



Orphan Care Ministry

Psalm 146:9

⁹The Lord watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the **fatherless**, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

Summer 2015



Upcoming Events

[June 4th – 6th]	Benjamin's adoption garage sale fundraiser: 3203 Pinewood Dr., Yorkville
[June 7th]	Care packages for summer Uganda trip
[June 25th – July 16th]	Summer Uganda trip
[July 11th]	Training Event: Learn how you can support foster and adoptive families.
[Aug 1st]	Parents Night Out needs volunteers! Fun with kids as their foster parents relax!

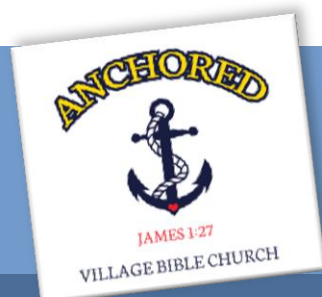
Overcoming Comfort

By Darnell Duncan - Comfort can quickly change perspective. It blinds us to the realities beyond what our eyes can see. I often feel that comfort is a good place to be, but God often shows me that comfort can be the worse place to be.

When we are living within our daily routines, striving for peace and ease, we can very easily not live out the vision of God. Sometimes it's just that we aren't seeing the pain God sees and His purpose in it. Sometimes we aren't stepping out in faith to take an action God desires for us or cease an action God hates. Sometimes it is viewing others through human eyes and not God's eyes...each of us made in His image living in hurt, sin, and reality.

It's so crazy to me that in the months following our daughter's adoption, I was on fire to do it again. Love another child. Add to our family again. As time went on, my vision became tainted by comfort. I was no longer seeing her through the eyes of sympathy that come from envisioning her first 14 months in an orphanage. She became more comfortable in our family which was a good thing, yet it limited my view of adoption and what my purpose is as an adoptive parent. I lost motivation to step away from comfort and adopt again. It saddens me deeply that comfort can take away a longing, desire, and drive to do God's will.

God has revived my heart recently and I am so thankful. He has given me a renewed desire to live out His will...no matter what that is...despite a loss of comfort. Because ultimately comfort isn't what I'm living for!



Other thoughts...

The great challenge of adoption and orphan care ministry is to cultivate a death-defying passion for God above all things. A faith that rests in him whether living or dying, whether comfortable or miserable, whether successful in our orphan care or not. Our aim is to cultivate and spread the unshakable confidence that God is better than what life can give us and what death can take from us. - John Piper



Partner

It takes Village Bible Church to raise a child!

There are many ways YOU can partner with others in caring for orphans...



Uganda 2015 Funkhouser

MARK & FLORENCE FUNKHOUSER

My mind keeps going back to Gloria, one of the children we sponsor in Uganda. She is a sweet 14 year old primary student with a shy smile and beautiful eyes. Gloria's mother had passed away and her father had remarried so we met her father and stepmother. When I looked into her father's face, there were tears in his eyes. He was so grateful for the help that we were giving to Gloria. If Gloria has an education, she has an opportunity to get out of the poverty that is seen in much of Uganda and for that, he was so grateful. In Gloria's father, I saw the love that he has for his little girl. It was a father's love that wants life to be better for Gloria. It was a love that would seek out her benefactors and say "thank you" the best way he could. For me, the tears said it all. Uganda may be halfway around the world, but when a dad truly loves his family, he has their best interests at heart which is common to all cultures.

I am so grateful that we decided to sponsor a child. I am so thankful that God gave us the opportunity to see first-hand how meaningful our gift is to a family who has so little. Not only are we helping Gloria, but we are relieving the stress of a father who dearly loves his daughter.

BRENDA'S STORY

By Joyce Wiersma - Can you imagine the horror of coming home one day and your mother had moved away and left you to take care of yourself? That is what happened to this girl. She was only eight years old when that happened. A village woman let her live with her and connected her with Juna Amagara Ministries!

Children like this girl are completely at the mercy of the adults in her world to "see" them and do something to help. We don't like "mess" in our lives. A broken human being comes with a lot of mess. They don't trust, they fight your best efforts to help them and they aren't even grateful for what you have done! How awful. But aren't we just like that? God has given us everything and we don't trust Him, fight His efforts to teach us and we are not very grateful for His gift of Salvation. I hate the sin in our lives that makes it OK to be content with our lives and never look at the larger, messy picture. I want a mess in my life because that is what I am. A great big mess!

Please open your eyes and see the children around you that need help. Sometimes, it's a single parent that needs a helping hand, sometimes a child needs a place to stay for a time and sometimes they need a home to live in. Whatever God places in your path, I hope you will come along side of Him and help.



JAM Sponsored Child
Brenda

WILL YOU SPONSOR ONE OF THESE CHILDREN THROUGH JUNA AMAGARA?



Bright Ainamani [20]

Medius Natukunda [9]

Unity Ninsiima [16]



Benjamin Family

Active Partner

Village family actively caring for children through Foster Care, Safe Families, and Mission Trips.

Temporary care for long term gain...

DAN & JULIE GRIFFITH'S REFLECTIONS

I saw anew the lives of third world people. These people are a blessing from God. I saw children present everywhere we went. I read a statistic that 50% of the Ugandan population is under 18 years old. Our sponsorship of needy children allows for nutrition, shelter, physical care and love.

The Juna Amagara schools are doing a fine work with the students. We visited multiple schools and interacted with students and teachers. The students copy detailed drawings from a chalkboard into their notebooks. Creativity and lectures from highly knowledgeable teachers substitute for individual textbooks. I am very impressed with the dedication of the Juna Amagara staff and the atmosphere they have created.

My observation of the Juna Amagara facilities shows needs. I believe a combination of money and locally skilled artisans could go a long way towards infrastructure improvements. Employing those in the local economy to make bricks, etc., would feed people in need. Life and operations at Juna Amagara schools like Kishanje could be more effective with investments from our American resources.

VBC NEWEST SAFE FAMILY

Q&A with Jamie & Amy Benjamin:

What made you decide to host children through Safe Families?

Listening to Clay and Melissa Conley's testimony at church is what made us decide to do Safe Families! We both left church very emotional and felt convicted.

How hard was it to take the first step?

It wasn't hard at all to take the first step! It was actually super easy compared to the rollercoaster of emotions and events that occurred throughout our adoption process.

Tell me your thoughts about your first placement.

Our first placement overall went great but during it there were a few obstacles. Those obstacles were obstacles within our hearts. We thought our hearts were mostly pure and free of judgment but we were tested for sure!!! Lots of praying and asking for forgiveness.

What has God been teaching you through this Safe Families journey?

We feel like God is teaching us how to be stronger Christians, better parents, and more appreciative of our lives.

What would you tell anyone contemplating becoming a Safe Family host?

We'd tell anyone who is contemplating becoming a host family, to just take the step and try it! We have established a beautiful relationship with our first placement family that we would have never known had we not tried it! We would love to talk with you and share our stories both good and bad if you are feeling led to check out Safe Families.





Forever Partner

Village family providing a forever family through adoption.

We praise God for the provision of family...

ADOPTION

Village Bible Church has 13 families that have adopted and many more adults who have been directly impacted by adoption. Our church has a growing support network for families who have adopted children of various ages both domestically and internationally.

ADOPTION PROCESS

There are quite a few families currently in the process of adopting. Take a minute to ask these families how their process is going and how you can pray for them.

Jamie & Amy Benjamin: China
Matt & Jennifer Brown: Domestic
Darin & Anne Malone: Domestic
Chris & Jen Mehochko: Domestic
Fred & Sue Spencer: Domestic

MEHOCHKO'S GROWING FAMILY

"We are so thankful that Eve has been here with us (permanently) since April 3rd!

She and Nancy (former foster mom) flew up to IL from Miami together, and we welcomed her into our home. She has been adjusting to our family schedule and all the things that are going on extremely well, for being only 6 years old. Eve has been enjoying having a "big sister" and two "big brothers"!

Eve started afternoon kindergarten the following week after arriving

here, and already has made a number of friends! She has never really had female friends until now, so it has been so much fun for her to play and laugh with the girls at school, as well as sisters of some of the boys on Ryan's baseball team. She sits with Ryan on the bus ride home (another new thing for her!), and just loves to socialize with the kids.

Jackson (age 10.5) will be arriving here with us very soon, on June 5, once he finishes school in CT. Chris will fly out to get him and fly back the same day. We have been face-timing Jackson every week, and, while we miss him dearly, it has been fun to see how his heart is opening more to the idea of adoption, along with us!

There have been many challenges along the way, but the family as a whole has been patient and understanding and we are all adjusting well overall. When we rely on God's strength and not our own, things seem to flow much more smoothly!

Please continue to pray for our family's hearts, that we would continue to be open to all of God's plans; that Jackson and Eve would have peace, knowing that they are now a permanent part of our family and that they are loved; that Jackson would be able to stay focused in his final weeks of school, and that he would be able to make friends once he arrives here in Illinois.

We are praising God for all the blessings and provisions that He has bestowed upon us during this journey toward adoption, and are so thankful for the many prayers for our family."

~ The Mehochko's



Jackson & Eve

References

- www.villagebible.org/orphan-care/
- www.villagebible.org/empower
- www.amagara.org
- www.safe-families.org
- www.eventbrite.com/e/building-sustainable-support-for-foster-adoptive-families-tickets-16919428466
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