

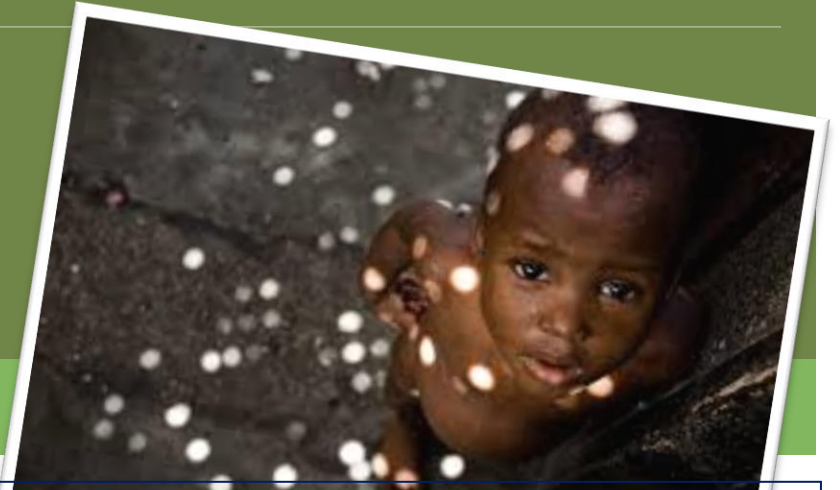
Orphan Care Ministry

Psalm 68: 5-6

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

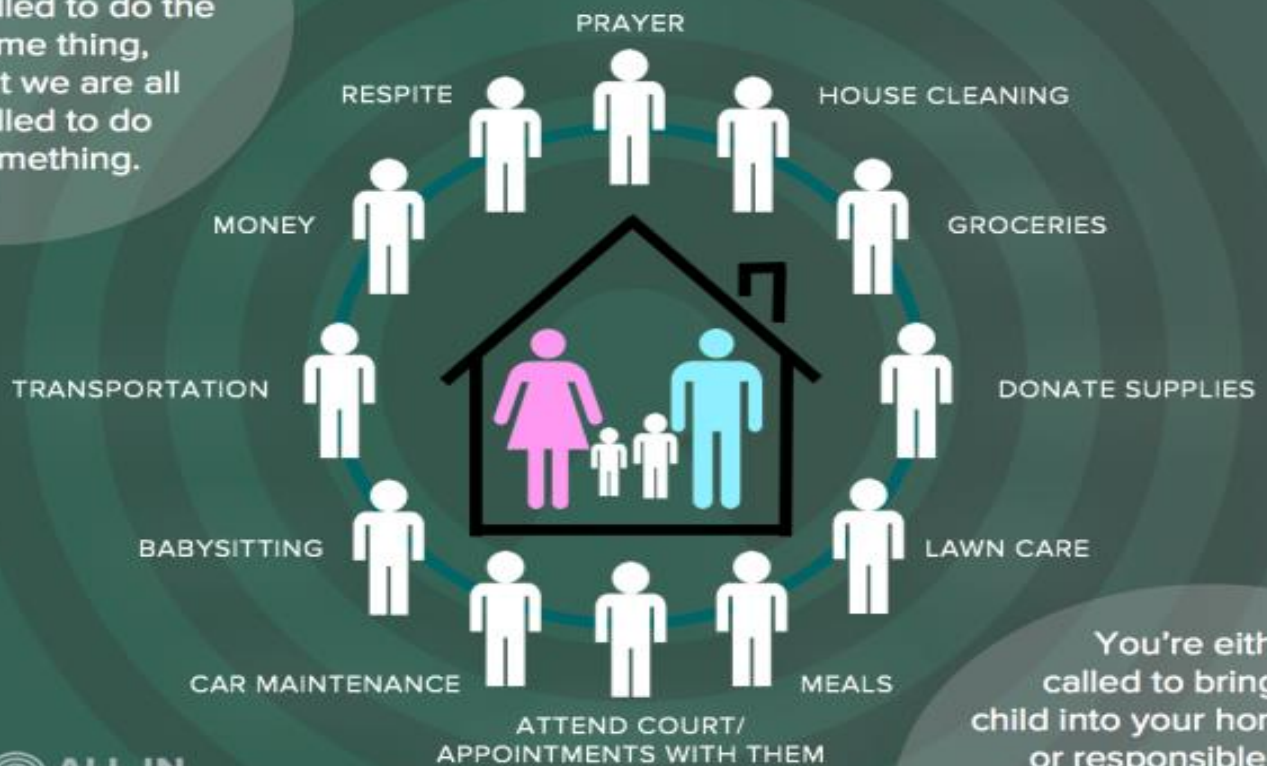
6 God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Summer 2016

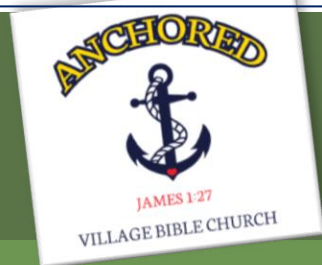


We're not all called to do the same thing, but we are all called to do something.

WRAPPING AROUND FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



You're either called to bring a child into your home or responsible to support those who do.



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, 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...

GOBENA COFFEE

By Clay Conley — Do you like coffee? Looking for an easy way to serve orphans? If you said yes to both or even one then you are in luck! One way to do this is by drinking GREAT coffee for a GREAT cause;; all profits are donated to serving orphans. Gobena roasts Colombian, Ethiopian, Guatemalan, and seasonal coffee varieties, including decaffeinated and organic options. They import their beans from their partner farmers directly after the drying process and carefully small batch roast them in their Joper@ 15 BPR. All coffee is shipped within 3-5 days of roasting. Check it out: www.gobena.org

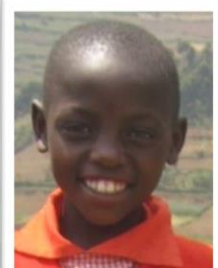
JUNA AMAGARA

By Kate Duff — MUKAMA ASIMWE! — which means Praise the Lord! We are praising the Lord because our Uganda summer missions team will be traveling across the globe visiting orphans to be the hands and feet of Jesus. They will be delivering care packages and loving on the many Juna Amagara VBC sponsored children.

CAFO SUMMIT

By Chad Duncan — Darnell and I attended the CAFO (Christian Alliance for Orphans) summit this year for two main reasons. One was for our personal journey of adopting Claire and understanding how that will continue to affect our family. The other reason was to bring back applicable resources to help with the adoption support groups in our church. My biggest take away from the summit was this reality: "There would be no adoption without initial loss." Every adoptee or foster child has experienced loss. No matter how great a situation may look, these kids will still feel this underlying pain. We, as the church, need to understand this as we interact with adoptive/foster families and develop hearts of compassion for adoptees.

WILL YOU SPONSOR ONE OF THESE CHILDREN THROUGH JUNA AMAGARA?



Medius Natukunda [9]



Bright Ainamani [20]



Unity Ninsiima [16]



Active Partner

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

Temporary care for long term gain...



NO ORDINARY HERO

By Shari Chapman — I was blessed to travel to Ethiopia in February with my mom and my 14-year-old daughter, to love on orphans of all ages. We had a blessed trip, full of emotions, smiles, hugs, tears, questions, laughs, and lots of breathtaking moments.

We held babies who were living in the poorest of conditions, with basic needs not being met. We walked the streets of a community that lives and survives off of the local trash dump, walking there daily to dig for food and any materials they could sell. We visited an orphanage with primarily 9–17-year-old children, where we played volleyball, did some craft projects, and took lots of selfies. :)

We attended a church service and were humbled as we watched these people arrive an hour early to cry out in worship to our God.

We could not understand a word of the service due to the language barrier, but we learned that worship is a universal language, and these precious people taught us so much about authentic love for our God. We fell more deeply in love with Ethiopia and the precious souls that fill the streets, and we left with an even stronger love for the orphan and the least of these.

SUPPORT GROUPS

By Darnell Duncan — Did you know we have an amazing support network for adoptive families at Village Bible Church? There are currently 16 VBC families that have adopted and they are walking the reality of joy and hardship in adoption. With this unique experience, God has placed us into each other’s lives with a common understanding and ability to listen, encourage, and pray over our children, our families, and our marriages. This has led us to establish two ongoing support groups for VBC families that meet once a month for this purpose. We enjoy dinner and fellowship centered around adoption and plan to include instructional material for learning and discussion as well. God has blessed us in sharing this journey together!

ADOPTION

Village Bible Church has 16 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.

Sean & Amy Gately: China
Fred & Sue Spencer: Domestic

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Adoptions recently completed. Take a minute to congratulate and ask how you can pray for them.

Chris & Jen Mehochko: Domestic
Matt & Heather Mickiewicz: Haiti

Forever Partner

Village family providing a forever family through adoption.

We praise God for the provision of family...



ADOPTION STORY

By Matt & Heather Mickiewicz — Our adoption journey started many years ago and took many twists and turns along the way to bring our son home from Haiti. We officially started the mountains of paperwork in January 2012; little did we know the mountains that God would move in the years to come. In the fall of 2013, our paperwork was sent to Haiti and our long wait began.

I know for us, the adoption journey had so many leaps of faith, one of them being when we got a phone call one evening followed by an email with information about a little boy that had been waiting for a family for many years. There was a small picture, and as we read the pages and saw his face, we wept over the losses he had experienced and prayed that God would make beauty from the ashes. After much prayer we said yes to this little boy and then prepared to meet him. Unfortunately, due to slowdowns within the Haitian government and adoption changes, we didn't meet him for another full year. After our 2-week bonding trip in November 2014, we said our goodbyes and had to leave our beautiful boy until the rest of the process was finished. That waiting was excruciatingly painful, trying, and hard for us, but especially difficult for him. He has told us since coming home that he prayed every night that he could come home to Chicago with us. We told him we prayed the same prayer every day as well.

There were many obstacles for finalizing the adoption within Haiti, and God continued to make a way and do the impossible. Through the struggles and the waiting, He was refining us, stretching us, and growing us to prepare us for our journey once Wen came home. God was teaching us perseverance, loving no matter the cost, and hope in the midst of heartache — all good but hard lessons to learn, ones we still continue to learn through this beautiful adoption journey.

Once we were submitted to the US immigration in September 2015, we assumed it would be a quick process and have him home before the holidays, but God's ways are not our ways and His plan was far better. US immigration requested additional information and it became evident by January 2016, that if an approval didn't come soon we were advised to seek help from our senator. This would most likely delay things even further but would need to be done since we continued to hit obstacles within immigration. As God would have it, we went to the Anchored prayer meeting hosted by the Duncans. We were welcomed and met some wonderful adoptive families and they prayed for our sweet son, for us, for a miracle with our paperwork. As only God can do, we received an email two days later that Monday morning from immigration saying the approval would come within the next few days. I was just about to email our senators. If the email from immigration had come any later it would have been set into motion, but God did

the impossible and moved the paperwork forward. That week we received our approval and traveled the following week to pick up our son. He officially became a US citizen when we arrived home on February 23. Our journey continually reminds us of how God can truly do the impossible and that He can always be trusted — an important reminder to us now as we parent our son. God is able and the anchor holds.



References

- www.villagebible.org/orphan-care/
- www.amagara.org
- www.safe-families.org
- missions@villagebible.org