

Praying for Children Afflicted with HIV/AIDS

CCTI Prayer Initiative for Children in Crisis

Who Are They?

The scale of the orphan crisis is somewhat masked by the time lag between when parents become infected and when they die. If, as expected, the number of adults dying from AIDS rises over the next decade, an increasing number of orphans will grow up without parental care and love.

Their Challenges: Emotional Impact

Children whose parents are living with HIV often experience many negative changes in their lives and can start to suffer neglect long before they are orphaned. Eventually, they suffer the death of their parent(s) and the emotional trauma from the loss. They may then have to adjust to a new situation, with little or no support, and they may experience exploitation and abuse.

Loss of a Parent

The loss of a parent to AIDS can have serious consequences for a child's access to basic necessities such as shelter, food, clothing, health care and education. Orphans are more likely to live in large, female-headed households where more people are dependent of fewer income earners, putting extra pressure on AIDS orphans to contribute financially to the household.

Stigmatization

Children grieving for dying or dead parents are often stigmatized by society through association with AIDS. The distress and social isolation experienced by these children is strongly exacerbated by the shame, fear and rejection that often surrounds people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Family Structure

In African countries that have already suffered long, severe epidemics, AIDS is generating orphans so quickly that family structures cannot cope. Traditional safety nets are unraveling as increasing numbers of adults die from HIV-related illnesses.



Roughly 17.1 million children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS and millions more have been affected.
Source: UNICEF

How to Pray:

Protection

For protection of the legal and human rights of orphans.

“The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.” (Psalm 103:6 NIV)

Love

For the love and support of the community for AIDS orphans.

“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.” (Deuteronomy 10:18 NIV)

Needs Will be Met

For adequate medical care and nutrition.

“I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:36 NIV)

Healing

For comfort and healing for sick parents and children.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5 NIV)

Acceptance

Against discrimination towards families who are fighting AIDS.

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” (Mark 9:37 NIV)



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