

2020 World Orphan Day Message



INTRO

Thank you _____ for inviting me here. It is a privilege for me to represent the many donors of International Children's Care. I'm looking forward to sharing with you our ministry vision, some of our fundraising goals, and how God is changing lives.

SCRIPTURE: GOOD SAMARITAN

Let's start by reading the Bible and applying what Jesus said to this very moment.

Luke 10:25-37 says...*On one occasion an expert in the law (someone who knew all about the scriptures) stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (This is a question that all of us ask, in different ways. What must I do to be saved? What must I do to be fulfilled? What must I do to be truly happy?)*

"What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. (This is the great commandment of all time). "Do this and you will live."

But the man wanted to justify himself (or free himself from that responsibility), so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. (If it was me, I would have helped, until I realized that social distancing would have kept me away—what if he had COVID-19? What if the law said you had to stay six feet away, like the Jewish law that stated you could not touch something unclean). So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. (He reached out to him). He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii (A denarius was the usual daily wage of a day laborer - see Matt. 20:2) and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' (The samaritan gave not only of his time and energy, but of his financial resources).

When it comes to working with God's children in need, people who give from their hearts are like the Samaritan, who bring children in need to the inn—to International Children's Care.

ICC FACT

Through Samaritans like you, ICC has 40 “inns” in 13 countries. We have 71 house parents giving care to 420 precious children. ICC through Samaritans like you provide for over half-a-million meals every year. That’s a big family with a big ministry. We give each of these children a house, house parents, work experience, a Christian education, and three meals a day. This is providing complete care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year—for the last 43 years—to children like Daniel.



13 COUNTRIES*



420 CHILDREN



40 HOMES



1400 DISCIPLESHIP MEETINGS HELD



71 HOUSE PARENTS



535,000 MEALS PROVIDED

STORY: DANIEL IN D.R. CONGO

Daniel is not his real name, but he is a real kid and the story I’m going to tell you really happened to him.

In the D.R. Congo there is a big lake called Lake Kivu. In the middle of this lake is an Island called Idjwi Island. This island is quite remote and many of the people there, though happy, are quite poor. This little boy Daniel and his family lived on Idjwi island and as customary they traveled to the mainland to get food and supplies. On this particular April weekend not long ago, they got on what looked like a massive canoe with around 100 other people. These boats are the way the poor travel because they provide the cheapest transportation. The boats are overloaded, not one wears life jackets, and there is usually someone hired to bail out water with a bucket while they are in the water. Daniel and his family traveled to the Goma area (the village of Kituku), did their shopping and errands, and now, on Monday evening, they were making their way back down the northern shore of the island. It was in the evening and usual, it was scary to be on that old boat. With so many people on board, any amount of wind made it dangerous. This time, it was too dangerous. The sun went down, the winds picked up, and waves pounded the boat. With a violent gust, the people screamed, the boat overturned, and everyone went overboard.

It was a tragic night. Daniel’s parents, along with many other people did not survive. They perished.

We don't know the horrific moments of almost drowning—but we do know that Daniel was one of the ones rescued from the deadly waters. But now, on land, as people dispersed in confusion and distress, Daniel found himself alone, now an orphan. Daniel did not know what to do. He had no family any more. He huddled down near the port and fearfully watched passersby as they ignored his tragic situation. Days went by. He was in shock, he was in emotional pain when a young woman walking in the crowd saw him.

Her name is Judith. As a child Judith had been orphaned too, and she had been brought into a children's village supported by kind people in America and other parts of the world through International Children's Care, or ICC. ICC is an Adventist-based orphan care ministry in Vancouver, WA that started in 1978. It has helped thousands of children, including Judith. When Judith saw Daniel, her heart went out to him, so she approached him. This boy, Daniel, hungry, scared and alone, shared his story.

Judith had a heart for children, so she held him and brought Daniel into her home. She did her best to provide for him, and put him in school. However, this was difficult, and she thought about how much better his life would be if he could grow up as she had, in the children's village supported by International Children's Care.

The children's village is called Patmos Children's Village; It is like other ICC children's villages with a group of homes, house parents, a school, a church, and industries right on the campus, and an elementary and secondary school. [photo] This is the school that Daniel is going to school now. Yes, Judith took him to Patmos where he joined one of the families and began attending school. And guess what he and other students there need? Notebooks, pencils, markers, backpacks. And bigger things. Food, a bed, siblings—a family.

ICC FACT

Focusing deeply on family units is what I love about International Children's Care. There are a lot of organizations, including some Adventist ones in orphan work. Compassion, World Vision, others you might recognize. They are all good ministries, but the difference with ICC and most others is that ICC specializes deeply in family life. Other adventist ministries have programs and handouts but not total residential care. Take a look at this comparison chart.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CARE FOCUSES ON INDIVIDUAL LIVES AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL

What makes ICC different is that, like Jesus with his 12 disciples, ICC concentrates on a small group of children and disciples them.	ICC	Other Adventist	Other
Cares for children's basic needs	✓	✓	✓
Family support services—family training, school scholarships & community access, helps with education and food	✓	✓	✓
Adventist message, private Adventist school with Adventist teachers	✓	✓	
Focused on total, residential care - Physical, mental, spiritual, social	✓	Maybe ✓	

Schools on campus or nearby. Farms to provide food, other industries for work experience and sustainability, regular leadership and discipleship training	✓		
Children are helped past 18 years old with their vocational or university education. Children regularly return to visit, we remain their family	✓		
The Adventist family model is replicated to impact more and more children	✓		

SCRIPTURE - JAMES 1:27

Let's go back to the story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan. Jesus asked the learned man, *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"* The expert in the law replied, *"The one who had mercy on him."* Jesus told him, *"Go and do likewise."*

That is the same command that Jesus gives us all year long, and specially during World Orphan month. James 1:27 says *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

ASKING FOR SUPPORT

I would like to invite you to join me in living out James 1:27 through International Children's Care. When I discovered it some time ago, I embraced ICC and began to sponsor a child. I had choices to make to go with Compassion or World Vision. But when I learned that the Adventist Church had an orphan care ministry I was excited. And there is much more that I haven't told you, like how we work with ADRA in some areas and how some of our workers are denominationally employed. It's really an Adventist ministry, supported by people like you.

I want to invite you today to not just talk about true and undefiled religion, but to do it. \$35 a month is what it takes to sponsor a child. And children still need sponsorship. Would you consider sponsoring a child today?

- **Please fill out your name and contact information in an interest card so that we can connect with you.**
- **Or go to InternationalChildrensCare.org and start today.** You can also make a one-time donation today to help a missionary mother do her work in places like the D.R. Congo where Daniel is.

And ofcourse, it's not about money, it's about your heart. If all you can do is pray right now, I ask that you would keep International Children's Care in your prayers, because we need them! Thank you for being—in whatever way that you can—the Good Samaritans God has called you to be.

VIDEO: SPONSORSHIP (5 mins)

In closing, watch this [video](https://vimeo.com/396979461) as you think about how God is calling you to support the children of International Children's Care. (Sponsorship 2020: <https://vimeo.com/396979461>)

CLOSING

May you demonstrate to the world God's character through your love and concern for abandoned and orphaned children. And especially during World Orphan Day in November, May you find joy in lifting up "His Kids."

800-422-7729 | 2711 NE 134th Way Vancouver, WA. 98686

