



# *Adopt an Orphanage Program*

**Orphanage sponsorship is an opportunity to expand your local church's reach for God's kingdom and His children**

"Adopt an Orphanage" is one of the main avenues we hope to use in order to build relationships with the children before they leave the orphanages, as well as provide assistance to the orphanages in general. Through this program a church, Bible class, home church group, or some other such group will "adopt" a specific orphanage and take on this orphanage as their mission project.

## **Adopting an Orphanage: The Benefits**

Every church that engages in orphanage sponsorship through Jeremiah's Hope provides benefits to four main groups: the orphans, the orphanage, the church itself, and the on-going ministry of Jeremiah's Hope, as listed below:

### **A. For the **orphans**, sponsorship:**

1. Allows them to establish healthy relationships with Christian adults.
2. Provides them with an extended family, devoted to praying for them, loving them, showing them Jesus, and meeting some of their needs.
3. Brings crucial individual attention to each orphan.

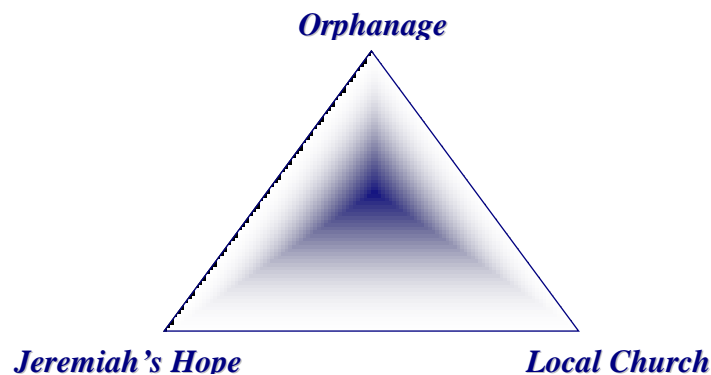
### **B. For the **orphanage**, sponsorship:**

1. Brings additional and much-needed financial and material aid to provide a better quality of living for the orphans.
2. Introduces the orphanage to a partner who cares as much for the children as the caregivers do.
3. Provides programming to supplement and enhance life inside the orphanage on a continuing basis.

- C. For the **church**, sponsorship:
1. Provides a long-term, tangible mission focus in which the entire church (Bible classes, small groups, etc.) can become involved.
  2. Provides infrastructure for missions as well as admission into the country (visa invitations) and into the orphanage (because of our relationship with the local authorities).
  3. Allows the church direct involvement with a ministry audience (the orphans) as opposed to an indirect "pictures only" relationship with the field.
- D. For the on-going ministry of **Jeremiah's Hope**, sponsorship:
1. Provides a body of involved believers to pray for the ministry and for the orphans.
  2. Provides additional resources for outreach that would not be available otherwise.
  3. Is a means of building relationships with the children before they leave the orphanage, which is crucial to our ministry with them after they graduate.

## Adopting an Orphanage: The Relationship

Orphanage sponsorship through Jeremiah's Hope is a three-way relationship. Each entity in the relationship is vitally important to the other two. The following maps out this relationship:



- The **orphanages** provide a focus of ministry for both Jeremiah's Hope and the local church.
- The **local church** provides a more focused and intimate program of ministry, and more resources than Jeremiah's Hope alone could otherwise provide. This is obviously a great benefit to the orphans we serve.
- **Jeremiah's Hope** provides local, on-site support and resources to benefit the orphans, and access to the orphanage for the local church.

Jeremiah's Hope enjoys a good relationship with officials in the Ministry of Education, which oversees the work of the orphanages in the Donetsk region of Ukraine. These officials not only introduce, but validate the ministry of Jeremiah's Hope to orphanage directors. If this relationship ever crumbles, the doors to the orphanages in the region could close to all aspects of our ministry - including orphanage sponsorship.

With orphanage sponsorship, the Ministry of Education and the orphanage itself do not perceive a difference between Jeremiah's Hope and the sponsor church of the orphanage. They see the sponsoring church as simply a part of Jeremiah's Hope. Anything done by the sponsoring church reflects upon Jeremiah's Hope, and will impact the relationship between Jeremiah's Hope and the government agencies that oversee the orphanages we serve.

This reality makes it crucial that the sponsoring church and Jeremiah's Hope operate as one entity. While we recognize and respect the independence of each church with which we work, the model for orphanage sponsorship is that the local church involved in sponsorship is actually a part of the ministry - not a separate entity merely traveling with Jeremiah's Hope. This model takes advantage of our standing with the government agencies involved, and also generates similar expectations regarding the kind of assistance Jeremiah's Hope will provide from orphanage to orphanage.

## **Adopting an Orphanage: Church Profile**

The size and budget of a local church are not the key criteria for adopting an orphanage through Jeremiah's Hope. In fact, we only maintain four criteria for adopting an orphanage. When these criteria are met, anything is possible:

- The church must be missions-minded.
- The church must have a heart for children.
- The church must purpose to seek and then follow the Lord as to their role in orphanage sponsorship.
- The church must be willing to make a minimum three-year commitment.

We will provide general direction and guidance, and while we do have a minimum set of expectations, we do not have a limited model for orphanage sponsorship. Each orphanage has different needs. Therefore, it is only right that each church will respond to those needs differently. Toward that end, **we encourage interested churches to send an assessment team to Ukraine for a week or two before making a commitment to adopt an orphanage.**

Once your church has determined that orphanage sponsorship is feasible and has selected an orphanage, you can determine which needs God is leading you to tackle. Over time, your unique relationships with the orphanage director and teachers will open avenues to share Jesus with both the orphans and the adults that care for them.

## **Adopting an Orphanage: Ministry Activities**

Once a church determines that God is calling them to adopt an orphanage, we ask the church to commit to the following minimum ministry activities:

- Pray consistently, as a congregation, for the children and staff of the orphanage.
- Send small groups of people at least once or twice per year to visit the children and staff at "their" orphanage, assess needs, and conduct activities such as: Christian summer camp or VBS, delivering Christmas gifts, etc.
- Send Christmas gifts for the children at "their" orphanage through our "Christmas for Kids" program.
- Provide \$2400 per year (\$200 per month) for the purchase of school supplies and a birthday gift for each child during the year. We buy locally the kind of school notebooks the children use, as well as pens, and present them to the orphanage at the beginning of each school semester. We also conduct a quarterly birthday celebration at the orphanage in which each child who has a birthday in that quarter receives a gift bag containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and a sponge. This amount will also offset some of our transportation and administrative expenses involved in our year-round work with the adopted orphanage.

We realize that each church/orphanage relationship will be unique and may also include additional ministry activities as God directs. These might include:

- Raising financial support and/or holding drives to provide food, clothing, heating, medical care, etc.
- Assisting with construction and facility improvement.
- Gathering a team of medical and dental professionals to visit the orphanage periodically.

## **What if our church wants to get involved but is not quite ready for this commitment?**

Some churches will sense God's leading into adopting an orphanage fairly quickly. Others may prefer to grow into such a commitment. Therefore, we offer several ways to help churches simply become involved in the ministry or to ease into a full commitment. Interested churches can:

- Hold an all-church drive to collect Christmas gifts, hygiene supplies, clothes, etc. for us to distribute.

- Raise money for an orphanage during VBS, Sunday school or Missions Week. VBS is an especially great avenue because it allows the children of the church to connect with the orphans. If the children in the VBS program feel that they are making a difference, they can spark excitement in the rest of the congregation.
- Send a small group to a Jeremiah's Hope camp for orphans or to help distribute Christmas gifts. This introduces the church to the ministry and allows the participants an opportunity to interact with the children.

We welcome any such efforts to share in our ministry to children for two reasons:

- First, for the immediate and positive impact they have on the orphans we serve.
- Second, because we believe that churches that become involved in these ways are our best candidates for full orphanage sponsorship someday.

**For more information about adopting an orphanage, contact Andrew Kelly at [akellyukraine@gmail.com](mailto:akellyukraine@gmail.com)**

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