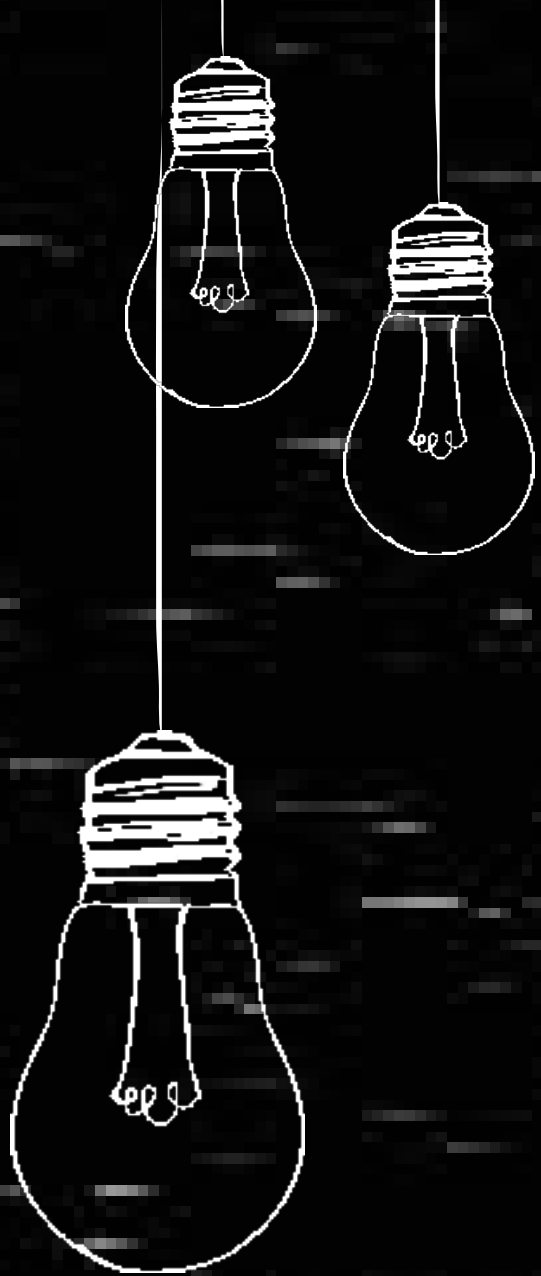


Ji Drita



“Kështu duhet të shndrisë drita juaj para njerëzve, që të shohin veprat tuaja të mira dhe të përlevdojnë Atin tuaj që është në qiej.”

Mateu 5:16

UDHËZUESI 2020

EDIEL 8 NËNTOR 2020

orphan
sunday
ONE DAY. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.



NAVIGATING THE TOOLKIT

GET INSPIRED	4
What is Orphan Sunday?	
GET INVOLVED	6
What can we do?	
GET PREPARED	7
How do we go there?	
LET'S GO FURTHER	20
How to use Orphan Sunday to engage our church further?	



STEP 1
GET INSPIRED

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

What is Orphan Sunday?

God is vested, deeply and personally, in the plight of the orphan (i.e. Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 68:5-6). He calls His people to share this passion and bring to each child the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed (Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27; Matthew 25:40). On Orphan Sunday, the Church is reminded of this truth and invited to act upon it.

On Orphan Sunday, Christians around the globe celebrate the love of the God who “defends the cause of the fatherless” and calls us to do the same. Ultimately, Orphan Sunday makes God’s true character and the Gospel itself visible as God’s people explore and respond to His heart for the orphan in adoption, foster care, and global orphan ministry.

Christ came to BE THE LIGHT and bring the light of his love to all humanity.

Today, we emerge from a dark time. Our common suffering has connected us in a way that most of us have never experienced. How can we as followers of Christ respond to these days?

This year, we are rallying individuals and churches worldwide to BE THE LIGHT on Orphan Sunday. This call has never been more important, as it is always the vulnerable who suffer most when times are hard. Your prayers and acts of service, whether grand or humble, will bring light in a dark place.

Join us this year to bring a message of hope that is the light of Christ. As we each do our own small part to BE THE LIGHT, together we can bring the glow of His love to waiting children everywhere.

Global Director, Orphan Sunday
JODI JACKSON TUCKER





STEP 2
GET INVOLVED

What **CAN WE DO?**

Whether your church is small or large, Orphan Sunday is your opportunity to stir the community to see God's heart for the fatherless and how individuals can respond.



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

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

That's a net that covers EVERYONE - from students to senior citizens, singles to married, empty nesters to young families, those who can bring children into their homes and those who can't.

Commit to PRAY, HOST A SERVICE PROJECT or ORGANIZE an observance for your church.

[LIGHT UP THE MAP](#)

You want to raise **AWARENESS** **OF GOD'S HEART**

SOME IDEAS...

1. Plan orphan care related sermon on Orphan Sunday
2. Plan worship songs that reflect God's heart for the orphan
3. Have children or youth sing a song about God's heart for the orphan
4. Invite someone who grew up in an institution, or apart from parental care, to share their testimony
5. Invite an adoptive parent or foster parent to share their story
6. Invite someone from a local NGO to speak about orphan care, adoption, foster care, preventive services for at-risk families
7. If you have a ministry in your church working to support families and prevent abandonment, highlight this and have someone share.
8. Invite the director of a Christian residential institution to share
9. Show a video about orphan care (foster care, adoption, etc) during your gathering
10. Have a special time of prayer for orphaned and vulnerable children
11. Plan a collection of specific items for a local childrens home (plan ahead of time with director of home)
12. Put resources, such as the Orphan Sunday video, on your church website or facebook page
13. Set up a table to share resources about foster care, orphan care, and projects that support vulnerable families to prevent abandonment or crisis pregnancy programs
14. Take an offering for a local Christian Children's home or foster family to meet a specific need (plan ahead with director or parent)
15. Call people to consider foster care and adoption, and pray for those who sense the Lord's call in this direction

Note: in the context of COVID19, you will need to take the necessary measures and be ready to adapt !

You want individuals or the whole church to **BE A LIGHT**

SOME IDEAS...

1. Encourage and support people in your church to explore adoption or foster care
2. Host a small group meeting where someone can share in more detail about orphan care, adoption, foster care and needs of institutionalized children in Albania
3. Plan a meeting for coffee or lunch where someone in your church can share in more detail about initiatives or ministries in your church: things that you are already doing to support vulnerable families and prevent children from becoming orphaned or abandoned.
4. Host a meeting for a small group to share more information about foster care or adoption
5. Plan a prayer time that will be focused on the needs of orphaned children and seeking God's heart
6. Share with people how they can join the monthly AWO prayer time on ZOOM, focused on praying for Orphaned and abandoned children in Albania
7. Plan a service project to benefit a local children's home or crisis pregnancy program (coordinate with directors)
8. Support a foster or adoptive family in your church or community: babysit, take a meal, pray for them
9. Contact a local children's home (specifically, Christian homes) to see how you can provide support during this time: special project, tutoring (possibly online), activities, birthdays, etc.
10. Take a foster or adoptive parent to coffee, listen to their story and encourage them.

The ideas proposed above are not exhaustive, so use your own creativity and the one of your church !

Note: it is important to consider that when planning an event or an action, the ultimate goal is really to explore deeply God's heart and act in consequence. Therefore we encourage you to make sure that your action is for the best interests of children and not for your congregation to feel good about a good action they did.



STEP 3
GET PREPARED

HOW DO WE GO THERE ?

1 ASSESSING THE SITUATION

a. Orphans needs

What is the situation of orphans in our community?
(feel free to consult <http://awo.al>)

b. Church needs

Where are we as a church (globally and as individuals) regarding our understanding and practice of God's heart for orphan?

c. Resources available

What resources can we draw from?

- What are we already doing, as a church or as individuals in the church?
- What resources are made available by AWO/WWO ?

By registering into awo.al, you will have access to a number of resources in Albanian such as Sermons ideas, Books, Videos/testimonies.

You can also get information about people that can come to speak at your event of after the event on the thematics below. Unless you have direct contact, the AWO team can help you to arrange such opportunities (email to: info@awo.al)

Presentation of foster care system

Foster / Adoptive parents

Staff of Residential Center

Presentation of caring for Roma & Egyptian communities to prevent abandonment

Crisis Pregnancy program

HOW DO WE GO THERE ?

2 SETTING GOALS

What do we want to achieve through Orphan Sunday in short and long term?

3 SUGGESTIONS FOR PLANNING THE EVENT

It can be as simple or as involved as you think fits your congregation.

- a. Form a team.
- b. Prepare a plan for what will happen in the months prior the event and after the event.
- c. Continue to promote and spread the word.
- d. Make all the final arrangements for the event.





GET IN TOUCH

For more information

[Visit awo.al](http://awo.al)

or to get connected to Orphan Sunday Coordinator
in Albania

[Send an email to info@awo.al](mailto:info@awo.al)



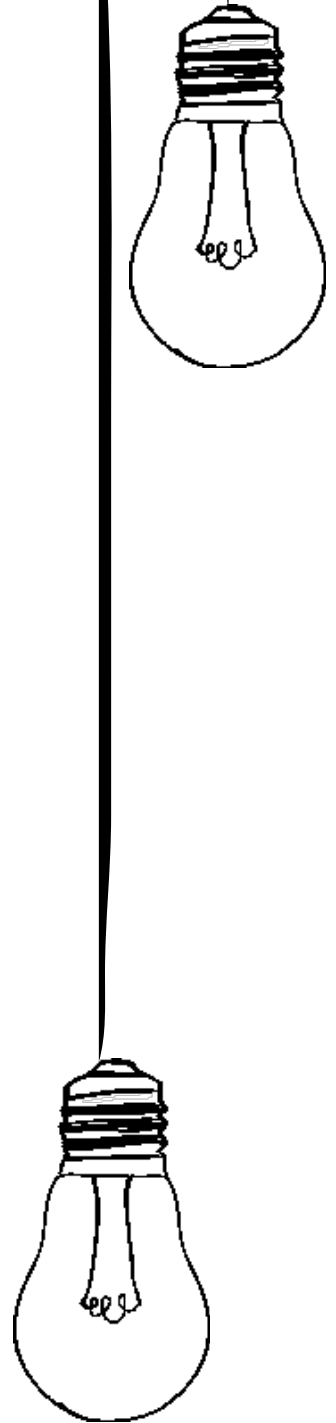
STEP 4

Let's go further

How to use Orphan Sunday to **ENGAGE OUR CHURCH FURTHER?**

Orphan Sunday is an opportunity for your church to:

- a) catalyze a new focus and energy on building a church committed to caring for the vulnerable and orphaned;*
- b) celebrate all that God has done in your existing ministry and provide clear on-ramps for others to get involved;*
- c) as a community, come alongside those who have already, or are considering, foster care or adoption.*



AFTER NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Whether your Orphan Sunday is a full sermon, a prayer, a time of sharing stories of families and children, a service project - or all of the above - you can leave people with a clear and actionable “next step” - to sign up for the bridge event.

As you cast that net wide and slowly start to draw it in, you will catch up not only those who are already involved, but those who have been privately and personally considering getting involved for perhaps months, if not years. This smaller gathering becomes a safe place for them to publicly process what has been largely private and personal, and to be encouraged, connected and challenged with others along the way.

Getting people that 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. It also helps create critical mass for ministry growth.

If you can get people together around a common cause it speaks volumes to those attending **“We’re not in this alone!”** and to the leadership overseeing **“People are getting involved!”**

Whatever passion was once isolated within each one of them individually is now given the opportunity to collectively burn together – better, bigger and brighter.

A few additional suggestions could include:

- Invite people to a social event –family day at the park, coffee or meal to share information informally
- Host an informational luncheon after church.
- Form a small group where you’ll read a book (per sh.: Femija, Kisha dhe Misioni available on awo.al) or walk through a study together on the subject of God’s heart for the orphan.
- Meet over coffee with people who share a similar heart as you. Learn from those who have gone before you.

There are endless amounts of opportunities you have to begin connecting people into community. **Be creative!**



STEP
1



“After years of witnessing the impact of Orphan Sunday, I pray that it will birth something in your church or community that makes caring for orphans ‘normal’ in your congregation.”

BILLIANCE (BILLY) CHONDWE
Pastor + Founder of Orphan Sunday



orphan sunday

Orphan Sunday is an initiative of the
Members of the Christian Alliance for Orphans



Christian Alliance for Orphans

CAFO unites 200+ respected organizations and over 750 church members. We labor together in shared initiatives that inspire and equip Christians for effective orphan care, family preservation, adoption and foster care. We work to see the local church in every nation known as the primary answer for the needs of vulnerable children in their midst.

In Albania, Orphan Sunday is promoted through Albania Without Orphans.

