

# Orphan Care Ministry

## James 1:27

<sup>27</sup> Religion 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.

Winter 2015



## Upcoming Events

[March 5th] 7PM – “The Drop Box” movie @ Randall Theater.  
5PM – Portillo’s for dinner

[March 29th] Juna Amagara Care Packages. Send to sponsored child, hand delivered by our April team

[Apr 10-11th] Empowered to Connect. 2 day simulcast by Dr. Karyn Purvis

[April 30th – May 1st] CAFO Summit. 2 day conference in Nashville, TN

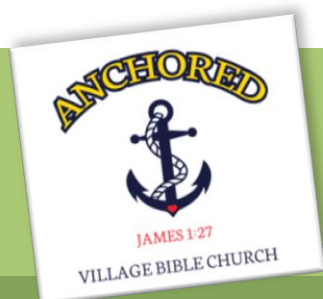
[May 16th] Parents Night Out needs volunteers! Fun with kids as their foster parents relax!

## Extension of Grace

*By Darnell Duncan* - As I struggle to understand and accept God’s grace for me, God gives me opportunity to learn as He asks me to extend grace to those around me. There are times when my heart finds it very hard to offer, and then there are times when God’s intense love inside me wants to freely give it. I am immensely thankful that God freely gives grace...so abundantly that He offered His son as an extension of His grace to us. Without that grace, we would have no salvation.

Probably the biggest lack of grace I extend is with my children. I sense God must be frustrated often with me as His child, because from my own perspective as a parent, frustration can abound. Yet I know God is glorified through the extension of His grace. What grace are we extending to the children in our lives through birth, through adoption, through foster care, through safe families, through sponsorship? What about the millions and millions of orphans that are literally waiting for an extension of grace? My heart breaks as I think of those waiting to see even a glimpse of grace. I am given grace daily by God and I fail to stop and see it. But there are so many that don’t know what it looks like. There are so many that have no idea there is a God willing to give it.

As the church, how will we extend His grace to orphans? God is asking us to place grace over the hardships, the hurts, the troubles, the difficult pasts...all of it for the sake of Him being glorified to these children. To know our part, we must recognize that it’s both collective and individual. As Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12, we are all a part of the body, each of us of equal importance. The grace God is asking each of us to extend looks different. Yet it is meant to do together, all parts of the body working as a whole. What part of the body will I be? What part will you be?



## Other thoughts...

"....orphans are easier to ignore before you know their names. They are easier to ignore before you see their faces. It is easier to pretend they're not real before you hold them in your arms. But once you do, everything changes." – Radical by David Platt.



## Partner

It takes Village Bible Church to raise a child!

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

### 10 MEN

In December, Chris and Jen Mehochko began upstairs construction on their house to prepare for the arrival of the 2 children they are in process to adopt. On one particular Saturday afternoon 10 men from Village helped haul plywood to the second floor of their home. Craig Zimmerman from Village is leading the construction project, and Fred Spencer from Village will be doing the plumbing. Watch for more info in the coming months to see how you can help.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During Chad and Darnell Duncan's travel to China to bring home their adopted daughter, Claire, and after their return, 17 meals were provided in November and December by 14 different families to help them transition.

### SPONSORSHIP

There are over 100 families at Village Bible Church right now sponsoring children through the Juna Amagara ministry in Uganda. Because of this amazing partnership, families were able to send care packages to their sponsored children through the short term mission trip in July 2014. Watch for more

short term mission trip in July 2014. Watch for more opportunities in the coming months and if you are interested in sponsoring a child, contact Pastor Keith at [keith.duff@villagebible.org](mailto:keith.duff@villagebible.org).

### DONATE

A donation site has been established at the Conley's home for baby and children's items and clothing for the families at Village that serve through the Safe Families program. Often children are placed on short notice, and host families can utilize these items. If you have items you would like to donate, contact Clay or Melissa Conley at [claypconley@gmail.com](mailto:claypconley@gmail.com) or [melissaconley.o8@gmail.com](mailto:melissaconley.o8@gmail.com).

### PJ's

This past year women from Village sewed 250 pairs of pajamas for children in Uganda. The Uganda Sewing Bee could use your help making more pajamas and skirts to take on the summer mission trip. No sewing experience needed! They meet 1st & 3rd Fridays 6:30-8:30 and 1st & 3rd Saturdays 9:30-12:30. Please RSVP to Linda Mallette at [lindalmallette@yahoo.com](mailto:lindalmallette@yahoo.com) if you are able to help.

**WILL YOU SPONSOR ONE OF THESE CHILDREN THROUGH JUNA AMAGARA?**



Medius Natukunda [9]



Bright Ainamani [20]



Unity Ninsiima [16]

## Active Partner

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

*Temporary care for long term gain...*



### BEKI

Steve and Renee Anderson welcomed 16 year old Beki from Ethiopia into their home and family in December. They will be hosting him as he finishes high school. He plans to attend college so that he can return to Ethiopia with a degree and a desire to serve the people there.

### SAFE FAMILIES

There are 3 families at Village Bible Church serving children through Safe Families. In this program, families host children while the parents have a temporary need. Praise God for the additional 11 families that have expressed an interest in serving with Safe Families.

### FOSTER PARENTS

Currently, Scott and Linda Harmon serve as foster parents to 2 children. They would love to share their experience or answer any questions about foster care.

### TAKE A TRIP

90 people served on mission trips this past year. The Uganda team of 14 directly served orphans. The other teams worked with at-risk children or taught parenting classes to prison inmates. To learn more, contact Kendra Cervantes at [missions@villagebible.org](mailto:missions@villagebible.org).

### AMY AND COSTA

*By Amy Hett* - Our family has had the joy of sponsoring Costa Kemigisha for 5 years. Costa is 13 years old and she lives in Kishanje, Uganda. I first met Costa when I was in her village on the first mission trip our church took to Uganda in 2009. The first thing I noticed was that she had a sore on her leg and it was bleeding so I cleaned it out and put a Band-Aid on it. The next day I sought her out to see how she was doing - and after that she started looking for me. Whenever I would arrive at her school, she would somehow find me and would always be right by my side. I learned that Costa was waiting for a sponsor so that she could continue school - so I decided my family would sponsor her! The next day the school social worker took us to meet Costa's grandmother, who raises her. (Costa was very excited, as she had never ridden in a vehicle before.) It was a wonderful experience to meet her grandmother and some other family members. While they had very little compared to our standards, you could see she was happy and loved. These children don't have a lot, but they have what they need. They are not in want, they are satisfied. It is not often I can say that of myself or my own

children. I thank God for the opportunity He gave me to meet Costa. It's amazing that for the cost of taking my family out to dinner we are able to provide Costa with her basic nutritional and health needs - and give her an opportunity to attend school, which opens a world of opportunities to her and her future. It's been a blast to continue our relationship through letters and care packages - I love that we continue to send teams who can meet Costa and share my greetings and love with her. We are blessed to be a part of Costa's life and I pray that one day we will meet again





# Forever Partner

Village family providing a forever family through adoption.

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



Duncan Family

## ADOPTION

Village Bible Church has 13 families that have adopted and many more adults who have been directly impacted by adoption. Our church has a growing support network for families who have adopted children of various ages both domestically and internationally.

## 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.

Jamie & Amy Benjamin: China  
Matt & Jennifer Brown: Domestic  
Darin & Anne Malone: Domestic  
Chris & Jen Mehochko: Domestic  
Fred & Sue Spencer: Domestic

## CLAIRE DUNCAN

Praise is being given to God for the smooth transition for the Duncan family in bringing Claire home from China and adding her to their family. Chad and Darnell would love to share their story and have you meet their newest family member.

## ADOPTEE PERSPECTIVE

*By Jeff Kelso - My life as I know it is only possible because 41 years ago two people made the most unselfish of decisions to adopt an infant child (my sister Kris). Then they did it again 3 years later when they adopted me. They gave us what all kids deserve... unconditional love and the opportunity to be part of a family.*

Jim and MaryLee Kelso, **my parents**, somehow made me understand from the beginning that I was adopted. I don't remember a conversation, or a time when I didn't know that to be true. I also don't remember a time when it mattered. These are my parents. They fed me. They clothed me. They hugged me. They disciplined me. I can write this story because my Mom and Dad read to me.

It is my prayer that God will continue to provide parents like mine, who are able, and that are willing to bring a child into their home and provide them the unconditional love and family that I have had in my life.



Jeff's Parents



Kelso Family

## References

- [www.villagebible.org/orphan-care/](http://www.villagebible.org/orphan-care/)
- [www.villagebible.org/empower](http://www.villagebible.org/empower)
- [www.amagara.org](http://www.amagara.org)
- [www.safe-families.org](http://www.safe-families.org)
- [www.fathomevents.com/event/the-drop-box](http://www.fathomevents.com/event/the-drop-box)
- [www.christianalliancefororphans.org/summit/](http://www.christianalliancefororphans.org/summit/)
- [missions@villagebible.org](mailto:missions@villagebible.org)