child. Ask that the Lord would be speaking to their hearts even now, leading them to consider adopting an orphan.

**April 15, 2010

32) Today, pray that every member of your church would remember and acknowledge and praise the Lord that before the world was made, He loved us and chose us, and that His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ and that this gave Him great pleasure. (Ephesians 1:3-5)

**April 16, 2010

33) 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."

**April 17, 2010

34) 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.

**April 18, 2010

35) Today, ask the Lord to encourage and strengthen your pastor, church missionaries, staff of Hands at Work and any volunteers involved in caring for orphans. Caring for orphans and changing attitudes and beliefs is tough work, and the enemy is bound to attack. Ask for protection for them, their families, their health, and their ministry. Ask for God's hand of blessing on their lives.

April 19, 2010

36) 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.

April 20, 2010

37) 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 21, 2010

38) 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 (specifically for Eric and the Hands street children work in DRC).

***April 22, 2010

39) Today, pray for the health of orphans around the world. Ask the Lord to provide medications and treatment for the simple things that are unnecessarily killing children like unclean drinking water, malaria, dysentery, AIDS, and malnutrition.

***April 23, 2010

40) Today, thank the Lord for the past 40 days of prayer for orphans. Ask Him to bring more prayer warriors into the battle. Ask Him to help you continue praying diligently. Ask Him to continue to give you His love for the orphans. 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

Thank you for joining us on this journey! Please continue to pray for the orphaned, that God would stir more hearts willing to serve those in need in their communities.

**April 15-18, 2010 Zambia/DRC/Malawi Regional Conference, Luanshya, Zambia

***April 22-25, 2010 Zimbabwe/Mozambique Regional Conference, Mutare, Zimbabwe

May 20-23, 2010 Nigeria Regional Conference, Lagos, Nigeria

