



PURPOSE

A blueprint for harnessing the power of your Orphan Sunday event.

MORE THAN JUST A DAY. AN ANCHOR FOR LASTING MINISTRY.

ORPHAN SUNDAY • ZAMBIA

OrphanSundayZambia.com



MORE THAN JUST A DAY

The Purpose of Orphan Sunday Zambia

Orphan Sunday Zambia is a movement of the Church in Zambia — inspired by the Word of God, rooted in our national heritage as the birthplace of Orphan Sunday, and committed to mobilising every province, every congregation, and every Christian to care for vulnerable children and families while growing closer to Jesus as His disciples.

Orphan Sunday is observed on the second Sunday in November. It is a day when churches across Zambia — and in over 120 nations — rise together to recognise God's heart for the orphaned and vulnerable and to respond in powerful ways.

However your church or community chooses to participate — whether a full Sunday service, a community gathering, or a mid-week event — the heart of the day remains the same.

God has uniquely called and equipped the Church in Zambia to care for vulnerable children and families — and this day is an opportunity to be reminded of the power of doing that together!

But it doesn't end there...

The Big Idea

Not Just a Day. But a Resource.

However you choose to recognise or participate in Orphan Sunday, it is ultimately an opportunity to catalyse a new focus and energy on building a ministry committed to caring for the vulnerable — or to celebrate all that God has already done in your existing ministry and provide clear on-ramps for others to get involved.

Either way, it's more than just a day. It's a 'hinge' that connects two critical components of a much fuller strategy.

FRONT-END

Planning • Team-building •
Coordination

ORPHAN SUNDAY

Weekend • Event • Service •
Activity

BACK-END

Follow-up • Connection • Next
Steps

The remainder of this guide is structured around three primary areas of focus for effectively harnessing the power of your Orphan Sunday event:

FRONT-END PLANNING | EVENT EXECUTION | BACK-END FOLLOW UP

Front-End

Planning

Healthy inputs produce effective outputs

In many ways, this front-end planning phase is the most crucial part of effectively harnessing the power of your Orphan Sunday event. As in most areas of life, the results we experience reflect the systems we've put in place. That's what this front-end planning stage is all about.

Four aspects of planning

1

ASSEMBLE A TEAM

Whether you already have a ministry team in place or will be building a new one for this event, it's important that this initiative be team-driven with a diversity of tasks assigned to various people. One person oversees communications; another gathers follow-up information; another liaises with the pastor or church leadership; another works with outside organisations and government partners. This is a great opportunity to utilise the power of a team to optimise your efforts and maximise your impact.

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 event, but in the days, weeks, and months that follow. Clearly identify what those outcomes look like and then work backwards. What systems do you need to put in place on the front-end? Who needs to be part of this? What strategic partners — church mother bodies, government departments, NGOs — do you need to involve? What 'next steps' need to be offered to people?

Four Aspects of Planning — Continued

3

CRAFT YOUR MESSAGE

The goal is not to create an isolated ministry that few are part of, but to establish a foundational culture that everyone has an opportunity to participate in. We're not all called to do the same things, but we are all capable of doing something. This is the message we want Zambia's churches to hear — Everyone Can Do Something! Make sure everyone casting vision — from the pulpit, on social media, or in conversations — is speaking the same language.

4

UTILISE THE EXISTING

What is your church or community uniquely good at doing? What resources, ministries, and relationships already exist that could be incorporated into your Orphan Sunday event? Find out what is already happening in your community — children's homes, kinship care networks, government social welfare programmes — and learn how you can use your event to strengthen that work. Don't reinvent the wheel. Find what's already rolling, and invite your people to jump on.

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING!

Ideas

15 Things to Do During Your Event

Choose what works best for your church and community.

1. Collect items needed for kinship families, local agencies, or child welfare offices

9. Plan a parent/child dedication for adoptive and kinship families in your congregation

2. Create and distribute prayer cards for children awaiting families

10. Invite a young person who grew up in orphan care to share their story (live or via video)

3. Set aside dedicated time of prayer for orphaned and vulnerable children in your community	11. Invite a kinship or adoptive family to share their story (live or via video)
4. Invite people to attend a small group focused on God's heart for the orphan and our response	12. Invite an organisation working with vulnerable children to share ways to get involved
5. Plan a sermon about God's heart for the vulnerable and our response through kinship care and adoption	13. Take an offering to support kinship and adoptive families in your church or community
6. Plan a set of worship songs that reflect God's heart for vulnerable children	14. Plan a community service project to benefit a kinship family, local children's home, or orphan care ministry
7. Commission families in your church who are pursuing kinship care or adoption in the next year	15. Stage a visual representation: research the number of orphaned children in your district and place that many pairs of shoes on the stage
8. Pray over all current kinship and adoptive families in your congregation	16. Intercede, intercede, intercede ...for all the leaders and people involved, and for all the events

Event

Execution

Casting a very wide net

Think of Orphan Sunday as a very wide net that you toss over your entire church and community.

“We're not all called to do the same thing, but we are all capable of doing something.”

That net covers EVERYONE — students to senior citizens, singles and families, those who can bring children into their homes and those who cannot.

Creating a smaller circle

Think of your whole church as a large circle. Your action item is simple and clear — to toss the large net out and begin to draw it in, moving people from the larger circle into a smaller one. You won't catch everyone, but you will catch some — many of whom may never have taken that step had you not tossed that net out.

Your Orphan Sunday event might involve activities that don't necessarily invite people into smaller relational circles — fundraisers, prayer for families during church, service projects, community marches. And that's completely great! You might then consider creating a smaller 'circle' opportunity for people interested in diving deeper to connect and engage afterwards.

Whatever form it takes, the important thing is that there is one! Remember, Orphan Sunday is a 'hinge' to help move people from one place to another.

We want to be inspiring and challenging, but we also want to be strategic. Creating smaller relational circles helps us capture people in the wake of your event momentum and steward them most effectively into their best next steps.

Back-End

Follow Up

Building a bridge event

Bridges cover gaps — from where we are to where we need to be. Bridge events are mid-size gatherings that provide a pathway for people to move from isolated and anonymous at your Orphan Sunday event to being connected, resourced, and involved.

Whether your Orphan Sunday event is a full sermon, a prayer, a time of sharing stories, a service project — or all of the above — you can leave people with a clear and actionable next step:

THE BRIDGE EVENT.

As you cast that net wide and slowly draw it in, you will catch not only those who are already involved, but those who have been privately and personally considering getting involved for months, if not years.

Getting people who share a similar passion in the same room together is powerful. It takes individuals and turns them into community — a place where they can find support, encouragement, and clarity along their journey.

Bridge events provide a safe place for people to bring their private and personal considerations into a public space.

What Is a Good Bridge Event?

The goal is to move people into smaller circles where they can find connection, resources, and support.

- Invite people to a community meal or family day after your Orphan Sunday service.
- Host an informational luncheon immediately after church — food removes barriers.
- Form a small group to study the Orphan Sunday Zambia Theological Position Paper together.
- Organise a visit to a local children's home or kinship care family as a group.
- Meet with the district Ministry of Community Development and Social Services office.
- Take a group to the annual Together for Orphans Conference or a provincial training.
- Meet over tea or nsima with people who share a similar heart. Learn from those who have gone before you.

There are endless opportunities to begin connecting people into community. Be creative!

A simple option many churches find most impactful: A MEAL AFTER YOUR WORSHIP SERVICE.

The Best Bridge Event: A Meal

Why is a luncheon so impactful? Here are a few reasons:

- Free food. No explanation needed!
- People are already present. It's hard to get them back once they leave.
- Child care can be offered.
- People sit in circles at tables to eat and connect.

A luncheon (or some variation) helps remove barriers to attendance — food provided freely, childcare available, immediately following church — and creates a relaxed, welcoming environment for people to connect and be encouraged to take their next steps.

REMOVE BARRIERS • CREATE CONNECTION • MAKE THE NEXT STEP EASY

What to Do at a Bridge Event

Help people feel connected, inspired, and informed.

1

SHARE STORIES

Set aside as much time as necessary to allow people to introduce themselves and share what drew them to this gathering. Simple questions at tables: Who are you? Why are you here today? What is your connection to orphan care or vulnerable children? What has your journey looked like?

2

INTRODUCE LEADERSHIP

When people don't know where to go or who to talk to about something, they won't go anywhere or talk to anyone about it. Use the bridge event as an opportunity to introduce your ministry leadership — whether one point person or a full team. Answer those two vital questions: Where do I go and who do I talk to? Now they know.

3

CAST VISION

Vision is painting a picture for others of what the future looks like in a tangible and concrete way. Answer three fundamental questions when sharing the vision of your ministry: 1) Why are we doing it? 2) How are we going to do it? 3) What are we going to do next?

4

DEFINE NEXT STEPS

It's imperative to spend time during a bridge event letting people know what they can expect to happen after the event is over. They should leave with a very clear understanding of what is coming next, when it's coming, where it's coming, and why it's coming. When you increase clarity, you reduce anxiety. The goal is for people to leave with a clear, actionable plan to pursue whatever their next best steps are.

Promoting a Bridge Event

The bridge event is the clear follow-up action item to your Orphan Sunday event: 'In response to today, we want to connect with you.' Promote it every week in the lead-up — stage announcement, flyers, WhatsApp, social media, emails, personal invites. Find out how your church and community communicates best, and use every channel available.

One full month of promotion

ORPHAN SUNDAY	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	BRIDGE EVENT
Sermon, Prayers, Stories	2nd Announcement	3rd Announcement	4th Announcement	The Big Day!

Each week leading up to the bridge event, announce it through every channel available: WhatsApp groups, social media, emails, stage announcements, and personal invitations.

What if I don't have the "PULPIT"?

Even without a pulpit, you can still run a powerful promotion plan — more 'grass roots', dependent on personal invites, WhatsApp messages, social media posts, community radio, and postcards. Are there other places in the church or community you might gain access to? A note home with children? A blurb in the bulletin or community newsletter? Get creative!

Orphan Sunday Zambia Resources

Access graphics, promotional tools and coordinator resources for Orphan Sunday Zambia events and activities.

VISIT: OrphanSundayZambia.com

Coordinator Guide & Training

The combined Field, Preaching, and Event Guide for Orphan Sunday Zambia — adapted for every province, church, and coordinator.

Contact:

Every Orphan's Hope

Partners in the Orphan Sunday Zambia movement — walking alongside churches, coordinators, and families across all 10 provinces.



One Day. One Voice. One Purpose.

OrphanSundayZambia.com

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