



September 2012 Newsletter

November 4th is Orphan Sunday *What are you and your church doing to raise aware-*

ness of the plight of the orphan? Do you need some ideas? Well here you go!



For those of you who don't know about Orphan Sunday, here is a little history:

While attending a church service in Zambia, an American visitor was struck by the pastor's passionate call to care for the orphans in the local community, which had been ravaged by AIDS and poverty. Members of the church faced deep need themselves. But as the service ended, one after another stepped forward with money, food and other goods – some even taking off their own shoes and placing them in the offering for orphans.

The visitor, Gary Schneider, was so impacted that he began to help Zambian leaders coordinate Orphan Sunday efforts across Zambia. These efforts spread to the US in 2003 with help from Every Orphan's Hope and other organizations that honor the church in Zambia for the gift of Orphan Sunday.

Since then, it has expanded to 22 countries and all 50 states in the US. Hundreds of thousands of people participate in this event in some way every year around the world and this year marks the 10th anniversary. We pray the church all over the world may be as faithful as our Zambian brothers and sisters to reflect God's heart for the orphan, both near and far.

Each event is locally led. Sermons and small groups, concerts and prayer gatherings, shared meals and youth activities – each rousing believers with God's call to care for the orphan, and what we can do in response.

Here are some ideas for what your church, organization or you personally can do:

Sermon - Pastor give a sermon on God's call to care for orphans

Prayer Gathering – Call a special prayer meeting for this purpose

Youth event – pizza and porridge movie night – serve porridge, the food eaten by many orphans and show an orphan-themed movie followed by pizza and a group discussion

Sunday School lesson – “Orphanage Life” orphan simulation – help children experience what life is like for an orphan compared to their own followed by a time of specific prayer for orphans.

Book Club – Have your book club read a book about orphans or adoption and discuss it

Family Time – Eat porridge only for dinner with your family and have a discussion and prayer time.

Music or Worship – Center worship time or a music time around songs about adoption and orphans

Small Group Bible Study – Focus your small group study on scripture about orphans

PowerPoint – Show a PowerPoint presentation in your church or organization put together by Amaris Ministries.

The possibilities are really endless on what you can do. All of the suggestions above and many more (prayer guide, study guides, music, bulletin inserts, sermon notes, curriculum, activity guides, etc.) have more information and resources on www.orphansunday.org. If you're interested in presenting a PowerPoint from Amaris Ministries, please contact us for more details.

Board Directors: Nicole Rothfleisch, Walter Colace, Joy Tucker, Alex Cardenas, Tom Storey, Annette Rea, Vicki Uhri, Steve Uhri

“We’ve learned that no single person, no single organization, no single effort will care for the needs of the 143,000,000 orphans worldwide. Orphan Sunday helps to bring the message of the orphan to the eyes, ears, hands and feet of God’s huge family.”

-Ed Schwartz, President, Loving Shepard Ministries