

Orphan Care Ministry

Psalm 82:3-4

3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
 maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver
 them from the hand of the wicked.



Spring 2019

Upcoming Events

Protection of Life

April 5-6	Empowered to Connect Conference
April 27	Adoption/Foster Support Group
May 27	Juna Amagara Sponsor Letters Due
June 9-14	Royal Kids Camp (See article by David Prost)
June 17 thru July 3	Uganda Mission Trip
September October November	Adoption/Foster Support Group

By Darnell Duncan

In light of recent events in our country, it is ever more important to take action in standing for pro-life. One of the considerations we must understand is that pro-life is not only anti-abortion. Are we willing to stand for life after birth as well? Are we willing to do the long-term fight that includes walking along side birth moms that have chosen to raise their child when they aren't sure how? Are we willing to love and care for children whose birth moms have decided to form an adoption plan rather than an abortion plan? This is where pro-life and orphan care go hand in hand. In our fight to protect the unborn, we must also fight to protect the already-born.

There is a reality check in place when realizing that almost a million babies are aborted in the U.S. every year. That translates to the need of almost a million families every year willing to be a lifelong empowering help to a birth mom or provide a forever home through adoption. Yet this is what God has called us to...all of it! This is God's action plan!

Our first step of action has to be heart transformation. This is where change takes place for us, for the Church, and ultimately for our nation. As we allow God to transform our hearts, we must use our voice and our actions to live out our stance on pro-life. It is not an easy task, but God calls us to do more. What a blessing we have to be a church that desires to fight for all life! Whether it's through our new ministry called Life Matters or through Orphan Care, we are ALL called to a place of impact!

Other thoughts...

"If I have planted, and farmed the soil well, those who come after me, and after them and after them, will be wiser and more well-equipped and more able to continue our mission, which is not rhetoric for our Institute," Dr. Purvis said. "We truly are learning to change the world for children."- Karyn Purvis

Partner

It takes Village Bible Church to raise a child!

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



By Dave Prost

Royal Family Kids

Royal Family Kids ("RFK") is a faith-based international ministry dedicated to serving children in the Foster care system -

Home - Royal Family KIDS - Confronting Abuse and Changing Lives

RFK's mission is to create positive, life-changing moments for children who have been victims of neglect, abuse and abandonment. The ministry strives to treat people "Royally" and has the vision of every foster child between the ages of 6 and 12 experiencing a life-changing summer camp. RFK works with sponsoring churches throughout the U.S., that deploy volunteers to put on over 200 RFK camps each summer. **Royal Family Kids Camp sponsored by Chapelstreet Church in Geneva, IL** will be putting on its 16th annual Royal Family Kids Camp ("RFKC") in the summer of 2019. Approximately 80 volunteers, ages 18 to 70-something, will love on 60 wonderful children for a week. The week is made up of crafts, activities, great camp food, lots of time in the lake, campfires, fishing, wood shop projects, and, of course, great bible teaching, including dramatic production and memory-creating bible songs. We strive to offer lots of choices and to let the kids make those for themselves. Chapelstreet Church has also formed three follow-up ministries (Middle School, High School and 1-on-1 Mentors) with a goal of following our campers until they become emancipated from the Foster system. We find many of the campers in very challenging circumstances. Several children have shared that their "Royal Family" is the most consistent family in their lives. Chapelstreet Church's RKF ministry has gone on to serve its campers in unique ways - providing glasses, braces, musical instruments, being the only family to attend basketball games and recitals.

We also have provided scholarships to Several campers-become-college students. RKF at Chapelstreet is independently funded, with no funds coming from the church itself.

Prost Family Camp Experiences

2019 will mark my 15th camp and I've cherished each one. When each of our daughters has reached the age of 18, the required age to serve at RKFC, they've done so. Kyle served as a counselor as well as Assistant to the Director. Ashley and Regan have been counselors and followed their campers until they aged-out, and then served those same campers in the Middle School camp. Regan and I will serve again at the 2019 RFKC. Dante was my 6-year old camper at the first RFKC I attended, and I've had the opportunity to have followed and stayed connected to Dante, who is now 20. Some of you have met Dante when he's joined Cindy and me at VBC. Dante has set a goal of becoming a RFKC volunteer himself, which has occurred twice already as former campers have come back to serve at RFKC. Like most ministry experiences, we have found that serving with family makes the experience so much more impactful - nothing like seeing your own children love on others - and that God makes it such that we take so much more out of the experience than we're able to give. **Your Chance to Serve @ RFKC**

2019 Camp Dates: June 9 to 14

Required Training Dates

April 26, 5:30 to 9:30 - Required of Newbie Volunteers (Can be made up if you can't make this date)

April 27, 8:00 to 12:00 - Required of All Volunteers (Can be made up if you can't make this date)

May 19, 12:30 to 4:30 - Required of All Volunteers (Can be made up if you can't make this date).....

Volunteers are required to apply and pass a background check. If you're interested, please contact

*Dave Prost, (630) 466-0992
DavidProst1@yahoo.com*

WILL YOU SPONSOR ONE OF THESE CHILDREN THROUGH JUNA AMAGARA?



Doris Akadwanawo [4]



Alexander Tumuhereze[17]



Lamech Akoragye [8]



Mike & Amy Adams Family

Active Partner

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

Temporary care for long term gain...



By Amy Adams

After an infertility diagnosis, Mike and I became foster parents in our mid-twenties. We took in a 2, 4, 9, 12 and 15-year-old in the first month of becoming parents. We felt a pull to make a difference in the lives of hurting kids. To make a very long story short, kids came, and kids left. The Lord blessed us with 4 biological children, and we adopted 2 of the foster kids as teenagers. Our 2 oldest took the path of their mother and father despite intervention. It broke our hearts to watch generational patterns continue. Twenty years later, we desire a “happily ever after” ending, but life is messy.

In the beginning of 2018, we were continuing to struggle with why God led us to foster care/adoption. We felt we had made no difference. Enter Stephanie- She was the 15-year-old from the first month. She was only with us 3 weeks and we had lost track of her. Out of the blue, she contacted us through Facebook. We quickly connected and God used her to encourage our hearts. The day we reunited she wrote this on her Facebook.....

“So, me and my small trash bag were dumped at this house. I remember being terrified, angry, sad, and confused. It was like being in a foreign county where I didn’t speak the language. No one screamed at me. No one beat me. No one woke me up in the middle of the night pulling me by the hair to dance for them at 3am. The house didn’t smell like stale beer or cigarettes. They actually fed me and sat a table.... Like I said-terrifying. Amy used to make her husband’s lunch before work, and I remember asking her why (thinking how silly it was). She said, “this is small way I can show him that I love and appreciate him.” It was years later in my own home that I finally understood.”

She continued to share what an impact we had on her in those 3 short weeks. It was her first glimpse into a loving family, God and peace. She said, “their kindness reinforced decisions to be good and generous to strangers and spread love to those who do not return it and to be grateful for those around me.”

Reuniting with Stephanie was a precious gift from God when we needed it most.

It reminds us of the little boy who stood on a beach littered with dying starfish. He bent down and threw them back in the ocean one at a time to give them a chance at life. A man approached the boy asking him why he bothered to try to make a difference. The boy simply picked one up and threw it in the water saying, “I made a difference with that one.” We may never know the difference we made in the lives of the kids we touched through foster care, but that’s okay because no act of human kindness is ever wasted.

Scripture

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up.

Galatians 6: 9



St. Clair Family
Amir, Sara, Reid, Rowen and Jojo

Forever Partner

Village family providing a forever family through adoption.

We praise God for the provision of family...



By Sara St. Clair

Amir and I met in 2010 and were married in 2013. We began discussing future plans for children around a year into our relationship, before we were even engaged. It's a BIG decision and something we both felt passionately about - particularly for Amir, the WAY we were going to grow our family.

Two important narratives led us to adopt. First, both of our immediate and extended families have been impacted by multiple adoptions, which has provided us guidance and support in understanding how to fully embrace the adoption process and see the wonderful ways a child can be welcomed into a family.

Secondly, we traveled to an orphanage together in Central America as a part of a school trip when Amir was coaching the men's soccer team at Aurora University. This was a year before our wedding and also, the day we decided we would begin pursuing adoption shortly after we were married. It was a wakeup call for us to see so many children in such dire need. We started researching international adoption just weeks after being married. I will never forget Amir saying "I want to leave this world a better place than it was when I came into it" and for him, among other things, that meant adoption.

We have adopted twice, both internationally and domestically. The magnitude of what our children's

birth moms have done for their children is not at all lost on us and thus we made a promise to them that we would strive to give their children the most wonderful life we possibly could. We recognize that as a parent, it is undoubtedly one of the most difficult things they will have ever gone through and so, providing comfort in some part of that process for them was and is still so important to us. We have frequent contact and communication with our children's birth parents and are so grateful to have that contact as we truly believe it might provide peace of mind as our children grow and wish to know more about their own stories and their biological families. Adoption has done so many amazing things in our lives, it has opened us up to a whole new world of love and emotion. It truly gives meaning to "it takes a village" and just as our children's birth parents have entrusted us with their precious babies, we are forever grateful that God brought us into each other's lives and feel that we have gained family, culture, and a love we never knew was possible. Adoption in general has provided a community of support we would have otherwise never been exposed to. Both locally through our church family and the wonderful connections we have made with other adoptive families and also afar from relationships with those we've been connected to in the Marshall Islands.....

QUOTE:

"A Christian understanding of the world sees a child's character not as genetically determined but as shaped to a significant degree by parental discipleship and discipline."

Russell D. Moore.



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.

- Lisa O'Brien: Uganda
- Fred & Sue Spencer: Domestic
- Jarod & Rachel Rosenwinkel: Domestic

References

- Villagebible.org/orphancare
- Villagebible.org/missions
- Amagara.org
- Safe-families.org