

RWANDA

JOIN THE JOURNEY AS A

Hope Companion

- Town, village
- ✈ Airport, airstrip
- International boundary
- Road
- Track



ZOE Ministry
Empowering Orphans in Africa

Dear Friends of ZOE Ministry,

Thank you for beginning this three-year journey of partnership with some of the most vulnerable children on earth, and answering God's call to care for orphans. ZOE's goal is to enable you as a Hope Companion to enter into a true partnership with these orphans, where you provide financial and prayer support and in return receive a glimpse of God's reign on earth as you see the transformation in their lives and the gospel lived out through their actions.

While ZOE Ministry's primary goal is to empower African orphans, a secondary goal is to help churches see missions differently. The information in this packet serves as an introduction to ZOE's distinctive approach to spiritual, physical, and emotional empowerment including:

- An explanation of why empowerment is important (p. 2)
- An overview of the Orphan Empowerment Program (p. 3)
- Explanations of the major parts of the Orphan Empowerment Program (pp. 4-9)
- Hope Companion giving level options (p. 10)
- Fundraising ideas (p. 11)
- Mission trip information (pp. 12-13)
- A sample Hope Companion update (p. 14)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide support to you as you offer support to these orphans.

In Christ,



Gaston Warner
gaston@zoeministry.org
(919) 414-4167

Why Empowerment?

Epiphanie Mujawimana, founder of ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program, was visiting with some Americans as many barefoot African children gathered around them. One American said to her, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could give shoes to all these children?" Epiphanie responded, "Wouldn't it be better if they could buy their own shoes?"

After several years engaging in relief ministry in Zimbabwe, the Rev. Greg Jenks, ZOE's founder, met Epiphanie Mujawimana from Rwanda. Epiphanie had previously worked with large, well-known Western relief organizations that used traditional aid models to provide food, medical services and other direct support to those in need. Over time, she found that at best these organizations provided only temporary respite from the ongoing challenges faced by those in poverty, and at worst created cultures of dependency.

Disillusioned but still determined, Epiphanie developed a new approach, and the Orphan Empowerment Program was born. She created the program by drawing upon her own experience as a vulnerable child growing up in poverty. By addressing *all* of the primary needs of the orphans rather than just one or two, ZOE Ministry helps moves children out of a life of begging, homelessness, and exploitation, and equips them with the resources to build a future with food security, safety, community, and a spiritual foundation through the love of Christ.

Comparing the results of relief versus empowerment is startling. ZOE began supporting a family in Zimbabwe many years ago through a traditional relief approach, providing food aid, school fees, and other direct support. Eight years later this family was still dependent on support from ZOE. By contrast, Peninah, a girl who was orphaned at 12, completed ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program in just two years. Today, she has enough income feed the two children she is raising, enroll them in school, and reinvest in her businesses. *She has even raised money in her community to assist other orphans.*

HOPE COMPANIONS REGISTRATION FORM

I/we, _____, would like to enter into a relationship with one or more Working Groups of orphans through ZOE Ministry, and become a Hope Companion, beginning in _____ (year)

I/we would like to sponsor at the following level:

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District | Year One: \$1,485,000 | Year Two: \$1,089,000 | Year Three: \$726,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Region | Year One: \$675,000 | Year Two: \$495,000 | Year Three: \$330,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community | Year One: \$112,500 | Year Two: \$82,500 | Year Three: \$55,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood | Year One: \$22,500 | Year Two: \$16,500 | Year Three: \$11,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working Group | Year One: \$8,000 | Year Two: \$6,000 | Year Three: \$4,000 |

BILLING INFORMATION *(please print)*

Organization, Group or Individual Name _____

Physical Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

We would appreciate payments each year by January. By doing this, ZOE Ministry is able to distribute funds as soon as the orphan Working Groups are identified to get them started in their agricultural and business ventures. However, we are happy to work with alternative payment schedules, such as quarterly or monthly, if such a schedule is better for you or your organization.

- I will send payment by January (or as soon as possible if becoming a Hope Companion after January for the current year).
- I/we have an alternative payment schedule (please specify) _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

As Hope Companion partners, ZOE hopes you will journey with these orphans as their lives are transformed. To enable this, we will send you updates about the orphans with whom you are partnering. We will send these updates to the primary and secondary contacts you list.

- Please only send written updates.** *Videos of your group can be a powerful way to share the experience of being a Hope Companion with others, and we hope you will use them to do so. However, videos take more of ZOE's time to produce, so if you would prefer to have written updates **only** (a photo of an orphan in your group and a story about their progress), please check this box.*

Primary Contact (Check here if same as billing):

First and Last Name _____

Physical Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Secondary Contact:

First and Last Name _____

Physical Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Signature: _____

(Individual/representative of group partner)

An Overview of the ORPHAN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The ZOE Orphan Empowerment Program seeks to empower orphans and vulnerable children to provide for themselves and grow into the young men and women God would have them be – physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually. The program works toward ensuring that orphans, just like other children, realize their full potential.

ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program:

- reaches children in their home villages, towns or cities;
- helps them build community with other orphans and vulnerable children;
- teaches them about God's love;
- and provides the training, inputs and skills needed to care for themselves and their siblings.

The program addresses **six main areas** needed to permanently transform the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in Africa.



Food Security

ZOE equips orphans with the resources and training to grow their own food and care for farm animals. The goal is to provide orphans with the means to obtain a nutritionally balanced and stable source of food for themselves in the first six months of the program.



Health & Hygiene

ZOE helps orphans live healthier lives by teaching basic health and hygiene practices. These include activities such as: boiling water before drinking it, keeping their homes and dishes clean, washing their hands before eating, and the proper use of mosquito nets to prevent Malaria. Orphans are not only taught about HIV/AIDS, but also are encouraged to form anti-AIDS clubs to educate their communities.



Small Business Training

ZOE Ministry equips orphans with skills to earn their own money. Orphans are trained to select and manage small businesses that generate income for their families. Many orphans also receive vocational training in professions such as hairdressing, tailoring, and construction. ZOE's aim is to provide the training and resources for orphans to generate enough sustained income to meet their needs without relying on charity or handouts.



Cultivating Faith

At the heart of ZOE's program is a focus on sharing the love of Christ. Orphans engage in worship and Bible study during their weekly and monthly gatherings. ZOE also connects orphans with local churches where they can grow in Christian community.



Providing Homes

Many orphans in ZOE's program do not have access to adequate housing. In response, ZOE provides grants and materials to build homes. The orphans themselves then decide which children are most in need of a new home, and often assist in its construction.



Community and Education

ZOE Ministry helps restore community and build new relationships for orphans. Orphans are united with other orphans in a Working Group of approximately 60-80 orphans, guided by ZOE's staff and a volunteer adult mentor from their community. ZOE also works to help orphans reunite with relatives, enroll in school, and learn about their rights, including property ownership, inheritance and freedom from abuse.



In three years or less, these children are so empowered that they no longer need our support. Members of Working Groups who have completed the program often reach out in ministry to other orphans who are suffering. In this way, the program has a ripple effect in the community transforming lives beyond the original Working Group.

To witness this program working in the lives of orphans is to glimpse God's reign on earth. The faith, courage, and generosity of these children is a source of great strength to those who walk with them on this journey of transformation.

Fundamentals of Empowerment

When orphans join ZOE Ministry's Orphan Empowerment Program, we seek to improve six main areas of their lives through training and providing necessary resources. These stories illustrate how the program has transformed the lives of orphans, and the importance of each area to the larger journey out of poverty.

FOOD SECURITY

For most of us, it is difficult to imagine what real hunger is like. We may miss a meal from time to time, but when orphans join ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program, many of them are eating as little as one or two meals a week. These children are barely eating enough to survive, while needing to spend most of their energy finding the next meal for themselves and their siblings.

This is why securing a stable and nutritious supply of food is our first priority when orphans join ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program. Though it may seem counter-intuitive at first, we have found providing food directly is not the best solution. A single meal will never solve these orphans' long-term need for better nutrition.

Instead, we teach these orphans to cultivate their land, give them the necessary seeds and tools, and support them as they learn to grow their own food. ZOE also provides them with animals, such as goats, for fertilizer and milk. When children do not have access to land, ZOE adapts by teaching them to run a small business, and giving them a micro-grant for startup capital. This enables these children to quickly generate enough income to purchase the food they need locally.

Group projects are an additional way ZOE establishes food security for Working Groups of orphans. Each group starts a project together, with all members participating to make it successful. Often, a group will farm a large plot of land to grow additional food crops for the members to eat and sell.

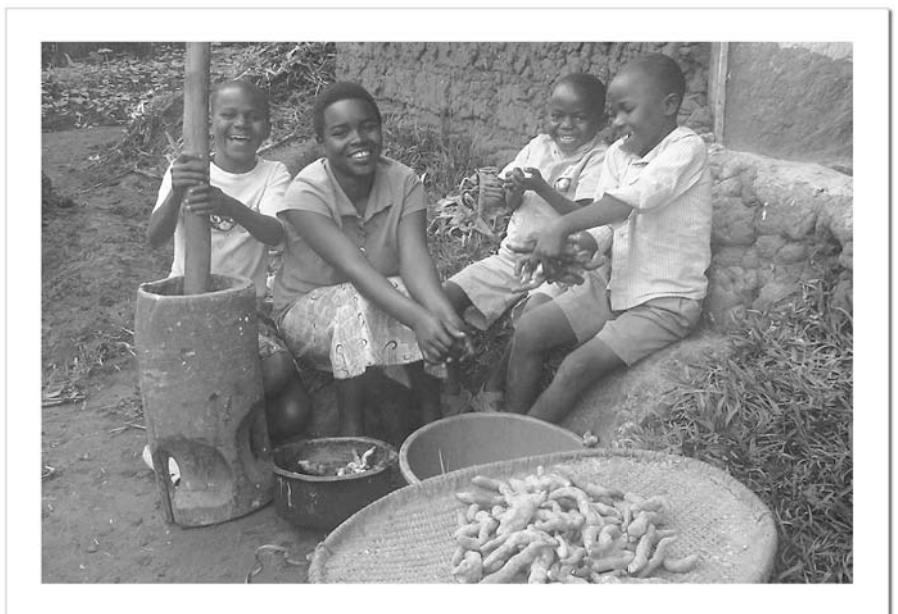
When Jeanne Niyimpa's parents both died, she was 19 and left to care for four younger siblings: Uwitonze, 13, Twagirayezu, 10, Theogene, 8, and Pelagie, 7. Unable to find work to feed her family, Jeanne would sneak out in the middle of the night and search her neighbor's farms fields for whatever cassava and potatoes she could find on the ground

Hunger is often the most urgent challenge faced by the orphans that enter ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program, which is why securing a stable and nutritious supply of food is our first priority.

after harvest. Frequently, this near-starving family went four days without a single meal.

Today, after joining ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program, Jeanne and her family are eating well. She has grown beans and vegetables on her land after receiving seeds and training. She has cared for the goat that ZOE gave her, and it has reproduced. Jeanne now has four goats, which provide her family milk, fertilizer, and extra income when she sells their offspring. The neighbors, who she used to have to beg and steal from, now call her "boss," when they work for her small business making and selling banana juice.

With your support, these once-impooverished children can have access to not just one meal, but enough food to feed themselves and their families permanently.



Jeanne, center, and her younger siblings prepare a meal from their harvest.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

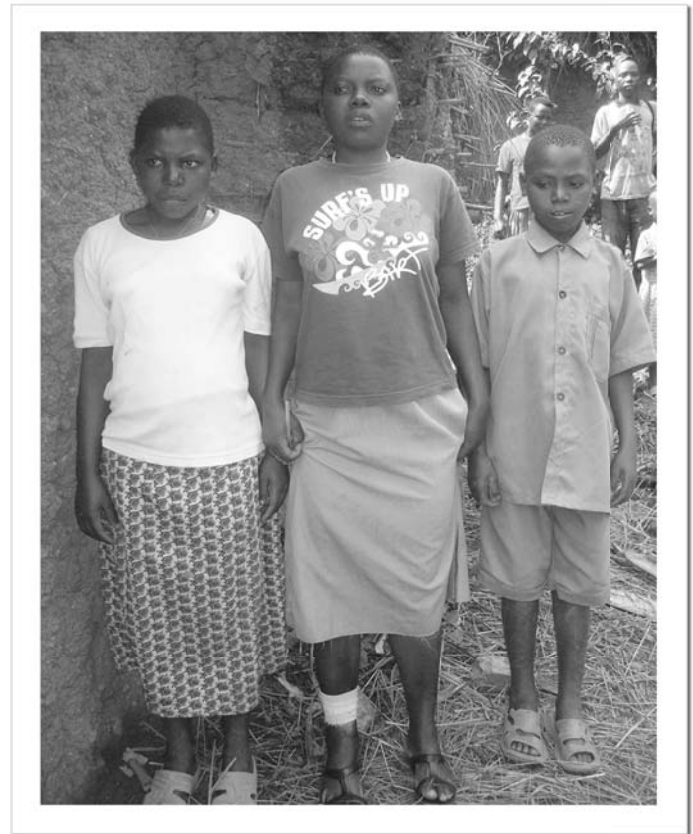
The orphans just starting ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program are frequently suffering from an array of health problems simply because they never learned basic health and hygiene practices.

Take a minute to think of the health advice your parents gave you while you were growing up. Small reminders we took for granted: “eat your vegetables,” “wash your hands,” and “brush and floss your teeth.” We were all likely part of some variation of “The Talk,” and uncomfortable as it may have been, learned some pretty important things about becoming adults.

Now, imagine if your parents had died before you got to learn any of that and no one stepped in to share such wisdom with you. Many of the children ZOE encounters are in that very situation. The orphans just starting ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program are frequently suffering from an array of health problems simply because they never learned basic health and hygiene practices.

Fortune, a 17-year-old orphan in Rwanda, was very young when her parents died and left her to care for her three younger siblings. When ZOE's African staff met her, she and her family were sick with several illnesses and had not been able to see a doctor in years. Fortune also had a chronic wound that could not heal due to malnutrition and lack of medical attention.

ZOE provided Fortune with training and a pig. Soon she was able to raise piglets and sell them for profit. With her income, she enrolled her family in Rwanda's mutual health plan and they received the medical attention they needed.



Fortune, center, with two of her siblings and a bandage over her chronic wound that is healing thanks to ZOE Ministry.

Fortune and her family's health continued to improve as they progressed in ZOE's program. She learned a wealth of life skills, including the importance of boiling water before drinking it, keeping her home clean and free from insects and animals, and the proper way to wash hands, dishes, and clothes. After demonstrating to the ZOE staff that she was using the skills she learned at home, she was rewarded with a

mosquito net and trained on its proper use to prevent malaria.

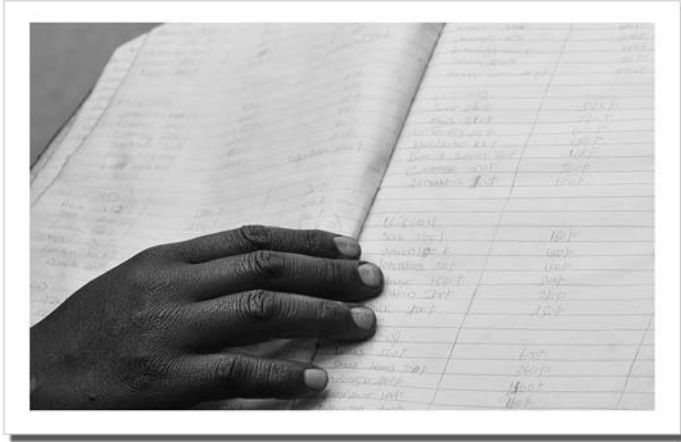
Fortune learned about communicable diseases and was encouraged to join an anti-AIDS club with other children from her community. These clubs write and perform skits, songs and dances all aimed at dispelling myths and teaching their community about the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Your support of ZOE Ministry will not only improve the health of the orphans in our program, but will also help to educate the wider African community – and save lives in the process.



Sarah, an orphan in Kenya, puts her washed dishes on a drying rack outside.

SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING



Detail from a ledger created by Judy, an orphan in Kenya who runs a successful grocery kiosk.

Epiphanie Mujawimana, a native Rwandan, is the founder of ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program. When she looked around at orphans and vulnerable children in her country, she saw them being exploited, underpaid, abused, and depending on others for handouts. Her first thought was that "if these young people could work for someone else – it would be better if they worked for themselves."

Moving beyond traditional aid models, this is precisely what ZOE Ministry aims to do for orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. One essential component of our program is small business training, which gives orphans the skills they need to provide for themselves and their family for the rest of their lives.

When ZOE trains orphans in business management, they learn to open bank accounts and identify potential business opportunities in their communities. These children are also

ZOE's approach to business and vocational training not only addresses the needs of one orphan, but empowers orphans to share their training with one another so that all are lifted out of poverty.

taught about simple bookkeeping and other good business practices. Additionally, ZOE provides the funds and resources necessary for them to apprentice with local professionals to learn a vocational trade, such as hairdressing or tailoring. When they are ready to go into business for themselves, ZOE then provides these children with start-up capital and materials.

In Kenya two orphans, both named Helen, are experiencing the life-changing journey through ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program. They live in rural Kenya, and today they are hard at work in a hair salon started several months earlier by the older Helen. The younger Helen is training with her each day for about half the going rate for apprenticeships.

As they take turns working on styling each customer's hair, they talk back and forth between smiles, laughter, and serious instruction about the proper way to blow-dry hair and use a hot comb. Customers often wait in lines for this clearly-thriving small business.

It is evident when you talk with them that the training they received gave them confidence, and dreams for a better future. The younger Helen has four school-age siblings she is supporting, and dreams of someday owning a large hair salon.

"I want to support my siblings to achieve their life goals," she said. "Whatever they want to achieve in life, even if they want to be doctors, I will support them."

Your support of ZOE can provide the training and tools for these children to forever change their lives. ZOE's approach to business and vocational training not only addresses the needs of one orphan, but empowers orphans to share their training with one another so that all are lifted out of poverty.



Two fellow Working Group members, both named Helen, train together in a hair salon.

CULTIVATING FAITH

When Jesus was asked, “What is the greatest commandment?” he responded that the greatest commandment was to love God. The second is like it, to love one’s neighbor. ZOE Ministry’s Orphan Empowerment Program is exciting because of the way it seamlessly holds together love of God and love of neighbor. The physical and psychological needs of these children are met in powerful ways. Orphans come to know the love of God in Christ, and share that love with others.

The gospel of Jesus Christ means a great deal to all Christians and they receive it as good news. To African orphans, this message of love, forgiveness and belonging to God is like rain on the desert soil. These children often feel completely unlovable before joining ZOE. They are frequently ostracized in their villages because of the spectre of HIV/AIDS, which may have claimed the lives of their parents, and because of their abject poverty.

At the very first gathering of the orphans that will become one or more Working Group(s), the children shuffle in with their eyes downcast, an outward sign of their inner hopelessness and suffering. During that first meeting, ZOE’s staff begins to speak to the children about hope in God. Reegan Kaberia, ZOE’s Kenya Director, delights in walking the children through the Lord’s prayer. He begins by discussing what it means to call God Father as an orphan. Reegan teaches them that there are no orphans of God — they all have a Father in heaven who loves them. A glimmer of hope begins to emerge in their eyes as they come to understand that they are greatly loved and precious to God. To see this happen is like watching a miracle unfold.

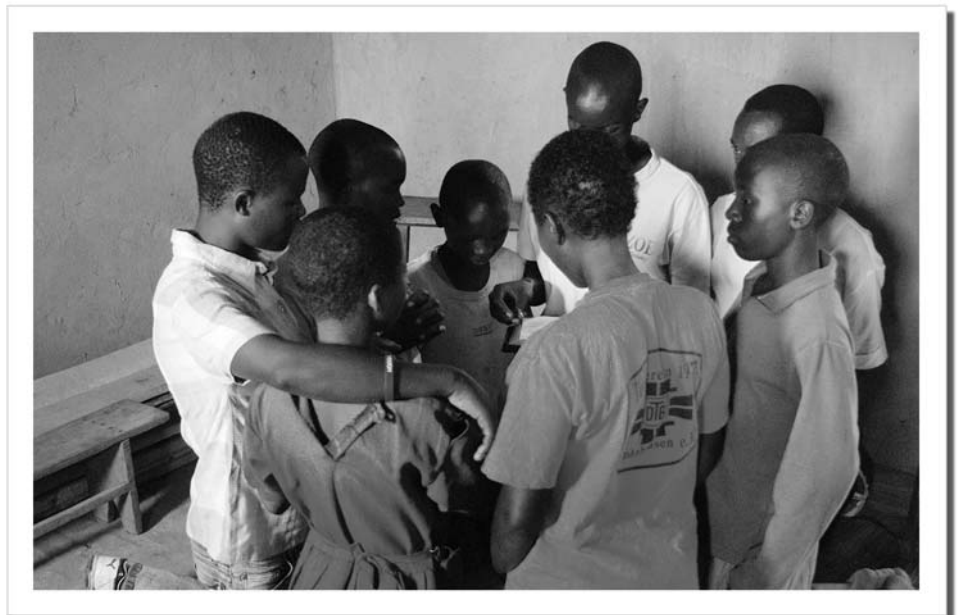
ZOE’s staff encourages the orphans to join local churches, and there is monthly worship at the Working Group meetings. At first, the orphans will invite a local pastor to lead worship at their meetings. As they grow in their faith, members of the group begin guiding the group in worship, leading prayers, reading scripture, or even delivering sermons. Some orphans even emerge from a Working Group as pastors.

ZOE’s staff teaches these children that there are no orphans of God — they all have a Father in heaven who loves them. A glimmer of hope begins to emerge in their eyes as they come to understand that they are greatly loved and precious to God. To see this happen is like watching a miracle unfold.

It is wonderful to see these boys and girls live out their faith in tangible ways. They teach us about God’s kingdom, even as we train them in life skills.



ZOE’s Kenya Director Reegan Kaberia works with an orphan during a Working Group’s first meeting.



A child-led family in Rwanda gathers together in their home for a Bible reading and prayer.

PROVIDING HOMES

Many of the children ZOE encounters lack access to adequate housing. This can cause child-led families to seek shelter in the homes of others and greatly increases the chances of children being abused, further fragmenting a grieving family.

So why doesn't ZOE simply build an orphanage for these children so they can have immediate shelter? The answer is rooted in African culture, where having a sense of people and place is extremely important. Removing an orphan from their tight-knit village for 5-10 years, even if provided with good care and schooling, isolates them from their people and often leads to stigmatization upon return. Spending years away in an orphanage may cause an orphan problems keeping land left to them by their deceased parents. Finally, a child can "age out" of an orphanage, eventually being turned out to live on their own while just a teenager.

ZOE's approach empowers orphans to make decisions for themselves, keeps children in their home communities, and provides a more permanent step out of poverty. By providing grants for home-building materials such as nails, roofing tiles, and doors, to a Working Group of orphans, these children are then able to meet and decide among themselves who needs housing most urgently. After obtaining materials, group members assist in building the home. The project culminates in a joyous dedication ceremony where the children worship God and celebrate with the new homeowner!

Alice, a teenage provider for her four younger siblings, had only a small one-room hut for shelter, meaning her siblings often had to stay with Good Samaritans in their village. Her



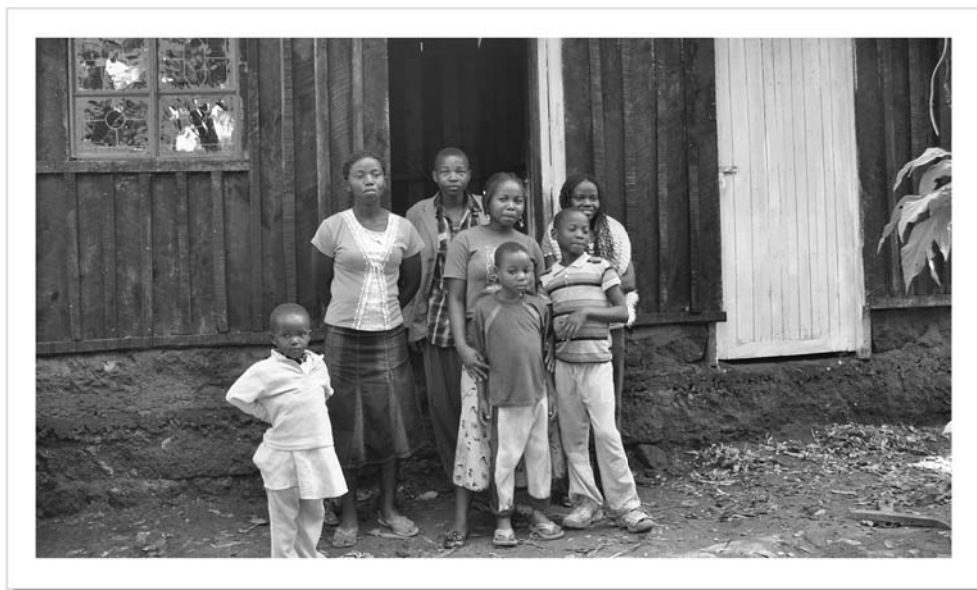
Friends, neighbors, visiting mission team members and ZOE's staff join Alice in blessing her new home.

Working Group decided to build her a new house so her family could be together.

The home was soon completed. Because Alice's group was a Hope Companion partner with Sun creek United Methodist Church in Texas, members of the church were able to visit Kenya and help the other members of Working Group construct her new house. After the home was completed, many of the villagers attended the home blessing ceremony and sang with her family in joy and celebration.

During the ceremony, Alice's beaming smile was contagious. This home was a major step in her family's journey out of poverty. Your support of ZOE will enable orphans to build homes for each other that offer protection, reconnect families, and transform lives.

ZOE's approach to providing homes empowers orphans to make decisions for themselves, keeps children in their home communities, and provides a more permanent step out of poverty.



Alice, far right, with her family and neighbors in front of her new home.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

ZOE brought Seraphine, a Rwandan orphan, together with fellow orphans in her community in a Working Group of 60-80 children. Soon, Seraphine found herself in the midst of a blossoming new family while working to reunite with what remained of her old one.

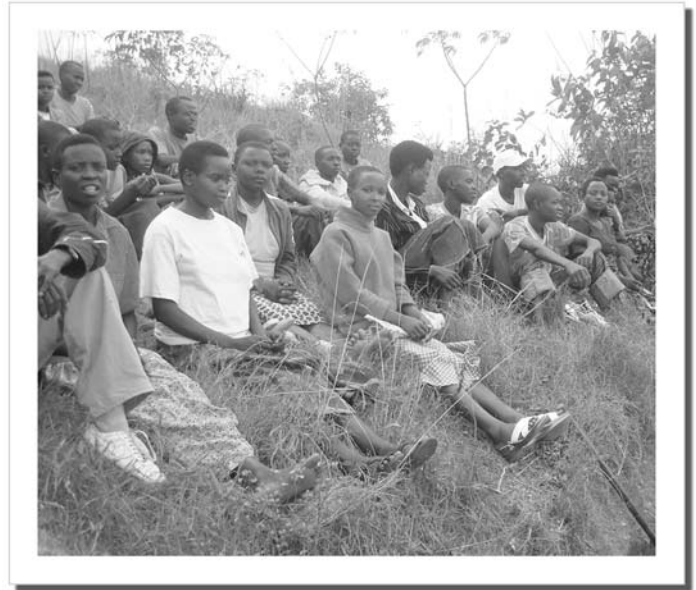
The death of both parents is an unimaginable loss to a child. The losses can continue to mount as orphans descend into poverty. Children can end up separated from their siblings as hunger drives them into the cities looking for work, and into the streets begging for food. In their communities, these children must also face the stigma of having no parents, and for those who lose their parents to HIV/AIDS, the isolation is even worse. Fears and misunderstandings about the disease are still prevalent in Africa, and effectively condemn these children to lives of begging, exploitation and abuse.

At age 17, Seraphine found herself in this very situation after losing both parents to HIV/AIDS when she was just 12. Her only remaining family were her three nieces, Josiane, 14, Marie, 12, and Rachel, 10. Hungry and homeless, they were forced to separate, relying on strangers for handouts and shelter. Occasionally, Seraphine would find work in neighbors' fields, only to be mistreated because she was too young and weak for manual labor.

When Seraphine joined ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program, she and her nieces had been separated for three years, and suffered from mental and physical illness from years of abuse. ZOE brought her together with fellow orphans from her community in a Working Group of 60-80 children. Soon, Seraphine found herself in the midst of a blossoming new family while working to reunite with what remained of her old one.

With ZOE's support, she found her niece Marie, and together they participated in a trauma recovery program, learning to cope with their difficult past. With a micro-grant, Seraphine started a small business selling food items. She used her profits to buy a piece of land, and on it, built a home with help from her Working Group.

After a number of initially tearful



Seraphine, left, gathers with members of her Working Group for a meeting. Group members often become like extended family.

visits, ZOE's staff finally saw her smile. Seraphine, now reunited with two of her nieces, was in her new home, sharing the first meal cooked from their garden. She spoke joyously about soon being able to welcome her third niece home.

Building a supportive community for otherwise isolated orphans is an important element of ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program. Each Working Group provides not only friendship and acceptance for its members, but also shared knowledge, mutual help, and improved status in the community. Your support can help ZOE provide orphans with a healthy, mutually-beneficial network of support as they journey towards a brighter future.



Seraphine, left, beams as she and her nieces ready beans to be sold at market.

Partnership and Giving Levels

We invite you to experience a different kind of mission: partnership with a group of orphans through their three-year journey from poverty to a transformed life of hope and self-reliance.

For the duration of the three-year empowerment program, the cost is less than \$1 a day for every child-led household. The giving level costs decline each year, as the children grow their small businesses and farms, and require less financial support.

You are invited to support ZOE Ministry's Orphan Empowerment Program at these giving levels:

DISTRICT

Supports: 4,000 families (approximately **12,000-16,000 orphans**)

A personalized plan will be developed for trips to Africa and interaction with orphans in the District.

Financial Commitment: Year One: \$1,485,000 Year Two: \$1,089,000 Year Three: \$726,000

REGION

Supports: 1,800 families (approximately **5,400-7,200 orphans**)

A personalized plan will be developed for trips to Africa and interaction with orphans in the Region.

Financial Commitment: Year One: \$675,000 Year Two: \$495,000 Year Three: \$330,000

COMMUNITY

Supports: 300 families (approximately **900-1,200 orphans**)

A personalized plan will be developed for trips to Africa and interaction with orphans in the Community.

Financial Commitment: Year One: \$112,500 Year Two: \$82,500 Year Three: \$55,000

NEIGHBORHOOD

Supports: 60 families (approximately **180-240 orphans**)

Nine participants may go on upcoming mission trips. (*As space allows, ZOE may be able to accommodate more travelers*)

Financial Commitment: Year One: \$22,500 Year Two: \$16,500 Year Three: \$11,000

WORKING GROUP

Supports: 20 families (approximately **60-80 orphans**)

Three participants may go on upcoming mission trips. (*As space allows, ZOE may be able to accommodate more travelers*)

Financial Commitment: Year One: \$8,000 Year Two: \$6,000 Year Three: \$4,000

When you become a Hope Companion, you will receive periodic updates about the group of orphans you support. These updates will be sent to the primary and secondary contact you indicate, via e-mail and physical mail. Additionally, Hope Companion sponsors are invited to participate in a ZOE-led mission trip. During this trip, you will visit with orphans in the Working Group(s) you sponsor, preparing you to be an advocate for ZOE upon your return.

Payment Instructions

Make checks payable to ZOE Ministry, and send to:

ZOE Ministry
700 Waterfield Ridge Place
Garner, NC 27529

Other payment options are at www.zoeministry.org (click on "Donate Now").

For more information, please contact Gaston Warner at (919) 414-4167 or at gaston@zoeministry.org, or Greg Jenks, (919) 333-4314 or at greg@zoeministry.org.

Fundraising Suggestions

Many of our Hope Companion partners are churches or other groups who come together to support a Working Group of orphans on their journey out of poverty. ZOE Ministry offers several fundraising ideas that churches and groups can use to raise the funds necessary to partner with these orphans.

RE-THINK CHRISTMAS WITH ZOE MINISTRY

ZOE Ministry offers an alternative to traditional holiday shopping – transforming the life of an orphan by giving your family, friends, and colleagues *ZOE Ministry's Christmas Animals*. For the children in ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program, animals provide income, fertilizer for crops, and nourishment as orphans escape a life of poverty in three years or less. ZOE will provide your church or group with gift cards representing five different animals that your group or church can sell for amounts ranging from \$10 - \$400. The following are ways to use the cards and other materials provided by ZOE to raise funds over the holidays:

- **Host an Alternative Gift Market for ZOE Ministry**

Your church or group can host an alternative gift market, or participate in larger alternative giving events with Christmas Animals. For those who wish to host a market, ZOE will send you an *alternative market kit* which includes an assortment of ornament-style cards, promotional flyers, and a free Christmas Animals video on DVD. If your church would like to host an alternative gift market with ZOE's Christmas Animals, please register by visiting www.zoeministry.org, and clicking on "Church Resources" under "Christmas Animals."

- **Create a Giving Tree**

Several churches have decorated angel trees or giving trees as fundraisers for ZOE. If you would like a selection of ornament gift cards to hang on a tree for people to sponsor, please contact us at info@zoeministry.org.

- **Designate an Offering to ZOE Ministry**

If your church would like to designate an offering such as Christmas Eve to ZOE Ministry, we can provide you with inserts, and flyers to include with your church bulletin, as well as a short promotional video on DVD. To designate an offering, please contact Gaston Warner at gaston@zoeministry.org or call (919) 414-4167.

CHILDREN'S MISSION MOMENTS

Perfect for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, or Children's Church, this free package includes five videos featuring empowered African orphans, with accompanying take-home mission activities. Each activity handout features a mission project allowing children and their families to support the work of ZOE Ministry in fun and meaningful ways. Watch and download our Children's Mission Moments at www.zoeministry.org.

HOPE WALK

The Hope Walk, held in February each year, is a 5k fundraising walk by empowered African orphans to help other orphans in Africa suffering from hunger, disease, isolation and homelessness. Across America, we encourage youth groups to participate in a fundraiser of their choice to sponsor the African walkers. Then, a live video chat between Kenya and the US will be held, allowing participating youth to meet and have a time of sharing and worship with the orphans that they sponsored. Visit "Church Resources" and then "Hope Walk" at www.zoeministry.org for more information.

LENTEN AND EASTER FUNDRAISER

ZOE Ministry will soon offer a spring and Easter-themed fundraiser. We will provide you with informational stickers representing different giving options that you can put on plastic eggs, insert into cards, or stick on cardboard and hang on an Easter tree. Giving options will range from \$5 to cover the cost of giving a bunny to an orphan, up to \$250 to provide vocational training. For more information, please call Gaston Warner at (919) 414-4167 or visit www.zoeministry.org after January 2012.

FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

This is one of the most effective fundraising models we have seen. It is a 55-minute free breakfast in which table captains invite guests who see a robust presentation about ZOE's Orphan Empowerment Program and its impact, and are given a chance to pledge to support the work. Many churches are able to fund an entire Hope Companion partnership from hosting this type of event. If you would like to host a breakfast, please contact Gaston Warner at gaston@zoeministry.org or call (919) 414-4167.

Mission Trips to Africa

When you become a Hope Companion, you are invited to participate in ZOE's mission trips to Africa. During these trips, you will visit with orphans in the Working Group(s) you sponsor, preparing you to be an advocate for these children upon your return. ZOE's representative will offer leadership for each trip.

WHAT TO EXPECT

To fully live into the body of Christ and move beyond simple charity, ZOE Ministry strives to form reciprocal relationships across boundaries. Nothing does this as effectively as visiting the orphans in Africa whose lives are being transformed and to experience their joy and hope first hand. We refer to participants as ambassadors and equip them to share the stories of hope they experience in Africa upon their return. Our **primary focus** is to allow our partners to see the empowerment program in action and experience Christ's love at work in these children.

You will deepen relationships and learn about the Orphan Empowerment Program through:

1. visits with groups and individuals, including dedicated time on one day for you to visit your Hope Companion Working Group; you will see their small businesses, farms, fields and homes;
2. participation in Working Groups' mutual help activities; this can include tasks such as home building, farming, fence-building, or home repair or construction (during visits with Working Groups);
3. meeting children at different stages of the Orphan Empowerment Program;
4. hearing stories of faith from the children;
5. Bible study reflections throughout the trip led by ZOE's staff.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 – Depart USA

Day 2 – Arrive in Africa and rest

Day 3 – Travel to base hotel, sightseeing

Day 4 – Visits with Working Groups/mutual help project

Day 5 – Visits with Working Groups/mutual help project

Day 6 – Worship at local church, visit with Working Group

Day 7 – Visit with Working Group, see anti-AIDS club presentation by group members

Day 8 – Visits with Working Groups

Day 9 – Travel to airport to depart

Day 10 – Arrive home

TRAVEL DATES

ZOE Ministry hosts mission trips at various times throughout the year. For specific travel dates, contact Toni Cole at (919) 779-7272, or at admin@zoeministry.org. You can also visit www.zoeministry.org, and under "Get Involved," click on "Become a Hope Companion." At the bottom of the page, click on the link for "Hope Companions Log-In Page," and login with the password "hopetravel" to view trip dates.



RESERVING YOUR TRIP DATE

Hope Companion partners are invited to reserve their allotted spaces for travel as soon as possible. For ZOE Ministry to guarantee your allotted spaces, we will need your reservation *within nine months of when you receive your Hope Companion's group name and information.*

- To reserve spaces on a particular travel date simply e-mail or call our Administrative Coordinator at admin@zoeministry.org or (919) 779-7272.
- Plane tickets should be purchased *at least three months* prior to travel.
- Travel participants are responsible for all costs of the trip (see below for cost details).
- If at any point after registering you would like to change your dates, ZOE will seek to facilitate the change.
- Spaces on any trip are available on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to sign up early.
- Summer dates are the most expensive and most in demand.
- If any trip has extra spaces available near the date of departure, we will make those spaces available to our Hope Companion partners. If additional travelers are flexible on their travel dates, this increases our ability to fit them in on trips which have available space.



TRIP COSTS

The cost of a trip generally includes:

- \$100 per day in-country paid to ZOE Ministry to cover all in-country travel, accommodation and food (typically \$800 unless otherwise specified);
- the cost of your airfare (\$1,200 to \$1,900 approximately, varies according to market conditions);
- the cost inoculations/medications (\$500 approximately);
- and spending money for gifts and souvenirs.

Most people spend approximately \$3,000 on the trip as a whole.

ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

Visiting ZOE orphans in Africa is an opportunity to experience God's power at work in the lives of the most vulnerable children on earth. Encountering God in this way will change your life. ZOE's approach to missions is likely different than what you may have experienced in the past. Rather than going to do things for the orphans, ZOE teams go to experience the ways orphans are empowered to provide for themselves. You will find yourself challenged by the expressions of faith and discipleship evident in the lives of these young people. Through your experience of seeing the power of God manifest in their lives it is our hope that you will return home to tell others what God is doing. We request that you begin to pray about this trip and to ask God to use you as an ambassador for these children.

Updates from Working Groups

As Hope Companions, ZOE Ministry hopes you will journey with these orphans as their lives are transformed. To enable this, we will send you updates about the orphans with whom you are partnering. We will send these updates to the primary and secondary contacts you list on the Registration Form (see insert or PDF via e-mail). Below you will find sample update from a Neighborhood in Rwanda sent to their Hope Companion partner, LeSueur United Methodist Church.

Evariste Kuyavuga **Mugombwa Neighborhood** **Hope Companion: LeSueur United Methodist Church**

Evariste Kuyavuga, now 18 years old, lost both parents to HIV/AIDS six years ago when he was just 12. Since then, Evariste has been caring for five siblings: Gratien, 16, Claudine, 12, Emmanuel, 10, Nyandwi, 8, and Damascene, 6.

Because his siblings were so young when his parents died, he would carry his youngest brother on his back while he worked neighbor's fields. Often for a day of back-breaking work, he would get just a half a liter of milk to feed the baby and toddlers. Other times he would have a "good" week of work, and be able to feed his family 2-3 meals that week.

Shortly after his parents died, his grandmother died when the family home collapsed from disrepair. After that tragedy, this family of six was left hungry and homeless.

After Evariste joined ZOE Ministry's Orphan Empowerment Program, his life improved dramatically. He was trained in farming and business, and given a micro-grant to start an income-generating activity. With his grant, he rented two plots of land where he grows rice and beans to feed his family, and sells the extra in his community. He also received a chicken and some rabbits, and is now able to sell their offspring as they multiply for additional income. They also started a vegetable garden at home, providing additional food security for the family.

With his new income, Evariste has been able to enroll his family in the Rwandan health plan, and they are seeing doctors regularly. He proudly sent four of his siblings to school, able to buy school supplies and pay necessary fees.

He has constructed a temporary shelter for his family, and he dreams one day to make significant improvements. Soon, he also hopes to buy a plot of land to grow and sell rice, and buy a cow so his family can drink milk.



Evariste and his siblings raise chickens and rabbits.



Evariste and his siblings harvested a crop of beans to sell in their community.

ZOE Ministry

Empowering Orphans in Africa

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