

COMPASSION COMMUNITY REAL SOLUTIONS

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# // ORPHANS NEED A FAMILY

The Orphan Care Initiative at Saddleback Church inspires and equips churches everywhere to care for orphans and vulnerable children in their own communities and around the world. Through the "ORPHAN" strategy, local churches are encouraged to lead the way in caring for orphans and vulnerable children offering hope, healing, and permanency.

#### O – Open Your Eyes to God's Heart for the Orphan

Caring for orphans is a reflection of what God has done for us. We were vulnerable and helpless and he cared for us in our distress. We can reflect what God has done for us in Christ spiritually by providing for orphans physically. Helping orphans is something that every believer can do. He cares for them and expects us to care as well.

### **R** – Rely on the Family as God's Hope for the Orphan

Children belong in families. Work toward solutions which allow children to grow in permanent, safe, legal, and loving families—not just group homes or institutions. Promote reconciliation, adoption, and permanency as God's idea for the health and healing of a child.

#### P – Prevent Children from Becoming Orphaned: Advocate for Children

Prevent orphans by strengthening the family. Prevent orphans by caring for those living with HIV. Offer care and treatment for mothers/fathers/children that are living with HIV. Give voice to the voiceless. Provide care which focuses on family reunification when appropriate.

### **H** – Help with Relief but Focus on Community Development

To beat a rapidly expanding pandemic, we need a distribution network that is grows faster than the problem. While the HIV pandemic grows at a rate of about 6,000 every day, the church multiplies by 60,000 new converts every day.

### A – Affirm the Church as God's Provision for the Orphan

The Church has existed for more than 2,000 years. Empires, governments, and corporations come and go, but the Church will last into eternity.

## **N** – Nurture the Unique Needs of Every Orphan

Every child needs a secure and permanent connection to a church and a family. Commit to providing permanent solutions that care for the lifelong needs of each child.





