

Children of Grace

One of the most misunderstood ministries of the Christian church is her responsibility to orphans and widows, but the Scriptures are not silent regarding our responsibilities. The Bible teaches that God has tremendous compassion and concern for these children.



1. God has declared that he is the Father of the fatherless and protector of orphans.

Psalms 68:5 ⁵Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Deuteronomy 10:17-18 ¹⁷For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸**He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.**

2. God identifies orphans as objects of His love and compassion; and He has declared that He will defend them. Of all the great things God has done, he particularly wants you to know that He claims orphans as His own.

Psalms 10:17 - 18 ¹⁷**O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear** ¹⁸**to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,** so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Isaiah 40:11 ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Our care of orphaned children is an aspect of our service in the Kingdom that is close to God's heart--That's the place to be!

3. God has provided for the financial needs of orphans today through the gifts of the followers of His Son. You are blessed to be a blessing.

Tithing, giving one tenth of one's increase, is part of God's plan for caring for orphans. Every third year the tithe was for widows and orphans. This is not just a charitable cause one gives money to when one feels sorry for someone. This Old Testament institution is essential and integral to being a Christian.

Deuteronomy 14:28 - 29 ²⁸“At the end of every three years **you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns.** ²⁹And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the **fatherless, and the widow**, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

Deuteronomy 24:17 - 22 ¹⁷“You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge, ¹⁸but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. ¹⁹“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰When you beat your olive trees,

you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. ²¹When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. ²²You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this.

4. Giving to orphans is a sign that you are practicing authentic religion. When you give to orphans, you give to Jesus Himself.

James 1:27 ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Matthew 25:37 - 40 ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

5. God commands us to do good and seek justice for the orphans and vulnerable. His anger is directed to those who despise and take advantage of them; He promises His blessing to those who help them.

Isaiah 1:17 ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Jeremiah 5:28 ²⁸they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper,

Jeremiah 7:1 - 7 ¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²'Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. ³Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'⁵**'For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, ⁷then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.**

Exodus 22:22 ²²You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.

Isaiah 1:23 ²³Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.

Isaiah 10:1 - 2 ¹Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, ²to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!

Jeremiah 22:3 ³Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

Ezekiel 22:7 ⁷Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the sojourner suffers extortion in your midst; the fatherless and the widow are wronged in you.

Malachi 3:5 ⁵'Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

The need is so great. In Uganda alone, there are more than two million orphans. In the past twelve years, Trinity Church Central Oahu, through its church planting ministry in Uganda has tried to minister to many orphans. We continue to learn; we have found this ministry to be challenging, frustrating, stretching, overwhelming at times and yes, fulfilling and bringing tremendous joy to our lives.

We helped build an orphanage near the capital city of Uganda:



Later, partnering with Elder Rashid Luswa, we helped build a Christian school for these orphans and other children:

Recently, we helped build an orphanage in Northern Uganda:



Our approach involves helping Ugandan churches minister to these children in groups of 6 or 7. Most of the 14 churches we have helped start are supporting orphans.

How can YOU help? Through your support of **Children of Grace**, you can partner with local churches in Uganda to assist in their efforts to care for the many orphans living in their communities. For just \$80 per month, you can provide a fatherless child with food, clothing, medical care, and an education, often a solid Christian education. Your giving will enable precious children to grow up hearing the good news of the gospel as they receive the love of Jesus through a local church body that cares for them in His name. If you would like to sponsor an orphaned child*, please fill out our Orphan Sponsorship Pledge Form. We will respond to you by sending a photograph and profile of your child, whom you can then begin to sponsor by mailing in your first check. After that, you will receive annual updates on your child so you can see the difference your generosity is making in his or her life. It's that simple! If you have any questions about our sponsorship program, please do not hesitate to contact us at: tcco@hawaii.rr.com

*For the purposes of our program, an orphan is defined as a fatherless child.

Allow me to introduce you to some vulnerable children who need help; I pray they will become:

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Sebugwawo Bernard is 13. His father, a soldier, and his mother separated when he was 6 and Bernard lived with his mother. Later, she abandoned him because she could not take care of him. Her whereabouts are unknown and Bernard has not seen his father since his parents separated. Since his father was a soldier, Bernard sometimes thinks that he may have died; other times he thinks God may again link them.

Last year, he was promoted to Primary and scored in the top 10 in his school. He studies hard every day. He has good reasoning ability and is very inquisitive. He enjoys football, and he wants to be a pilot.



Mugisha Samuel is 17. He was born in Hoima District, but when His parents died, he came to Kampala with his brother. One month after they arrived in Kampala, the brothers had to part ways as they were unable to get jobs to support themselves. Sam has been living on the street and does not know what happened to his brother.

Sam is in primary five, but with a good education, he could advance through high school. He also desires to join a vocational institute. He is very quiet, leading some to think he was deaf and mute. He wants to be a farmer.



Wasswa, 13, is a twin. His twin brother, Kato, got involved with city thugs and is now addicted to drugs. His mother used to visit him on the street every Christmas, but he has not seen her for the last two Christmases. He is worried that she may have died; no one knows where she is. His father is dead.

Wasswa is in Primary three. He is very funny, thinks fast, and has a heart to help others. He wants to be a teacher.



Charles Kyewalabye, 14, has living parents, but his father divorced his mother. He was a drunkard and would beat all of them when he was drunk. His mother married another man who could not take care of Charles. On several occasions this man beat Charles (one time it reached the authorities). Charles left home and went to live on the streets.

He is in Primary three. He would like to be a teacher.



Muwonge is 13 and has no parents. An uncle tried to put him in school but was unsuccessful because he couldn't meet all the needs of his family—and Muwonge was left out.

He wants to go school but hasn't had the opportunity. He is a quiet, a good listener and a hard worker. He wants to be a teacher.



Dilisa, 10, comes from a Muslim family according to his name. He is an orphan and has no knowledge of his parents. He was born and raised on the street. He would like to go back to school but has not had the opportunity. Dilisa listens carefully to others, is cooperative and is a very hard worker. We have been teaching him about Christ and he seems to be growing spiritually. He is keen to pray and we see some fruit in him and believe God will use him. He wants to be a doctor.

Until recently, these children were living on the streets of Kampala, Uganda. They needed blankets, clothing, mosquito nets, food, funds for school, and a clean safe place to live. Here are pictures of where they used to sleep until their small hut was washed away in a flood a few weeks ago.



Now these children have a new start: They are enrolled in a Christian School like this one pictured here. They have temporary shelter and food each day and Trinity Church is committed this year to build them a small house and train their caretaker in bringing them up in the instruction of the Lord.

Children of Grace Orphan Sponsorship Pledge Form

To sponsor a child, simply fill out the form below and mail it or scan it and attach it to an email.

Sponsor's Information:

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ * Email Address: _____

Church you attend: _____

Number of children you would like to sponsor: _____ Number of boys: _____ Number of girls: _____

_____ Please send my child's photo and profile via email or United States Postal Service.

I would like to contribute:

_____ \$40 per child on a monthly basis for the education of a child

_____ \$40 per child on a monthly basis for food and clothing for a child.

_____ \$960 per child as a one-year sponsorship payment, providing food, clothing, and a Christian education.

_____ I am willing to sponsor an older child (age 16-20) whose previous sponsor was unable to continue, so that he/she can complete school.

_____ Please write me about supporting a disabled child.

Children of Grace is a gospel-centered ministry of Trinity Church Central Oahu established for the purpose of serving the poor, the orphan, and the widow in East Africa. In His grace, God has been exceedingly merciful to us. Our Savior did not sit idly by while the world agonized in the ravages of sin, but in compassion He came and suffered with us. As His visible expression in the earth today, it is our joy to minister the compassion of our Lord Jesus to those around us who are in need. We invite your prayers for **Children of Grace** as we seek to walk in the good works He has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10), to the praise of His glorious grace.

Trinity's Mailing Address: Trinity Church Central Oahu
Children of Grace
95-388 Wikao St
Mililani HI 96789

Our Email Address: tcco@hawaii.rr.com

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