

WORLD AIDS DAY

– and ORPHANS –

CARING ABOUT HIV MEANS CARING ABOUT ORPHANS. CARING ABOUT ORPHANS MEANS CARING ABOUT HIV.

If you care about HIV, you care about orphans. If you care about orphans, you care about HIV. The two critical areas of concern, HIV and orphans can't be separated. HIV causes orphans—leaving children without one or both of their parents. And orphans also are the most vulnerable to HIV. This means that children are most susceptible to the tragic outcomes of AIDS in a community. IT also means that children are the most susceptible to contracting the virus. As your church plans **World AIDS Day** activities, remember to focus on the most vulnerable people in this pandemic. The child is the most vulnerable one. The child outside of parental care is the most vulnerable of all.

HIV ORPHANS AND WORLD AIDS DAY

There are many things that can be done within your church to educate, equip, and employ people in the cause of the fatherless. For **World AIDS Day**:

- Educate your congregation with the facts listed below
- Equip ordinary people in your church to care for orphans through the ORPHAN Strategy (www.hivaidsinitiative.com).
- Employ people to get involved by supporting the CHURCH strategy (www.hivaidsinitiative.com).

SIMPLE THINGS CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD CAN DO FOR CHILDREN

All around the world, governments, churches, and researchers are realizing that the most important thing that can be done for a child is to:

- Keep their mother alive, through early HIV diagnosis, treatment, and support;
- Provide treatment to mother and child even before the child is born if the mother is HIV positive;

- Follow the latest treatment guidelines which include things like C-section delivery;
- If the child is orphaned due to HIV, find a **RELATIVE** or **NEW FAMILY** who will legally adopt the child for life. **GIVE AN ORPHAN WHAT THEY NEED MOST: A FAMILY.** Every believer can **GIVE** to children who are orphaned due to AIDS by **SPONSORING A FAMILY WHO IS WILLING TO ADOPT**;
- Give to campaigns which help families adopt at **www.hivaidsinitiative.com**;
- Consider adopting a child who is living with HIV.

HIV AND ORPHANS FACTS

- There are 16-million orphans due to HIV around the world.
- In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 70% of all orphans are orphaned due to HIV.
- About 14.8 million AIDS orphans live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 2009, 370,000 children became newly infected with HIV globally.
- And an estimated 42,000–60,000 pregnant women died because of HIV. In contrast, in high-income countries the number of new HIV infections among children and maternal and child deaths due to HIV was virtually zero.

WHAT HIV MEANS FOR A CHILD WHO IS ORPHANED

- They have an increased risk of being placed in institutional (orphanage) care, which has proven to decrease their long-term survival, growth, and psychological development.
- In addition to the trauma of losing a parent, orphans are often subject to discrimination and are less likely to receive healthcare, education, and other needed services.
- A HIV affected households lacking community support; food consumption can drop by 40% putting children at risk of hunger, malnutrition, and stunting.
- Orphans and vulnerable children face increased risk of HIV infection.
- Orphans are often easy prey to many forms of exploitation: forced labor, prostitution, child soldiering, and sex trafficking.

MESSAGES FOR “Getting to Zero” WORLD AIDS DAY 2012

WE BELIEVE BY 2015, CHILDREN EVERYWHERE CAN BE BORN FREE OF HIV AND THEIR MOTHERS REMAIN ALIVE.

No child should be born with HIV; no child should be an orphan because of HIV; no child should die due to lack of access to treatment.