

40 DAYS

of Prayer for Africa's vulnerable children & Hands at Work

WEEK 1

March 12th - March 16th
SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Thank you for joining the Hands at Work family around the world in prayer. As the body of Christ we are called to care for the most vulnerable. For 40 days, we commit ourselves to daily prayer on their behalf. In week one, we pray for God's healing for the most vulnerable children.

Wednesday March 12 - Day 1

A victim of rape and neglect, Madeline is one of the most vulnerable children in Africa. Read her story on our website and pray for her. Many people are sad when they hear of the suffering of children like Madeline, but do not respond in action. Ask God to touch you and others so deeply that all of us will urgently do something as He reveals to us the pain of the most vulnerable children.

Thursday March 13 - Day 2

Sexual abuse is rife in the poorest communities. In Zambia, minors are forced into the sex trade due to poverty and vulnerability. In Nigeria, many women have no choice but to become prostitutes, often working in their homes and sending their children into the streets. Pray for women, men, and children who are forced, or feel they have no choice, but to put themselves in danger in order to survive. Ask God to perform a miracle in their lives so they can be free.

Friday March 14 - Day 3

In Nigeria, slavery is still widespread. Women and children have no choice and no voice in their poverty. They are bought and owned, even by members and leaders of the Christian church. In Swaziland, news reports have recently been citing more and more missing children. There is fear they are disappearing due to human trafficking and an increasing cultural practise to use human body parts for medicinal purposes. Pray against the evil that exploits these women and children. Pray for individuals in their community who are helping to expose these abuses; ask God to protect them all from harm and persecution. *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you - Isaiah 43:2 (NRSV)*

Saturday March 15 - Day 4

Pray for the most vulnerable children around the world, those who are outside of our care, and

who may be crying out to God. Pray for children in war-torn countries such as Sudan, Central African Republic and Syria, and for girls who cannot escape the sex trade in many countries. Challenge yourself now to join Jesus as He sits at the right hand of the Father and intercedes on their behalf. *Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? - Matt 26:40 (NLT)*

Sunday March 16 - Day 5

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, war has devastated the country. Years of rebel attacks have left children as refugees in their own country. Recently peace has returned, and the first light of hope is breaking through in a very dark place. Pray that this peace will remain. Pray that all the children who have been displaced are able to return to their homes. Pray for the work of our local Care Workers to flourish in this time of peace. *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world - John 16:33 (NIV)*

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WEEK 2

March 17th - March 23rd
THE LOCAL CHURCH IN AFRICA

Hands at Work envisions the local church in Africa effectively caring for the most vulnerable. This week, we pray for the local church to answer God's call to respond to the cry of the poor. *For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'* - Deuteronomy 15:11 (ESV)

Monday March 17 - Day 6

Vulnerability is seen in Africa in the sick, orphaned, widowed, dying, very young and very old. Pray the local church in Africa will lead the way and become an example of love and care for these who are so close to God's heart. From each pregnant teenager, to single father caught up in the snares of alcoholism, may the church not be a voice of judgement, but a voice and an example of love to all who struggle.

Tuesday March 18 - Day 7

Pray for churches throughout Africa to give of their resources. In a culture where the devastation of poverty is seen each day, it is easy for those who are blessed with wealth to hold onto it tightly. Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18. Pray the church in Africa will understand that as God has forgiven and been generous to us, we are called to do the same for our brothers and sisters.

Wednesday March 19 - Day 8

Pray for Hands at Work to connect with both churches in the poor communities where we work and churches in larger, more affluent areas in Africa who believe in our vision. Pray for opportunities to meet with pastors and other church leaders to build relationships, and for more Christians and churches in Africa to rise up to the call to care for the most vulnerable.

Thursday March 20 - Day 9

In each community, volunteers from the local church create safe places where the children come to play and eat and be educated. Grandmothers, aunts and other primary caregivers of the vulnerable children in the community are invited to come together and support one another in their struggles. Pray these places will be centres of life where joy is experienced and restoration takes place.

Friday March 21 - Day 10

Though treatment is readily available for HIV/AIDS in Africa, the stigma associated with the disease continues to stop many people from asking for help and accessing it. Please pray that the church will use its influence to

educate and give hope to those infected with HIV. Pray that as congregations accept, love, and care for those who are sick, those around them will begin to do the same, halting judgement and stigmatisation.

Saturday March 22 - Day 11

Ask God to grow the influence of the church on their community, their country, and government. Corruption continues to hinder the poorest of the poor from having hope. Pray for corrupt government officials and those in power to have their hearts transformed by the work of the church, and the word of God.

Sunday March 23 - Day 12

Pray for the work of the local church in Africa to personify God's word: *No longer will the poor be nameless - Psalm 9:18 (MSG)*. As God knows each and every person's name, may the church know the names of the most vulnerable in their community. May they value life, especially the most vulnerable: every baby, youth, grandmother, and each child who is too young to be heading up their own household.



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WEEK 3

March 24th - March 30th
THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

As Hands at Work stirs up and mobilises the local church to care for the most vulnerable, we envision the church outside Africa to be unified in this same mission. Together we are the body of Christ, and the international church is also called to care for those in need. This week, we pray for our work through the international church.



Monday March 24 - Day 13

Thank God for international churches and partners who have committed to support communities across Africa. Pray for those who are giving sacrificially; may they know they are answering the call of God. Pray for these partnerships to continue, for new partnerships to develop, and for the relationships to not just be transactional but to be transformational. Pray that church leaders will mobilise and send volunteers from their congregations to serve and be impacted in Africa.

is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8 (ESV)

Wednesday March 26 - Day 15

Pray for international church leaders. Pray for them to understand the severity of global injustice and to make God's heart for a broken world heard. *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute - Proverbs 31:8 (NIV)*

Thursday March 27 - Day 16

Today, pray for other ministries who are committed to working among the poor throughout Africa and the world. Ask God to bless their work, making it fruitful and life-giving among the most vulnerable.

Tuesday March 25 - Day 14

Pray for God to stir the hearts of all who stand as the body of Christ internationally. Pray their hearts will align with His heart of compassion and justice. Pray they will be moved to action and live out His requirement locally and globally. *He has told you, O man, what*

Friday March 28 - Day 17

In a world where we constantly see sadness and tragedy, pray for God to give the body of Christ hope in His power to make all things new, and faith that He can work through us to serve those who suffer. Pray for the salvation of people in your life who do not know Christ. Ask God to build His Kingdom. *Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven -Matthew 6:10 (NIV)*

Saturday March 29 - Day 18

Today, pray for understanding and unity among the various Christian denominations. As we can join together to serve the poor with find beauty in diversity and our differences become insignificant. Ask God to remind us that we are all loved as His children. *Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples - John 13:35 (NLT)*

Sunday March 30 - Day 19

Today, pray for all individuals who feel called to be a part of God's work in serving the poorest of the poor. Pray for courage to take action and discernment to know how. *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth - 1 John 3:18 (NIV)*

WEEK 4

March 31st - April 6th
HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

In order to live out our vision on the ground and see the lives of the most vulnerable children, our complete dependence is on God to lead us in every aspect of our work. This week, we pray for specific aspects of our model and core values.

Monday March 31 - Day 20

We are dependent upon God to send us local African leaders to lead the way in caring for the most vulnerable children. Pray for the growth and development of our existing African leaders, and for God to send us new servants, male and female, with hearts that desire to sacrificially serve the most broken and wounded children.

Tuesday April 1 - Day 21

Pray in re-commitment to the second half of 40 Days of Prayer. Know that God hears your prayers and He does not require perfect words, just a willing heart. Pray for the outcome of this season of prayer to be a deeper understanding of God's will and a closer relationship with Him as you commit to conversing with Him daily.

Wednesday April 2 - Day 22

Pray for our Regional Support Teams as they go out to support the work happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Local African leaders together with international volunteers serve for the growth and development of care for the most vulnerable places and people. Pray for wisdom and guidance for them as they go out to support our Care Workers: local women and men who have given their lives to voluntarily care for the orphaned children of Africa.

Thursday April 3 - Day 23

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news - Isaiah 52:7 (MSG). As Volunteer Care Workers walking each day to bring hope to the homes of the most vulnerable children, they find some children living alone and some living with grandparents who are overwhelmed as they try to care for these children in their poverty. Pray for each Care Worker to have renewed faith in the good news they bring each day. Pray for each grandparent to find support, friendship, and relief in the Care Workers who help care for their children.

Friday April 4 - Day 24

At Hands at Work, our local and international volunteers live together in a Christian community. We believe in working and living together as a family. Pray for our communities to be ones of



relationship building, healing, and discipleship. Pray for us to be honest and vulnerable as we strive to serve with sacrifice and love.

Saturday April 5 - Day 25

In Mozambique, children were found at the end of 2013 dying of starvation. In Zimbabwe, children are left to roam the streets, unable to attend school due to high government fees. Pray for these children to survive and have hope. Ask God to give favour to Hands at Work as we take on the urgent challenge of expanding into these new areas. *In your goodness, God, you provided for the poor. My Lord gives the command—many messengers are bringing good news - Psalm 68:10-11 (CEB)*

Sunday April 6 - Day 26

Pray for strength for our local leaders who face opposition daily. Their desire to serve the most vulnerable children is often met with cynicism and hostility. Cultural beliefs and government requirements threaten to halt our work. Pray for those who work against us, for their hearts to be turned in compassion.



WEEK 5

April 7th - April 13th

HANDS AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Hands at Work has offices and partners in Australia, Canada, Germany, South Africa, UK and USA. We desire to see transformation in the lives of those who serve outside of Africa as well as within. There is another kind of poverty and vulnerability found outside Africa. This week we pray God's blessing over our work and vision internationally.

Monday April 7 - Day 27

Many international volunteers in each office have given up paid work time to work for Hands at Work. Pray for understanding among their family and friends who may not understand the reason for their sacrifice. Pray for strength and provision for these volunteers who are committed to serving the most vulnerable children in Africa from afar. *Do not be conformed to this world - Romans 12:2 (ESV)*

Tuesday April 8 - Day 28

Pray for a Christ-centred community to be created among the volunteers in each international country. As they seek to live out the same vision and values as those who are serving in Africa, ask God to bind them in support and love for one another, especially across great distances. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among them in significant

ways in the time they do have together.

Wednesday April 9 - Day 29

Pray God will send His hand-picked servants to Hands at Work in Africa and internationally. Ask Him to reveal those willing to serve and grow into long-term volunteers. Pray He will provide financially, emotionally, and spiritually for those who make the choice to answer His call to serve the most vulnerable.

Thursday April 10 - Day 30

God's word promises us: We are all one in Christ Jesus - Galatians 3:28 (NIV). Today, pray for a oneness to bind together each member of the Hands family across all countries, offices, roles, and levels of who we are and what we do. Ask God to affirm in our hearts that when we serve in the name of His Son, we are together.

Friday April 11 - Day 31

The management teams of each International Office take on a huge responsibility to be the link between our international church partners, and the work taking place on the ground in Africa. Pray for these volunteers to have time to dedicate to each church partner, and for God to give them the wisdom and words as they develop new partnerships.

Saturday April 12 - Day 32

Many dedicated international advocates have committed to raising support for an entire village of vulnerable children in Africa each year. They are the link between Hands at Work and their friends, family, church members or co-workers who join them in supporting this village. Communicating the urgency of need in Africa can be difficult. Ask God to inspire these advocates with a renewed sense of passion as they advocate.

Sunday April 13 - Day 33

I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me! - Matthew 25:40 (NLT). Jesus calls us to love and serve the least, because in doing that, we are loving and serving Him. Pray for people internationally to desire to come to Africa and serve the poor. Pray individuals and teams will come with a willing spirit to learn, to encourage, and to be prepared that they will never be the same

WEEK 6

April 14th - April 20th

CHRIST AS OUR FOUNDATION

Each year, Hands at Work receives a verse from God to guide us. For 2014, our verse is: *I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name - Revelation 3:8 (NIV).* As we approach Easter, we pray for Christ to remain the centre of all we do.

Monday April 14 - Day 34

Jesus had love and compassion for the poor. Pray for Christ to remain firmly the foundation of Hands at Work and all we do. Pray every volunteer, in Africa and internationally, will study the word of God and take our example from the words of Jesus. *When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you - Luke 14:13-14 (ESV)*

Tuesday April 15 - Day 35

Pray for each person involved with Hands at Work to hold tight to God's promise that when we are walking in His will the doors will be opened to us. Pray we will not hold back, but go forward this year in determination. Pray our efforts will bring love and hope to many children who are currently hopeless.

Wednesday April 16 - Day 36

Many of our Care Workers have not met the same Jesus that we have met, *the One who binds up the broken hearted and brings good news to the poor - Isaiah 61 (MSG).* Pray for each Care Worker this year to have an encounter with that Jesus.

Thursday April 17 - Day 37

Many of our Care Workers are wounded themselves. Pray for God's transformational mercy and love to heal the inner wounds of our Care Workers. May our Care Workers in turn pour out mercy and love to our kids, and in doing so bring

transformation and healing of their wounds.

Friday April 18 - Day 38

GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus died being mocked and crucified. He died because God, the Father, called Him to. Today, pray that we may all live lives of obedience to Our Father's will. Ask God to remind us that when our desire to serve Him is not accepted by everyone, we only need to do what is pleasing to Him, not to man. *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" - Luke 23:34 (NIV)*

Saturday April 19 - Day 39

Pray the Hands at Work family will be challenged and consider how Jesus combined endless love with epic suffering; how suffering



can bring us closer to Jesus and to compassion for the poor. *Consider him who endured such hostility against himself, from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood - Hebrews 12:3-4 (NRSV)*

Sunday April 20 - Day 40

EASTER SUNDAY

As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, remember His words: *I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father - John 14:12 (NLT).* Ask God to reveal to you the impact you can have on eternity. Pray these past 40 Days will give you a renewed sense of the Kingdom He is building here on earth. Be ready when He calls you to act in faith on behalf of the most vulnerable.