



ORPHAN SUNDAY ZAMBIA

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR GUIDE

VOLUNTEER CORDINATION · PREACHING · ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

One Day. One Voice. One Purpose.



OrphanSundayZambia.com

WELCOME & HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Volunteer Coordinator Guide is the official resource of the Orphan Sunday Zambia movement. It brings together three essential tools for three purposes: coordination, preaching, and event preparation. This guide creates one complete resource for every coordinator, pastor, church leader, and Christian who wants to join the movement.

This guide is for you: Whether you are an individual, church, fellowship, or community Coordinator, we want to help you join an amazing network across your province, prepare messaging for your sermons and events, a church planning an Orphan Sunday event, or an individual Christian looking for your 'something' to do —

Orphan Sunday Zambia is organized around a simple vision: every province in Zambia should have a network of coordinators, supported by their churches, organizations, and individual Christians. Together, on the second Sunday in November — and throughout the year — we raise one voice for Zambia's orphaned and vulnerable children.

How This Guide Is Organized

Section 1: About Orphan Sunday Zambia — our identity, history, and vision

Section 2: Biblical & Theological Foundation — why we do what we do

Section 3: Volunteer Coordinator Guide — planning and coordinating Orphan Sunday

Section 4: Preaching Guide — biblical themes and principles for preaching

Section 5: Event Guide — planning and executing your Orphan Sunday events

A Note on Terminology

The Orphan Sunday movement began in Zambia in 2002 and has since spread to over 120 nations. The Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) has adopted the name 'Pure Religion Sunday'. Zambia, along with many other nations, churches, and organizations, continues to use the original name: Orphan Sunday. This guide honors that original name and the Zambian heritage of this movement.

This guide has been adapted by Orphan Sunday Zambia from the Pure Religion Project Field Guide, Preaching Guide, and Event Guide, produced by the Christian

Alliance for Orphans (CAFO). We are grateful for CAFO's generosity in making these resources available to the global Church.

SECTION 1 ABOUT ORPHAN SUNDAY ZAMBIA



Orphan Sunday Zambia — Homecoming Conference 2025

WHAT IS ORPHAN SUNDAY?

Orphan Sunday is an annual, globally unified day of prayer, awareness, and action for orphaned and vulnerable children. Observed on the second Sunday in November — and celebrated throughout the year — it is a day when churches across Zambia and around the world rise together to declare God's heart for the fatherless and to invite His people to respond.

Rooted in James 1:27 — 'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress' — Orphan Sunday calls the local church to be the primary answer to the orphan crisis: through adoption, kinship care, foster care, family preservation, and wrap-around community support.

In Zambia, Orphan Sunday is not just a day. It is a movement — a covenant of the Church with the nation's most vulnerable children. It is the Church of Zambia rising, province by province, congregation by congregation, family by family, to say: 'We see you. We receive you. You belong.'

THE ORIGIN STORY — A GIFT FROM ZAMBIA

Orphan Sunday did not begin in America or Europe. It began right here — in Zambia.



In 2002, a Zambian pastor called his congregation to respond to the orphan crisis ravaging their community. AIDS had taken thousands of parents. Poverty had broken countless families. Children were left alone and forgotten. But this pastor refused to let the Church be silent.

As that first-ever Orphan Sunday service ended, something extraordinary happened. One person after another stepped forward — not just with money, but with food, with goods, with shoes from their own feet. They placed them in the offering for the orphans. It was not abundance; it was sacrifice.

An American visitor, Gary Schneider, witnessed that moment and was so deeply moved that he began to help Zambian leaders coordinate Orphan Sunday across the country — and eventually, across the world. Today, churches and organizations in more than 120 nations observe Orphan Sunday annually.

"God sets the lonely in families." — Psalm 68:6

The heart of Orphan Sunday still beats here — in Zambia. This movement belongs to you. These children belong to you. And together, we continue the legacy that began with one brave Zambian pastor and one congregation willing to give their very shoes.

*Together for
Conference*



*Orphans
2026 — Zambia*

ZAMBIA TODAY: THE ORPHAN CRISIS

Zambia is home to one of the highest concentrations of orphaned and vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa. According to UNICEF and government figures, Zambia has approximately 1.5 million orphaned children — children who have lost one or both parents, primarily due to HIV/AIDS, illness, poverty, and conflict.

The Children's Code Act 2022, Section 21, establishes strong legal protections for vulnerable children and calls on communities, families, and the government to work together in their care. The Church of Zambia has a critical role to play in making this vision a reality — province by province, community by community.

Zambia is divided into ten provinces:

- Central Province
- Copperbelt Province
- Eastern Province
- Luapula Province
- Lusaka Province
- Muchinga Province
- Northern Province
- North-Western Province
- Southern Province
- Western Province

The vision of Orphan Sunday Zambia is to have at least active coordinators in every province — a provincial network of faithful servants who will champion the cause of orphaned and vulnerable children within their communities, churches, and spheres of influence.

OUR PARTNERS IN THE MOVEMENT

Orphan Sunday Zambia is a collaboration of church mother bodies, government institutions, and community organizations standing together as one family before God.

Church Mother Bodies

Our movement is grounded in the unity of the Church of Zambia across all denominations:

- Apostles Council of Churches
- Council of Churches Zambia
- Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia
- Independent Churches of Zambia
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishop

Government Partners

- Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
- Human Rights Commission
- Zambia Police Service
- Drug Enforcement Commission

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Orphan Sunday Zambia is led by a National Steering Committee based in Lusaka, operating under the patronage of Bishop Dr. JHK Banda, PhD. The movement was co-founded by Reverend Gary Schneider, who witnessed the original Orphan Sunday service in Zambia in 2002.



Everyone is welcome to become a volunteer Orphan Sunday coordinator, and the goal is to eventually have Provincial Coordinators to serve each of Zambia's ten provinces. Volunteer coordinators will work together to mobilize churches, support church leaders, and plan Orphan Sunday activities throughout the year.

SECTION 2

BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families." — Psalm 68:5-6

WHY THE CHURCH?

Of all the institutions on earth, it is the Church — and the Church alone — that carries both the mandate and the power to transform the orphan crisis. Government programs, NGOs, and social welfare systems all play important roles. But only the Church carries the gospel. Only the Church can offer a child not just a home, but a Father. Not just provision but belonging. Not just care, but covenant.

James 1:27 defines pure and undefiled religion as this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress. This is not an optional mission for the Church. It is the definition of faithful discipleship. Caring for the fatherless is not one ministry among many — it is evidence that our faith is alive.

OUR ANCHOR: JAMES 1:27

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

This verse calls us to be both:



HOLY — set apart, unstained by the world's values and systems.

HELPFUL — drawing near to the vulnerable, loving and serving them sacrificially.

We do not stand at a safe distance from the brokenness of Zambia's communities. Instead, we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty doing this holy and helpful work. Holiness is pure, but with purpose. Its heart is clean, but its hands are working.

THREE KEY THEOLOGICAL THEMES

Consistent themes about who God is, what He does, and how we must live in response are woven throughout the fabric of Scripture. These three themes anchor everything Orphan Sunday Zambia does:

THEME ONE: GOD INCARNATES

God moves toward hard places and struggling people — and so must we.

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us)." — Matthew 1:23

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." — John 1:14

"God incarnates" means: we move toward hard places, not away.

THEME TWO: GOD WELCOMES

God receives us into His family as dearly loved sons and daughters — and we must do the same.

"A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families." — Psalm 68:5-6

"To those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." — John 1:12

"God welcomes" means: we open our lives, homes, and communities to the most vulnerable.

THEME THREE: GOD PROTECTS

God defends those who are powerless — and He calls us to do the same.

"He defends the cause of the fatherless." — Deuteronomy 10:18

"Seek justice, defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." — Isaiah 1:17

"God protects" means we fight against whatever fights against them.

"We do for others in response to what God has done for us through Jesus. This is the 'why' that drives us and sustains us."

THE THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION: SIX PILLARS

The Orphan Sunday Zambia Theological Position Paper provides the complete theological grounding for this movement. Below is a summary of its six key theological sections:

1. Biblical and Theological Foundation

The movement's foundation is Jesus Christ. Every child is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and orphaned children bear that image fully and equally. Orphan Sunday calls the Church to honest confession and repentance for the ways it has at times stigmatised, neglected, or only partially welcomed orphaned children, and frames this movement not merely as social service but as an act of theological faithfulness.

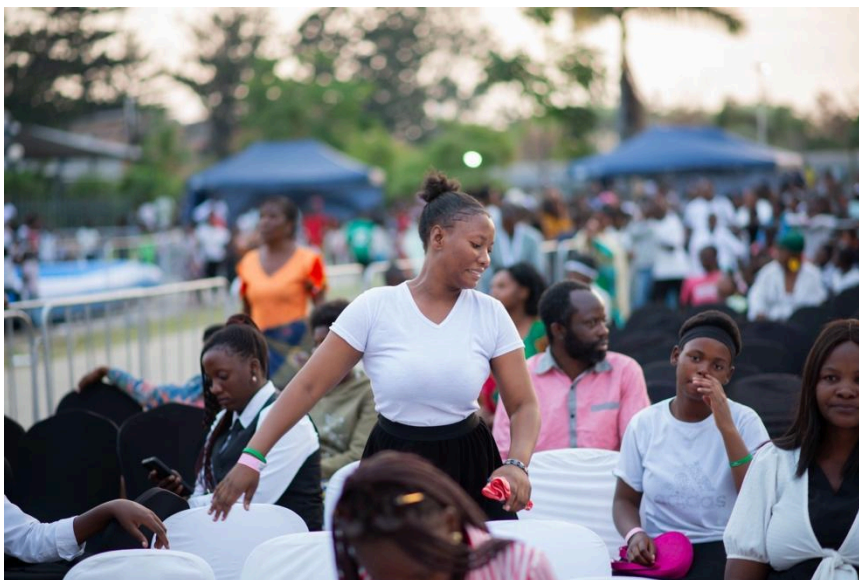
2. God's Heart for the Orphan and His Commands

God's heart for the orphan is covenantal, active, and morally demanding. Scripture consistently reveals Him as 'a Father to the fatherless' (Psalm 68:5), and His commands are unambiguous. This section names the stigmatization of orphaned children — including harsh words, unequal treatment, exclusion from affection and inheritance — as sin, not culture, and calls for confession and change.

3. God's Promises for the Orphan and for Those Who Serve

Scripture gives real promises in both directions. To the orphaned child: God sees, receives, upholds, and will not forget (Psalm 10:14; 27:10; John 14:18). To those who serve orphaned children in Christ's name: there are blessings spoken over the work of their hands, and reward that is eternal.

4. God's Adoption of His Children Through Jesus Christ



The doctrine of adoption is the theological heartbeat of Orphan Sunday. Every believer was once a spiritual orphan — estranged from God, without hope or inheritance. At the cost of the blood of His Son, God

adopted us (Romans 8:15-17; Ephesians 1:5). A people who have been received by grace must receive. Human adoption and kinship care, when practiced in Christlike love, become living parables of the gospel.

5. God's Inheritance for His Children

The biblical covenant moves toward inclusion. God promised Abraham that all families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). In Christ, there is one table. There is not one inheritance for natural-born children and a lesser portion for the orphaned child. In God's Kingdom there is one portion — full, equal, and eternal. The Church in Zambia must reflect this reality in its homes, congregations, and communities.

6. God's Call to the Unified Body of Christ

The call to serve the orphan belongs to the whole Body of Christ — pastors and bishops, congregations, families, and communities — across every tradition and denomination. Jesus prayed for visible unity (John 17:21). The movement calls for repentance from division and a renewed commitment to move as one Church, with one voice, for Zambia's children.

Key Scripture Anchors

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

Psalms 68:5

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." **James 1:27**

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." **John 14:18**

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ."

Romans 8:16-17

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." **Romans 15:7**

SECTION 3

PLANNING YOUR ORPHAN SUNDAY



Building the movement province by province

YOUR ROLE AS A Volunteer COORDINATOR

Whether you are a church leader or an individual Christian joining the movement, you play a vital role. Orphan Sunday Zambia does not run on a central office — it runs on faithful people in every province, every town, and every congregation who carry the vision of God's heart for the fatherless.

As a volunteer coordinator, your primary calling is not to do everything yourself, but to mobilise your community. You are a champion and an advocate — someone who speaks up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8), connects the local Church to the needs of vulnerable children, and ensures that Orphan Sunday is not just a day but a movement.

THE Coordinator is an ADVOCATE

The Bible calls God's people to advocate for the weak and vulnerable. When we act as advocates, Scripture shows us that we are reflecting the character of Jesus and how He first loved us. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are referred to as our advocates — Jesus advocates for us to the Father (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:24, 1 Timothy 2:5), and the Holy Spirit advocates for us when we do not know how to pray (Romans 8:26).

A Volunteer Coordinator for Orphan Sunday Zambia will:

- Speaks up publicly for orphaned and vulnerable children in their community
- Connects churches, organisations, and government agencies around a shared vision
- Mobilises resources — time, prayer, finances, and practical support — for orphaned children and their families
- Organises Orphan Sunday activities and events in their province, district, or congregation
- Builds relationships with kinship carers, vulnerable families, and child welfare organisations
- Prays consistently for the children, families, and communities they serve

RESOURCES & PLANNING TIMELINE

Use this planning timeline to prepare for Orphan Sunday and for year-round engagement. The second Sunday in November is our unified national day, but the work of the movement happens all year long.

August — Begin Preparation

Become familiar with this guide and share it with your team. Identify other coordinators and church leaders in your province who will participate. Begin praying for your Orphan Sunday activities and for the children and families you will serve. Connect with the national Orphan Sunday Zambia leadership for support and coaching.

September — Build Your Team

Assemble your provincial or local team. Assign roles: one person for communications, one for community liaison, one to coordinate with churches, and one to work with government or NGO partners. Download and share promotional materials from OrphanSundayZambia.com. Begin announcing your planned events to churches and organisations in your network.

October — Prepare & Promote

Finalise your event plans. Continue spreading the word through church networks, community groups, radio announcements, social media, and word of mouth. Brief pastors and church leaders on the preaching themes and resources in Section 4 of this guide. Prepare prayer materials, worship resources, and any special activities for Orphan Sunday.

November — The Second Sunday

Orphan Sunday! Today, churches and communities across Zambia — and in more than 120 nations — are raising one voice for orphaned and vulnerable children. Hold your event, preach the message, pray for the children, and invite your people to respond. Collect information from those who want to get involved and plan a follow-up gathering.

December–January — Follow Up & Plan Ahead

Host a follow-up gathering (bridge event) for those who responded on Orphan Sunday. Connect interested people with local organisations, kinship care opportunities, and ongoing ministries. Review what worked and what could be improved. Begin planning for the next year. Celebrate what God did and prepare for what He will do.

BUILDING YOUR NETWORK

The goal is simple and clear: every one of Zambia's ten provinces should have at least one active Orphan Sunday coordinator. These will be volunteer coordinators who are faithful Christians, guardedly carry the vision, and are willing to mobilize their communities.

Here is what provincial coordination looks like in practice:

- Provincial Coordinators connect with all Orphan Sunday coordinators churches, organizations, and community leaders across their province
- They facilitate training gatherings and resources for Orphan Sunday
- They provide support and encouragement to district and local coordinators

- They identify and support new coordinators, share resources with them, and pass the vision on
- They report to the National Steering Committee and represent their province in national gatherings
- **If you are reading this guide and there is no coordinator in your province, that means God may be calling you. Start by contacting OrphanSundayZambia.com. The most important step is the first one.**

WORKING WITH CHURCHES, ORGANISATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES

Orphan Sunday Zambia is not a program that belongs to one denomination or organization. It belongs to the whole Church in Zambia. That means coordinators must be:

- Servant-hearted — leading through service, not position
- Ecumenical — working across denominations and church mother bodies
- Collaborative — partnering with NGOs, government departments, and community organizations
- Community-rooted — understanding the specific needs and context of their local area

Practical ways to engage your community:

- Approach church leaders first and invite their endorsement
- Meet with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services officials in your province
- Identify local children's homes, kinship care families, and vulnerable child-headed households

- Connect with schools that can highlight the issue to students and parents
- Partner with radio stations for community awareness campaigns
- Organise prayer networks that intercede for vulnerable children throughout the year

SECTION 4 PREACHING GUIDE

""To be effective the preacher's message must be alive; it must alarm, arouse, challenge; it must be God's present voice to a particular people."" — A.W. Tozer

A HOLY AND HEAVY CALLING

Among the highest and most weighty callings is to be a preacher or teacher who communicates 'God's present voice to a particular people' week in and week out. This is a task with eternal significance. Scripture itself speaks to this when James 3:1 says, 'Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.'

Combine that with the uniquely joy-filled and heavy-hearted privilege of preaching on God's heart for orphaned and vulnerable children, and it feels like a double portion of responsibility.

Whether you are:

- Preaching from the pulpit of a large congregation
- Leading a Bible study group in a home
- Speaking to community leaders about God's mandate
- Teaching children about what it means to welcome the fatherless

...it is an exciting privilege to speak to people about the gospel and what it means to live it out in 'pure and undefiled' ways (James 1:27).

THE GOSPEL IS OUR 'WHY'

First and foremost, we must remember that our goal is not recruitment or activism; it is discipleship and formation. This is the essence of 1 John 4:19 — 'We love because He first loved us.'

This is not a message about activity, but identity. Rather than trying to churn up more acts of service or make busy people even more busy, we want to see the gospel transform hearts and minds to the point that caring for orphaned and vulnerable children becomes an extension of who we are as the people of God. In other words, it is not just something we do as a church — it is who we are as a church.

We preach the gospel above all else, then invite others to demonstrate that gospel in specific ways. In our preaching, we want to:

- 1. Point people to the work of Jesus.**
2. Reinforce our identity as those who do for others what Jesus has done for us.
3. Reinforce that 'everyone can do something' — highlight the diverse ways to get involved and give clear pathways for people to take their next step.
4. Celebrate the unique ways your church and community are already engaging.

THREE KEY BIBLICAL THEMES

The following three themes are woven throughout Scripture. Use them to shape your Orphan Sunday message — whether it is a full sermon series, a single service, or a short teaching at a community gathering.

THEME ONE: GOD INCARNATE

Throughout Scripture, we see a God who moves toward hard places and struggling people. He is not afraid of our brokenness — He draws near to us in the midst of it. When we do the same and draw near to the vulnerable, it puts God's heart on display in vividly 'pure and undefiled' ways (James 1:27).

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us)." — Matthew 1:23

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." — John 1:14

Application: The church does not wait for orphaned children to come to it. It goes to them.

THEME TWO: GOD WELCOMES

In God's character as our good Father, He welcomes us into the security and provision of His family as His dearly loved sons and daughters. Welcoming others is a natural and necessary response to God welcoming us. When we take in kinship children, adopt, or open our lives and homes to others, we follow in His footsteps.

"A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families." — Psalm 68:5-6

"To those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." — John 1:12

Application: Every child deserves equal love, provision, and belonging — in our homes, our families, and our churches.

THEME THREE: GOD PROTECTS

God fends off that which seeks to destroy us and defeats that which we are powerless to fight on our own. We extend protection to those in need because we have received God's Fatherly protection.

"He defends the cause of the fatherless." — Deuteronomy 10:18

"Seek justice, defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." — Isaiah 1:17

Application: Coordinators and pastors must speak publicly against abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children — and equip congregations to do the same.

THREE STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES FOR PREACHING

Consider these principles as you plan how and when you will preach or teach on God's heart for orphaned and vulnerable children:

PRINCIPLE One: MAKE IT SPECIAL

We celebrate what we consider important. Pick a specific Sunday — ideally the second Sunday in November — to join with the global community of churches

emphasising this call to care for vulnerable children and families. Make it stand out. Plan an entire sermon series on adoption, kinship care, and the biblical vision for vulnerable children. Commission foster and kinship families publicly. Dedicate a time of prayer specifically for orphaned children in Zambia.

PRINCIPLE Two: MAKE IT NORMAL

Preaching on this topic should not always be a 'special' event. Throughout the year, take every opportunity to spotlight the moments in Scripture where you see God moving toward hard places and struggling people, rather than away. Every time you preach about the incarnation, about adoption into God's family, about justice and mercy — reinforce the vision of Orphan Sunday. Share stories of families caring for children in your congregation. Keep the message alive all year long.

PRINCIPLE Three: MAKE IT FOR EVERYONE

We are not all called to do the same thing, but everyone can do something. This is the essence of 1 Corinthians 12 — members of the same body with unique gifts, working together for the good of the whole. Preaching on Orphan Sunday should never leave anyone feeling excluded or condemned. Provide a variety of ways to get involved — from taking in a kinship child, to bringing meals to a struggling family, to praying weekly, to giving financially. Every person has a 'something' to offer.

PREACHING IN THE ZAMBIAN CONTEXT

Zambia's churches carry a unique and powerful voice on this issue. When a Zambian pastor preaches about caring for orphaned children, it is not a foreign concept imported from elsewhere — it is the calling of the Church that started this movement. Here are a few principles for contextualising the message:

Name the Zambian Heritage

Remind your congregation that Orphan Sunday began in Zambia. This movement is theirs. They are not followers of a foreign initiative — they are the originators of a global movement. Preach from that identity.

Address Cultural Barriers Directly

In many Zambian communities, stigma around orphaned children persists — particularly children born to parents who died of AIDS, or children in kinship care situations who are treated unequally in inheritance, food, and education. The Orphan Sunday Zambia Theological Position Paper names these things clearly as sin and calls the Church to repentance and renewal.

Celebrate What Is Already Happening

The Zambian Church already cares deeply for vulnerable children through kinship networks, community support, church-based orphan care programs, and the sacrificial love of countless families. Celebrate these stories. Name them from the pulpit. What is celebrated is what grows.

Use Local Stories

The most powerful illustrations will come from your own community. Find families who are caring for orphaned or vulnerable children and invite them to share their story — with permission — from the front of the church or in a video or letter read aloud. Their testimony will move hearts in ways that statistics cannot.

Reference the Children's Code Act 2022

Section 21 of the Children's Code Act 2022 establishes important legal protections for vulnerable children and creates responsibilities for communities and families. Referencing this law in your message can help congregations understand that caring for orphaned children is not only a biblical mandate — it is a civic and legal one as well.

SECTION 5

EVENT GUIDE — PLANNING YOUR ORPHAN SUNDAY EVENTS



Orphan Sunday Together for Orphans Conference 2026

MORE THAN JUST A DAY

However you choose to recognise and participate in Orphan Sunday, it is ultimately more than a single service. It is a 'hinge' — a connecting point between front-end planning, team building, and coordination on one side, and back-end follow-up, connection, and strategic next steps on the other.

Orphan Sunday can catalyse a new focus and energy on building a ministry committed to caring for orphaned and vulnerable children. It can also celebrate all that God has already done in your existing ministry and provide clear pathways for others to get involved. Either way, the day is not the destination — it is the doorway.

FRONT-END PLANNING: FOUR PILLARS

The front-end planning phase is the most crucial part of effectively leveraging the power of your Orphan Sunday event. As in most areas of life, results reflect the

systems we have put in place. Here are the four pillars of effective front-end planning:

Pillar 1: Assemble a Team

Whether you already have a ministry team or will be building one for this event, it is important that this initiative is team-driven with a diversity of tasks assigned to different people. Consider:

- One person to oversee all communications and social media
- One person to gather follow-up response information from participants
- One person to liaise between the team and the pastor or church leadership
- One person to work with outside organisations, government departments, and NGOs

This is a great opportunity to utilise the power of a team to optimise your efforts and maximise your impact.

Pillar 2: Plan With the End in Sight

Among your team, create a vision for what you want to see happen — not just at your Orphan Sunday events, but in the days, weeks, and months that follow. Ask yourselves:

- What outcomes do we want to see? (new kinship carers, new volunteers, new donors, new prayer partners?)
- What systems do we need to put in place now to produce those outcomes later?
- Who needs to be involved — inside and outside our church?
- What 'next steps' do we want to offer people, and how do we prepare those pathways now?

Pillar 3: Craft Your Message

The goal is not to create an isolated ministry that few are a part of, but to establish a foundational culture in which everyone has an opportunity to participate. We are not all called to do the same things, but we are all capable of doing something. The message of Orphan Sunday Zambia is: 'Everyone Can Do Something!'

Make sure everyone who will be communicating the vision — from the pulpit, on social media, in conversations after service — is speaking the same language. Write out the core message of your event in simple, clear words and share it with your whole team.

Pillar 4: Utilise What Already Exists

What is your church or community uniquely good at? What resources, programs, relationships, and opportunities already exist that can be incorporated into your Orphan Sunday event? Find out what is already happening in your community and learn how you can use your event to strengthen that work. Do not feel pressure to create a lot of 'new' things. Instead, find what is already rolling — and invite your people to jump on.

EVENT IDEAS FOR ZAMBIA

From full-length sermons and prayer to story sharing, celebrations, and community gatherings, here are ideas adapted for the Zambian context. Pick what fits your church and community — and feel free to create your own.

During Your Orphan Sunday Service

- Preach a full sermon on God's heart for orphaned and vulnerable children using the themes in Section 4
- Set aside dedicated time for prayer over orphaned children, kinship carers, and vulnerable families in your community
- Invite a kinship carer or adoptive family to share their story live or via video
- Invite a young person who grew up in orphan care to share their testimony
- Collect food, clothes, school materials, or other practical items for local orphaned children or kinship families

- Commission families in your church who are taking in kinship children or other vulnerable children
- Plan a special child dedication service for children who have been welcomed into new families
- Take up a special offering to support kinship families or a local orphan care ministry
- Partner with a local children's home or orphan care organisation and invite them to share how your congregation can help
- Distribute prayer cards with names and stories of children in your community who need families or support

Provincial and District Events

- Organise a provincial Orphan Sunday gathering bringing together churches from across the province
- Host a coordinator training day for new and existing coordinators
- Invite government representatives from the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to engage with church leaders
- Partner with community radio stations to air special programming on Orphan Sunday
- Organise a community walk or march in honour of orphaned children, raising awareness in the broader community
- Facilitate a joint prayer service across multiple churches in your district

EVENT EXECUTION: THE WIDE NET PRINCIPLE

Think of your Orphan Sunday event as a very wide net that you toss over your entire church and community. The message is clear: 'We are not all called to do the same thing, but we are all capable of doing something.' That net covers everyone — from

young people to elders, from couples to singles, from those who can take in a child to those who can pray and give.

Once you have cast that wide net, the next question is: how do you draw it in? How do you move people from awareness to action? The answer is to create smaller circles — intentional follow-up gatherings and connections that give people a safe place to say 'yes' and find out what their 'something' looks like.

BACK-END FOLLOW-UP: BRIDGE EVENTS

Bridge events are mid-size gatherings that provide a pathway for people to move from isolated and anonymous in a crowd at your Orphan Sunday event to being connected, resourced, and involved. That is a significant leap — which is exactly why bridge events matter so much.

Bridge events provide a safe place for people to publicly process what may have been largely private and personal — a growing sense of calling to care for vulnerable children — and to be encouraged, connected, and challenged alongside others on the same journey.

What to Do at a Bridge Event

- 1. Share Stories** — Allow people to introduce themselves and share what brought them to this gathering. Create a warm, welcoming environment.
- 2. Introduce Leadership** — People need to know who to talk to and where to go. Introduce your ministry leadership so people have a name and a face.
- 3. Cast Vision** — Answer three questions: Why are we doing this? How are we going to do it? What are we going to do next?
- 4. Define Next Steps** — People must leave the room with a very clear understanding of what is coming next, when, where, and why. Clarity reduces anxiety and builds momentum.

Bridge Event Ideas for the Zambian Context

- A community meal after your Orphan Sunday service, where interested families and individuals can connect
- An informational gathering at a church, community hall, or school for anyone interested in kinship care or supporting vulnerable children

- A small group study using the Orphan Sunday Zambia Theological Position Paper
- A meeting with the district social welfare office for those interested in formal kinship or adoption processes
- A prayer breakfast for church leaders to plan year-round engagement

Promoting Your Bridge Event

The bridge event is the clear follow-up action item to your Orphan Sunday event. If possible, announce it multiple times in the weeks leading up to it — from the pulpit, in the church bulletin, through community radio, by word of mouth, and via WhatsApp and social media. The more people know in advance, the more they can plan to attend.

A CALL TO THE CHURCH IN ZAMBIA



The Church of Zambia rising for its children

Beloved family in Christ —

What began in 2002 as a single Zambian pastor's courageous call to his congregation has become a movement reaching more than 120 nations. The heart of Orphan Sunday still beats here — in Zambia, in the Church that first gave this gift to the world.

Today, we call the Church of Zambia to rise again. To rise across all ten provinces. To rise across all denominations. To rise in every village, town, and city. To rise with one voice for the children who have no voice.

Every orphaned child in Zambia deserves a family. Every vulnerable child deserves a church that sees them. Every kinship carer deserves the support of a congregation wrapped around them. Every coordinator deserves a movement behind them.

That movement is Orphan Sunday Zambia. And it is built — one coordinator, one church, one family, one child at a time.

*"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." — **Philippians 1:6***

One Day. One Voice. One Purpose.

OrphanSundayZambia.com

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ROLE DESCRIPTION

The following is a guide to the context, role, and responsibilities of an Orphan Sunday Zambia Coordinator at the provincial, district, or local level.

A Ministry of Grace: The Nature of This Role

The Orphan Sunday Zambia Coordinator role is a **voluntary ministry position** — offered as an act of worship and a response to the call of God on the Church. There is no salary attached to this role, and none is needed. What you are being invited into is something far more valuable: *a direct partnership with God in His work among Zambia's most vulnerable children.*

Many who serve as coordinators already carry other callings — as pastors, deacons, elders, children's ministry workers, or compassionate ministry leaders. This role does not replace those callings. It sits alongside them, adding an Orphan Sunday focus to the ministry you are already doing. You bring your gifts, your relationships, and your passion. Orphan Sunday Zambia brings the resources, training, and connection to a national movement.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters... It is the Lord Christ you are serving." — Colossians 3:23–24

What Orphan Sunday Zambia Provides

Orphan Sunday Zambia is committed to equipping and supporting every coordinator. This includes:

- **Coordination resources** — guides, templates, event materials, and training to help you plan and lead with confidence
- **Connection** — to a national network of coordinators, church leaders, and partner organisations across all ten provinces
- **Support for children** — as resources and benefits for vulnerable children become available, coordinators and the communities they serve will be among the first to receive them

We are a young and growing movement. What we can offer will grow as the movement grows. But we will always offer the most important thing: *the honour of standing together for Zambia's children.*

The Reward That Cannot Be Calculated

There is a benefit to this work that no salary could purchase and no organisation could provide. It is the reward of being *God's hands and feet* in one of the most sacred places He goes — to the orphan, the fatherless, the vulnerable child.

When you serve in this role, you are not simply organising events. You are touching the very heart of God.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." — James 1:27

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward them for what they have done." — Proverbs 19:17

"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." — Hebrews 6:10

Scripture is clear: when we care for the vulnerable, we are doing it *for Jesus* (Matthew 25:40). And God Himself promises to reward what is done in His name — not always in ways we can see or plan for, but in ways that are real, lasting, and only He can give. A word of encouragement at the right moment. A door opened. A family restored. A child given hope. These are the rewards of ministry, and they come from a God who sees every act of faithfulness, no matter how quiet.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." — 1 Corinthians 12:27

You are not just a coordinator. You are part of the Body of Christ, rising in Zambia for the sake of the fatherless. That is a calling worth everything — and a reward beyond measure.

Purpose

An Orphan Sunday Zambia Coordinator serves as a champion and advocate for the movement in their province, district, or local community and church, fellowships, local community and city. They mobilise churches, organisations, and individuals to participate in Orphan Sunday and to care for orphaned and vulnerable children throughout the year.

Key Responsibilities

- Build and maintain relationships with churches, church leaders, and organisations in their area
- Promote Orphan Sunday and distribute resources from this guide to churches in their network
- Organise Orphan Sunday events, activities, and training gatherings

- Recruit and mentor new coordinators within their province or district
- Serve as a point of contact between local churches and the National Steering Committee
- Report regularly to the national leadership on activities, participation, and outcomes
- Pray consistently for the children, families, and communities they serve

Qualities of a Coordinator

- Committed Christian with a genuine heart for orphaned and vulnerable children
- Active member of a local church in good standing
- Able to work collaboratively across denominations and organisations
- Good communicator and relationship-builder
- Organised and able to plan and execute events
- Willing to serve sacrificially over the long term

Support Provided

- This Coordinator Guide includes activity, church, and event resources
- Access to Orphan Sunday Zambia promotional and print materials
- Coaching and support from the National Steering Committee
- Connection to the national network of coordinators and partners
- Invitation to annual Orphan Sunday Zambia gatherings and conferences

CREDIT & ATTRIBUTION

This guide has been adapted by Orphan Sunday Zambia from the following resources produced by the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) through the Pure Religion Project:

- Pure Religion Sunday Field Guide
- Pure Religion Sunday Preaching Guide (Preach: Key Principles and Themes)
- Pure Religion Sunday Event Guide (Leverage: A Framework for Harnessing the Power of Your Event)

We are deeply grateful to CAFO and the Pure Religion Project for making these resources available to the global Church. Orphan Sunday Zambia acknowledges that while we continue to use the original name 'Orphan Sunday,' we honor the shared mission of all who serve vulnerable children in Christ's name.

The Orphan Sunday Zambia Theological Position Paper referenced in Section 2 was produced by the Orphan Sunday Zambia Steering Committee.



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