

# 40 DAYS

prayer for Africa's orphaned

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 31

**February 20th:** Ask God to transform your heart over the next 40 days. Read the story of Rimos, a vulnerable child in Zambia. Pray that over the following weeks, God will help you understand the inner pain children like Rimos live with every day. *When the ear heard, it commended me, and when the eye saw, it approved; because I delivered the poor who cried, and the orphan who had no helper - Job 29:11-12*

**February 21st:** Pray that the vision of Hands at Work will echo through churches in Africa and around the world. Ask God to use you to spread our message to believers around you. Ask Him to lead us in helping the church in Africa care for orphans, united with the church outside Africa. *Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son - Acts 20:28*

**February 22nd:** Do you know anyone serving orphans in Africa? Pray for international volunteers today. Pray for those who have answered God's call from around the world to care for orphans. Thank Him for breaking their hearts for the vulnerable, and pray their faith will not be shaken.

**February 23rd:** Pray for the thousands of children who will lose a parent to HIV/AIDS and other illnesses today. Think of children like Rimos and pray that they will have support around them so their inner pain will not endure. Pray for there to be an adult who will continue to care for them.

**February 24th:** Pray for the country of Swaziland, a country that is infamous for having one of the highest percentages of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Ask God to make a way for the thousands of orphans, living in deep rural areas, to be revealed and reached by Care Workers. *Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow - Isaiah 1:17*

**February 25th:** Ask God to heal the orphans who are sick. Pray he will make a way for them to receive medical attention. Pray for the doctors and nurses who are trying to care for the millions of patients across Africa. Ask God to help them heal both the inner and outer wounds of the children they administer treatment to.

**February 26th:** Pray for the thousands of widows in Africa who have grieved the loss of their husbands and wives, and are now caring for orphaned children. Ask God to heal the brokenness within the widows and the children so they can support and love one another and not live in constant grief. *Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation - Psalm 68:5*

**February 27th:** Ask God to rebuild the many families in South Africa who continue to be devastated from the after effects of apartheid. Pray that fathers will be committed to their families and youth will grow up with loving parents who are an example of a marriage based in Christ.

**February 28th:** Today, pray for all Non-Governmental Organizations currently working in Africa. Pray against brokenness in the relationships of those working in the organization. Together, we can all work urgently to help the children of Africa. Pray that God will provide the necessary resources, people and ideas so they can continue

answering His call to care. *I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty - Genesis 45:11*

**March 1st:** Pray for local volunteers in Africa who are caring for children in their own countries. Thank God for their willingness to see that their own people are being oppressed, and for being open to His call to serve them. Pray for their families and their futures, that all their needs may be met and that they will be encouraged as they go out today and share the love of Christ.

**March 2nd:** Pray for child and orphan headed households. These are children that must raise their younger siblings, foregoing their own childhood when circumstances leave them no choice. These children often become desperate in their youth and make devastating life choices. Pray against this darkness - pray for resources, comfort and an undeniable feeling of acceptance and love from God. *I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one - 1 John 2:14*

**March 3rd:** Pray for peace throughout Africa, especially in war torn countries such as DR Congo where the brokenness caused is immeasurable. Pray specifically for the children who are forced to be child soldiers, for the volunteers who risk their lives each day to get food and provisions across borders for the children. Ask God to bring them release, and to heal their emotional and mental wounds.

**March 4th:** Most vulnerable families in Africa do not have easy access to water, especially clean water. Today, pray for their health as they will be drinking infested water. Pray for safety for children as they walk long distances to fetch water through unsafe areas. Ask God to make a way for water to be brought to these communities. *You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from among you - Exodus 23:25*

**March 5th:** Ask God to stir in the hearts of your church and life community. Ask Him to find volunteers amongst them who want to be His willing servants; who want to care for the vulnerable in Africa. Pray they will understand the devastating wounds the children of Africa face, and will feel called to do whatever they can to help.

**March 6th:** Pray for all children attending school throughout Africa. Thank God for those communities that have built Community Schools to provide education for children who would otherwise never be able to attend. Pray they will be able to focus on learning when they face many challenges each day.

**March 7th:** Pray specifically for the vulnerable children of Zambia like Rimos. Read his story again and ask God to heal the many children who live with grief and neglect. Pray they will be healed from the inside out - ask God to make them feel new in Him and His love.

**March 8th:** Millions of families are living with HIV/AIDS throughout Africa. Pray for God to intervene in this devastating disease. Pray for treatment to reach those who need it. Pray for the stigma around the illness to be lifted so more people will seek help, counseling and treatment.

**March 9th:** Pray for people who have brought brokenness into already vulnerable children's lives. Ask God to remove the darkness from their hearts and bring a change in their soul. Pray they will come to know Him and His unending grace. *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you - Matthew 5:44*

**March 10th:** Today, pray for yourself and everyone else praying during 40 Days 2013. Ask the Lord for strength. Ask Him to help you not grow weary in battling for the orphans on your knees. *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress - James 1:27*



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**March 11th:** Pray for the hundreds of Care Workers who will visit orphans in their homes today. Pray that these men and women who love the most vulnerable children will have the endurance to walk long distances each day to the homes of those with no parents. Ask God to rise up more volunteer Care Workers in each country.

**March 12th:** We are called to know orphans by their name. Today, pray for Rimos and any other orphans you know by name. Pray they will have loving families. Pray they will have enough food and shelter. Pray they will be healthy and live a life unhindered by inner pain.

**March 13th:** Ask God to protect the young vulnerable girls in Mozambique. Pray especially for those living around the Beira Corridor, a trucking route between Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe - a hotspot for the spread of HIV/AIDS, prostitution, child trafficking, and violence. *So we prayed to our God, and set a guard as a protection against them day and night - Nehemiah 4:9*

**March 14th:** Pray for government leaders in Africa and around the world. Pray against corruption and greed. Ask God to fill their hearts with compassion for humanity and reveal to them their responsibility to bring justice to the poorest of the poor.

**March 15th:** Many people are called to love and care for the orphans of Africa. Today, pray for the teachers, mentors, pastors, neighbours, and communities who volunteer to answer the mandate of God in caring for orphans. Ask God to bless these people and the relationships they are building with vulnerable children.

**March 16th:** Pray for those who have been broken physically, psychologically or sexually abused in Africa; that they may be given an opportunity to heal. Ask God to restore their souls in a way that only He can. *I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security - Jeremiah 33:6*

**March 17th:** Today, pray the church outside Africa will embrace God's mandate to care for the poorest of the poor. Ask God to echo his call for justice throughout churches around the world, challenging the hearts of congregations and church leadership. Ask Him to remind us all that His word says true worship is, *"to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them" - Isaiah 58:7*

**March 18th:** Nigeria has 150 million people, most living in slums. Today, pray for the orphans living in these slums, many of whom are unable to go to school because they are forced to work. Thank God for those children we have found and been able to provide care for, and ask Him to reveal more children to us and provide the resources to care for them.

**March 19th:** Today, ask God to teach Hands at Work how we can be a healing community in Africa and around the world. Pray He will lead us in bringing healing to other communities, visitors, and volunteers. Ask God to show you what you can do, yourself, to bring healing to our community. Pray He will mould you into a servant who is an example of Jesus.

**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:** Ask God to bring transformation to Malawi where many orphans are living in rural areas without electricity and water. Pray that these children will overcome the dire situations they live in and they will have opportunities to be educated and grow up with hope for their future.

**March 22nd:** Thank God for Christian leaders all over the world who have said "Yes!" to his mandate to care and have compassion for the poor and

the orphans. Pray He will rise up more servant-hearted believers who will be willing to lay down their lives for the one He promises us. *We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another - 1 John 3:16*

**March 23rd:** Today, pray for young mothers who are busy dying and agonizing over what will happen to their children once they die. Ask God to take away their worry that their children will have to live in the streets, sleep in garbage, and become prostitutes and criminals. Pray these mothers will find rest in God, and ask Him to send Care Workers who will commit to caring for their children so they can pass away in peace.

**March 24th:** Pray for the nation of Zimbabwe where an economical crash has caused people to burn money in the streets. Thank God for the tireless Care Workers who are being mothers and fathers to the orphans in this extremely poor country. Ask God to protect and provide for the children who have had no choice in being born into vulnerability and brokenness.

**March 25th:** Pray for God to reveal his gift from the Holy Spirit to you and those around you. Seek out your gift and encourage others to discover theirs! Be prepared to use it to build the Kingdom of God and serve others humbly. *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace - 1 Peter 4:10*

**March 26th:** Pray for the Hands at Work International Offices and volunteers in Australia, Canada, Germany, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States of America. Many of our volunteers long to serve in Africa but sacrifice their desires in order to see our mission and vision realized in their own country. Ask God to give endurance and passion to each person, as they run every aspect of their operations, and advocate to their churches and communities on behalf of children thousands of kilometres away.

**March 27th:** Today, pray for the babies being born

in vulnerable communities in Africa every second. Thank God that He knows each of their names and pray they will grow up knowing and following Jesus. That they will be loved and know how to love themselves and others. Pray for their safety, their health, and ask God to send angels to guide them through their lives. *Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - 1 Peter 2:2*

**March 28th:** Pray for Rimos. Read his story again and remember that there are millions of children living in poverty and in desperately vulnerable situations like him. Thank God that He heals the broken. Ask Him to bless the millions of children in Africa. Commit to telling someone else Rimos' story.

**March 29th:** The rainy season is the cause of massive destruction to many families in Africa each year. Though they need water, the rain is so intense that it destroys the unstable homes of orphans and ruins gardens that provide food. Ask God to have mercy on orphans; that the rains will provide without leaving ruin behind.

**March 30th:** As you approach Easter Sunday, reflect on the sacrifice that was made for our sins, and the almighty power of God. As Jesus' death raised believers from the dead, so will He come again. He is building His Kingdom. Ask God to prepare you for the coming Kingdom and to guide you in your role in its creation. *But Jesus, again crying out loudly, breathed his last. At that moment, the Temple curtain was ripped in two, top to bottom. There was an earthquake, and rocks were split in pieces. What's more, tombs were opened up, and many bodies of believers asleep in their graves were raised - Matthew 27:50-53*

**March 31st:** Thank God for the past 40 days of prayer. Ask Him to continue to break your heart for the orphans of Africa and give you a deep understanding of the brokenness throughout the communities Hands at Work is serving. Ask Him to help you continue to be faithful in prayer for Africa's vulnerable. *But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer - Psalm 66:19*