

Giving Hope in a Time of Need

Making a World of Difference

Points to Ponder - from the Pastor

● The orphan crisis is often overlooked because it is so great. With over 143 million orphans under the age of 18 in the world today, it is easy to say, "What difference can I make?" Unfortunately, if everyone has this approach the numbers will keep getting higher and higher. The orphan crisis has to be fought one orphan at a time through the care of orphans as well as the prevention of future orphans.

● In the United States we usually think of sexual promiscuity and HIV/AIDS as a cause and effect and therefore become uncomfortable when HIV/AIDS is talked about. We forget about the HIV-baby, who had no control over his genetics, or the child who is orphaned because of HIV/AIDS, or the child who received infected blood during a surgery, and the list goes on and on. No matter how you look at it HIV/AIDS is a plague that we cannot ignore anymore.

● In 2005 AIDS claimed 3.1 million lives: comparable to wiping out the total population of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

● Last year in Africa alone, AIDS claimed 2.4 million lives... the equivalent of 36 Hiroshimas!

● Look at your watch, by the time your second hand makes a complete circle one child under 15 will have died of AIDS, one will become HIV-positive, and another four will have contracted HIV.

● Survival is the only concern for orphans in poverty stricken communities. As an orphan, the child has the choice of begging, selling unthinkable services, becoming a child laborer, stealing, or dying. Unless given the proper healthcare, education, nutrition, and emotional support orphaned children who are a result of poverty will most likely stay in poverty for the rest of their life.

● If we, the Church, are to be an outpouring of God's love to His people than we cannot ignore the orphan crisis. We have to become involved in bringing hope to orphans around the world by first bringing them before God in prayer. In James 1:27 we are told that pure religion is to look after widows and orphans. We are to not only bring them before God in prayer but we also need to get involved by trusting that God will use us and our resources to change lives worldwide.

● Our church is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of orphans around the world. We have set up a table _____ and urge each one of you to stop by after service to find out how you can be involved in giving hope to children around the world.

