

The African Situation

We have chosen to help the suffering orphans of Africa and the usual first response is to build orphanages. The massive number of children who are orphaned through the HIV/AIDS plight requires a response.

James 1:27 "...look after orphans and widows in their distress." We must choose the best way to help and here are some of the ways we have chosen to do so:

1. help orphans and their communities
2. help families who care for orphans
3. build orphan centers for food and education but not housing.

Children need families

Africa's social structure has traditionally held that children belong not only to parents, but to the extended community or families.

Children need identity

Without entitlement to land, a family name lineage and language, orphaned children struggle to know who they are. Orphanages can never be a family, provide a secure identity or a place to belong.

Orphanages need massive funding

Building sophisticated buildings, training and hiring staff and the on-going maintenance is something that would be out of reach financially for ACOP to tackle.

Africa Government Policy

The various countries on the continent of Africa have many prohibitive policies to follow if we were to go the orphanage route.

We believe we are called to help the local churches in Africa to help orphans. We believe in the local church, we believe in helping the families of local communities to minister to orphans. Here's the typical story:

"I lost my parents to AIDS and then my auntie followed. I was then taken and adopted by an (orphanage) where I have lived for the last five years.

I hate this place. It is an institution, not a home. I wish I was left with my poor grandmother, with just assistance for care. Today I have lost touch with most of my relatives.

We live in homes named by numbers and so called house mothers...We as children need real love from our relatives, not people paid to love us...How can a child be adopted by an organization?"

We want to be an encouragement to the ACOP churches of Africa to accept their responsibility to minister to their communities. To develop plans and strategies to engage the church to reach out to this desperate need in their community. Thank you for helping! Let's continue to expand our efforts to reach many more orphans with the Spirit of Christ.



"Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.
Defend the orphan, plead the case of the widow."
(Isaiah 1:17)