

# 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.



Winter 2017

## Upcoming Events

|   |  |
|---|--|
| [Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> ]<br>[Mar 16 <sup>th</sup> ]<br>[Apr 20 <sup>th</sup> ] | Adoption Group Dinners<br>6:30pm at Benjamin Home                |
| [Apr 7-8 <sup>th</sup> ]  | Empowered to Connect<br>Simulcast<br>9am-5pm at VBC Sugar Grove  |
| [May 21 <sup>st</sup> ]   | Juna Amagara Care<br>Packages Are Due                            |
| [Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup> ]<br>[May 19 <sup>th</sup> ]<br>[Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> ] | Orphan Care<br>6:30pm at Duncan Home                             |
| [Jun 16-30 <sup>th</sup> ]  | Uganda Mission Trip<br>Applications Due Feb 28                   |
| [May 4-5 <sup>th</sup> ]  | CAFO (Christian Alliance for<br>Orphans) Summit<br>Nashville, TN |

## Place of Impact

*By Darnell Duncan*

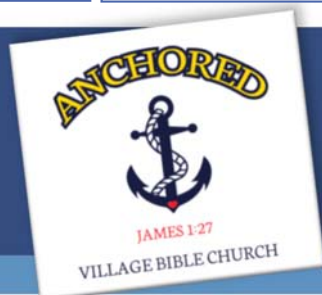
The biblical mandate to care for orphans is so multi-faceted. We often have this idea that it looks like adoption and foster care, yet it is so much more. Although adoption and foster care is crucial in caring for orphans, there needs to be a whole support network wrapping around these families to make them all the more capable of doing what God has called them to do. These children come into homes with unique challenges and adjustments, so how does the Village raise this child?

Wrap-around support...it's where the majority of the church lands in orphan care. While an adoptive family is establishing relationship with their child, there are still many needs to be met. Meals, grocery shopping, yard work, driving other kids to and from, childcare, encouragement, prayer...and the list goes on. Understanding more about the unique challenges that come with children from hard places will open eyes to the support, advocacy, and encouragement needed in these children's lives and their new family.

Partnership with those directly caring for orphans globally is another area of impact. Sponsoring a child, financial support to reputable orphan care organizations or long term missionaries serving orphans, and some short term mission trips to name a few. Think outside the box. Can you sew...talk to Linda Mallette about her previous work in making pajamas for children in Uganda. Children can care for orphans too...lemonade stands to raise money for organizations not only helps provide funding but it is a great advocacy tool.

We all have strengths, gifts, resources, prayer power, or able hands to care for orphans. The question is: Where will our place of impact be?

God created the child who is orphaned in his image. They have beautiful faces. They have purpose. And God grieves their circumstances. When God commands us to care for the orphans, it's because they need us. They need our action so they can see the redemption story God has planned out for them. God WANTS us to join His plan. The orphan will be forever changed because of our active faith...and so will we!



## Other thoughts...

"The gospel of Christ shows believers that we are not the rescuers of these children – we are the rescued. We have so lavishly been loved by Christ in our despair and rescued from our sin. As a result, we are compelled to care for the orphan, the widow, the poor, the needy, and the alien." – Herbie Newell



# Partner

**It takes Village Bible Church to raise a child!**

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



### Caring for Orphans as a Partner

- Wrap-around support for adoptive and foster families...meals, housework, yard work, grocery shopping, carpooling, babysitting, using professional skills, prayer, encouragement, listen without judgment.
- Advocate for orphans...spread the word about organizations and how others can help and support, share pictures and info about orphans that are ready for adoption, help people see orphans through God's eyes so they are moved to action.
- Prayer...for the orphans' needs to be met, for families to be moved toward adoption and foster care, for wisdom for adoptive parents, for attachment and adjustment of adoptive children, for your heart to be changed and convicted toward action.
- Fundraising...help families in the adoption process raise funds for their adoption expenses by giving financially or organizing fundraiser events, give personally and raise money to donate toward organizations doing orphan care.
- Serve in VBC orphan care ministry...help with orphan care newsletter, organize or help with VBC orphan care events, organize wrap-around support for adoptive and foster families. Contact Chad or Darnell Duncan for more information.
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer...be an advocate for children in foster care or volunteer for lots of behind-the-scenes needs for this organization. Learn more about volunteer opportunities for Kane, Kendall, and Dupage counties at [Casaforchildren.org](http://Casaforchildren.org).
- Church culture...involves a hospitable environment for children from hard places, Sunday school teachers who understand the unique challenges and support parents in this role, families who invite others with challenges into their home.

### Supporting Mickiewicz family by Heather Mickiewicz

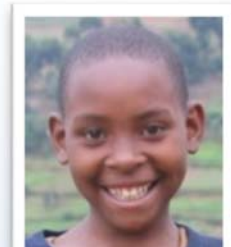
There are many ways to be involved with orphan care. I think the obvious one that many people think of is adopting. However, orphan care can look different for everyone.

As an adoptive family, we have witnessed firsthand the ways that the church can come alongside and help. We were brought meals in the first few weeks which were invaluable and a huge blessing as we adjusted to our new family. Bringing meals to newly adoptive families is a wonderful way to serve and be involved in orphan care.

We also had several different people this past summer help us care for our son during the church service so we could have time to worship together and hear the sermons. Playing games in the gym with him was a huge blessing to him and to us as well. Another tangible way to be involved in orphan care is to help adoptive families with simple tasks such as picking up groceries or taking their kids to youth group. Although it may seem simple, it was a tremendous help to us in the early months.

Orphan care is a Biblical mandate and there is a place for everyone. God has gifted each person with talents and expertise that can be used in many ways. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of orphan care ministry. No part is too big or small, they are all valuable and greatly appreciated.

### WILL YOU SPONSOR ONE OF THESE ORPHAN CHILDREN THROUGH JUNA AMAGARA?



Bridget Owamazima [13]



Richard Muhwezi [14]



Vincent Niwagaba [14]

Email [kate@kathleenduff.com](mailto:kate@kathleenduff.com) for more information.

## Active Partner

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

*Temporary care for long term gain...*



Linda Mallette serving in Tanzania

### Short Term Mission Trip: Tanzania 2016 by Linda Mallette

My stay of 8 days in Tanzania was packed with meaningful ministry. I spent quality time with our missionaries Phil and Sarah Nickels and their girls Lydia and Audrey. Phil oversees maintenance and grounds and is the biblical teacher for the staff. Sarah does teacher training, is a language arts teacher and works closely with the curriculum director. The girls both attend private school in their community of Moshe. It was special to spend time in their home in fellowship and learn about life in the Rafiki Village.

I spent time with the children in several classrooms, observing their day at school. The first class for all the children at the Rafiki Village is Biblical studies. All the children study the same passage/chapter and memory verse all week long. The education for the children is a Classical - Christian Education. It includes Bible, art, music, and the core classes each day. Their school day begins at 7:15 and

ends at 5:00p.m. I loved teaching a couple of days in the preschool. The children also attend Saturday school until 12:00 noon. Eating meals with the children gave me an opportunity to get to know them better and share in their lives. In the evenings I played games on the playground and worked in the gardens with the girls and boys.

During the evening the children have garden choirs, laundry, KP, and playground time before heading off to their family cottages. Before bed the 10 children (multi-age) share with their cottage momma about the day and have evening devotions; they each join in prayer time. I was able to be a part of cottage devotions my last evening and pray with the children and momma. **What a blessing!**

The rest of my time there was filled with a variety of activities. I taught one of the cottage mommas a crash course (101 Basic Sewing), did hand sewing classes with the middle school children, read to

preschool children, sewed valances for several classes, constructed classroom word - walls and thrashed beans with the children.

My days were packed full and when it was time to leave my heart nearly broke. I continue to pray for and remember the faces of the children and staff that God sent me to love and serve last summer. I pray to return this summer to serve in ways that God calls. He has given me a heart for orphans of Africa and for that I thank Him. He has given me the opportunity to love and serve orphans in far away lands.

#### **What can you do to be a part of the Rafiki Ministry?**

Go to  
[rafikifoundation.org/Getinvolved/  
minimissions.aspx](http://rafikifoundation.org/Getinvolved/minimissions.aspx)

Train & go on a mini missions trip, donate, start a monthly prayer group for specific village

Go to the website and learn of the ministry.

**ASK ME QUESTIONS, I LOVE TO TELL ABOUT MISSIONS**





# Forever Partner

Village family providing a forever family through adoption.

*We praise God for the provision of family...*



## Empowered to Connect Conference

Village Bible Church has the unique privilege of working with Holt-Sunny Ridge this spring to host the Empowered to Connect Conference Simulcast!! This is an incredible two-day conference with very practical ways to better serve children impacted by adoption and foster care. In 2015, VBC hosted this event and it helped those in attendance to understand the needs of children and the impact of trauma. Attendees were given lots of helpful tools and a much better understanding of how to connect and nurture children. There was information that continues to stick and guide attendees two years later.

"The Empowered to Connect conference is an excellent resource for all types of adoptions and for foster care. The information provided is based on real-life situations and is immediately applicable. There isn't a scenario Dr. Purvis's team hasn't dealt with, and they are a wealth of knowledge. Their teachings are Biblically-based and grace-filled -- exactly what adoptive and foster parents need to navigate all the different paths on our journeys to love our kiddos!" Darin and Anne Malone

"The Empowered to Connect Conference was life changing for us as we prepared to bring our son home from Haiti. Now that he has been home for almost a year we are beyond grateful for the training we received and credit Karyn Purvis' techniques along with God to the progress we have seen in his healing. These techniques are useful for any child, not just adopted children. We highly recommend it to any parent or

professional working with children, especially those working with children from hard

professional working with children, especially those working with children from hard beginnings." Matt Mickiewicz

If you are an adoptive/foster parent, someone considering adoption or foster care, teacher/leader for even one child from a foster/adoptive situation, social worker, church staff or ministry leader, counselor, therapist, or any professional working with children from hard places...then this conference is for YOU! Empowered to Connect, together with Show Hope and The Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at TCU, have created this conference because healing is possible and they have a desire for children from hard places to become all that God desires for them to be.

**Date:** April 7-8, 2017

**Time:** 9:00-5:00 both days with 1.5 hour break for off-site lunch

**Where:** Village Bible Church (Sugar Grove)

**Cost:** \$30 per person (includes both days)

**More information:**

**[Empoweredtoconnect.org/conferences](http://Empoweredtoconnect.org/conferences)**

Training credits are available for adoptive or foster parents. You will receive a certificate of attendance and it is at the adoption agency's discretion whether or not to count participation toward training credits.

Continuing Education Credits (11 hours) are available for professionals. Please note that an additional registration will be required for all professionals seeking continuing education credits.

**Register for the Empowered to Connect Conference Simulcast:**

**[holtinternational.org/etc](http://holtinternational.org/etc)**

## 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: International
- Fred & Sue Spencer: Domestic
- David & Emily Wood: Domestic or International



## References

- [Villagebible.org/orphanicare](http://Villagebible.org/orphanicare)
- [Villagebible.org/missions](http://Villagebible.org/missions)
- [Amagara.org](http://Amagara.org)
- [Safe-families.org](http://Safe-families.org)
- [Cafo2017.org](http://Cafo2017.org)
- [Empoweredtoconnect.org/conferences](http://Empoweredtoconnect.org/conferences)