

Week One

We Can Bring Hope to Orphans

This week marks the start of an incredible journey together! By participating in World Vision's Love Loaf program, our church has an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Over the next month, the money we collect will offer hope and help save the lives of orphans and vulnerable children around the world, like Anizio, Sanyu, and Rose, below.

Sanyu, 8, and Anizio, 11, eat the mashed bananas and sweet potatoes left over from last night's dinner before dashing off to school. It will be the only thing they will eat until dinner. Life is hard, but the brother and sister are far better than this time last year.

For many orphans like Sanyu, Anizio, and their three siblings, staying fed is a real daily challenge. After both of their parents died recently, the children relied on whatever they could beg for or grow on their land. It wasn't much. Their grass-roofed mud house began to fall apart, with no easy way to fix it. Many days they went to bed hungry—and alone. The future didn't look promising.

These young children are some of the 108 million children worldwide who are orphans (all under age 15). Civil war, hunger, and terrible diseases

have left these children without parents and in great need.

How can we help? One way is through the World Vision Love Loaf program we are starting this week. For about a dollar a day, we can help orphans and vulnerable children get the resources they need.

For Anizio, Sanyu, and their siblings, World Vision helped grow crops on their land. Now the children

have delicious bananas and sweet potatoes to eat. They also built the children a four-room house and gave them basic foods such as corn, flour, and beans to add protein to their diets. Unlike

many orphans, they won't have to drop out of school to find food.

Join in to demonstrate Jesus' love as we bring help and hope to desperate children through Love Loaf.



Orphans Anizio, Sanyu, and Rose by their new home

faith in **action**

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. —James 1:27

Tangible hope for orphans and vulnerable children

Our participation in World Vision's Love Loaf program for just one month can change the lives of orphans and vulnerable children forever! A dollar a day—totaling just \$28—can provide them with basic necessities such as:

- Food and clean water
- Access to education and vocational training
- Access to basic health care
- Caregivers who will show Christ's love

Join with our church family to help save lives in Jesus' name!

- Pick up a Love Loaf and Family Devotional Booklet after today's service (*you can read more about Sanyu and her siblings in week 1 of the Devotional*)
- Place the Love Loaf prominently in your home (*like on the kitchen table*)
- Put coins or bills in your Love Loaf each day
- Pray that God would comfort and protect the more than 108 million children who are orphans in our world
- Use the Family Devotional Booklet to spend time as a family learning about God's compassion, His Word, and orphans
- Bring your full Love Loaf to church on Love Loaf Harvest Sunday, _____, so everyone can open their loaves together and share in the joy of making a difference

The World Vision Love Loaf campaign is a wonderful way to deepen your personal awareness of needs around the world. Parents can use it to teach their children about helping others. And, it's a great opportunity for our church family to reach the poor in the name of Christ. Pick up your Love Loaf to get started!

Week Two

Voiceless Victims

Tears streamed down 5-year-old Rukshana's pretty face and over the bruises on her cheeks. Her left eye was covered with a bandage. She was in a state of shock in the days after her village was destroyed—and her parents were lost—in an earthquake in India.

The massive earthquake struck on a national holiday, so many people were at home. As is common in impoverished countries, their home was poorly constructed and quickly collapsed. Her uncle pulled her and her 3-year-old brother Arif from the rubble. They are being cared for by their uncle's family.

In the days after the disaster, World Vision provided thousands of families with food, clean water, shelter, and emergency medical care. World Vision has teams who track crises and disasters worldwide, ready to send emergency supplies at a moment's notice.

Throughout the world, children are orphaned for many reasons. Rwanda's 1994 genocide killed up to one million

of its citizens. Among those killed was the entire family of Esther and Sandrine. For years the sisters barely survived by growing potatoes, beans, and sorghum, until World Vision trained them in tailoring. For the first time since they were left on their own, they have hope.

In Colombia, drug-related wars have raged for years. In Sudan, a decades-old war has interrupted access to food supplies and other essentials.

And unrest in Israel continues to cause fear and desperation. In these and many other conflicts, parents die and children are left behind to fend for themselves.

World Vision exists to care for these children. And when children get the help they need

with basic items such as food, medical care, and education, they can enjoy life and be the kids God made them to be. Thank you for helping make this a reality by participating in World Vision's Love Loaf program.



Orphan Rukshana, in the days after the earthquake

faith in **action**

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? —James 2:15-16

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Join with our church family to help save lives in Jesus' name!

- If you haven't already picked up a Love Loaf and Family Devotional, pick them up after today's service (*you can read more about Rukshana, Esther, and Sandrine in week 2 of the Devotional*)
- Place the Love Loaf prominently in your home (*like on the kitchen table*)
- Put coins or bills in your Love Loaf each day—set a family goal!
- Pray that God would comfort and protect the more than 108 million children who are orphans in our world
- Use the Family Devotional Booklet to spend time as a family learning about God's compassion, His Word, and orphans
- Bring your full Love Loaf to church on Love Loaf Harvest Sunday, _____, so everyone can open their loaves together and share in the joy of making a difference

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Week Three

Standing in the Gap

When Ethiopian sisters Friezer and Yordanos lost their parents to diseases three years ago and moved in with their grandparents, they weren't the only ones to suffer—their grandparents suffered, too. "We don't have enough to support ourselves, let alone our granddaughters," says grandmother Assefa. "We can survive on one meal a day, but the children can't."

Assefa loves and cares for Friezer, 9, and Yordanos, 6, but her love can't feed their hungry stomachs. The grandparents' livelihood depends on

whatever they can grow on their small farm, which isn't much. Coupled with a devastating drought, there isn't enough food to last from harvest to harvest.

As parents die from diseases, sudden natural disasters, or wars, millions of orphans are left in the care of poor grandparents with few resources, or forced to try to live on their own.

Innocent children are often robbed of hope for the future. Many, like Friezer, are forced to drop out of school because there isn't enough money.

"I often see my grandparents running out of money and food to support us," she says. "I would be happy if someone

would help me continue my education." Without education or skills, these children face bleak futures tethered to chronic poverty.

Yet there is hope. And we can help provide it by participating in World Vision's Love Loaf. Each day of LoveLoaf, you have a chance

to give. Just \$1 per day will help with what orphans and vulnerable children need the most—things like food, health care, and the opportunity to attend school. Thanks for "standing in the gap" to care for children who must face each day without the love, resources, and security that loving parents provide.



Orphans Yordanos, 6, and Friezer, 9, in Ethiopia

faith in **action**

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. — Psalm 147:3

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Join with our church family to help save lives in Jesus' name!

- Today is the third week of our participation in Love Loaf—if you haven't yet picked up a Love Loaf, you can do so after today's service (*you can read more about Friezer and Yordanos in week 3 of the Devotional*)
- Place the Love Loaf prominently in your home (*like on the kitchen table*)
- Put coins or bills in your Love Loaf each day—for families who have been participating for the past two weeks, talk about how you're doing in reaching your family goal
- Pray that God would comfort and protect the more than 108 million children who are orphans in our world
- Use the Family Devotional Booklet to spend time together as a family learning more about what God is doing for orphans and vulnerable children
- Bring your full Love Loaf to church on Love Loaf Harvest Sunday, _____, so everyone can open their loaves together and share in the joy of making a difference

By filling your Love Loaf, you will help demonstrate God's love and provide critical assistance to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of orphans and vulnerable children.

WeekFour

Offering the Bread of Life

In many places in the world such as Africa and India, tradition dictates that grown children care for their aging parents. Yet when middle-aged adults pass away, that practice is reversed, leaving grandparents as the only caregivers for grandchildren. Due to the HIV/AIDS crisis, many adults in Africa and India are dying. Now there is a growing generation of aging, exhausted grandparents who must keep working to care for grandchildren.

Three years ago, Laxmi, a 65-year-old grandmother who lives in a village near Mumbai, India, watched her son, his wife, and their daughter Nikita die within

14 months of each other. Now Laxmi cares for their remaining daughter Rakheed. A widow, Laxmi tries to earn money each day by selling lentils in the local market. Some days, she doesn't sell anything, and she and her granddaughter Rakheed go without food.

But before Nikita died, she gave the pair some hope to cling to: Nikita had learned about the love of Jesus from a World Vision staff person and tried to comfort her Hindu grandmother. "Don't worry," she said, "Jesus will take care of me."

AIDS in particular is having such devastating effects throughout Africa and beyond that it threatens to undo the tremendous advances in recent decades that have improved the lives of millions of the world's poor.

Providing the hope that comes only from Jesus, the Bread of Life—as well as tangible, practical help such as food,

clean water, and education—is at the core of World Vision's work. You can help people like Laxmi, and orphans and vulnerable children like Rakheed, by contributing to your Love Loaf this week.



Education helps orphans to break out of poverty

faith in **action**

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." — John 6:35

Coming next week: Harvest Sunday!

Don't forget to bring your Love Loaf when we come together as a family to open our Love Loaves next week. The offerings will be forwarded to World Vision to help orphans and vulnerable children. Please join us in this effort, and please continue to pray for these children in need around the world.

This is the final week to join with our church family

to help save lives in Jesus' name! Here's how it works:

- Today is the final week of our participation in Love Loaf—if you haven't yet picked up a Love Loaf and Family Devotional Booklet, you can pick them up after today's service (*you can read more about Laxmi in week 4 of the Devotional*)
- Place the Love Loaf prominently in your home (*like on the kitchen table*)
- Put coins or bills in your Love Loaf each day—for families who have been participating for the past three weeks, talk about how you're doing in reaching your family goal
- Pray that God would comfort and protect the more than 108 million children who are orphans in our world
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WeekFive

We've Made a Difference!

**Together, our church family raised \$ _____
to help orphans and vulnerable children!**

Our congregation's generous participation in World Vision's Love Loaf program will soon be providing life-giving care to orphans and vulnerable children throughout the world. These children treasure every gift. They have very little, and when someone cares enough to help them, their lives are changed. Here's what some of them are saying:

"I did not know that I could be where and who I am today because of my poor background. It is the help that World Vision gave to me that transformed my life and, like a good runner, I am now focusing on the future."

—Wainaina, Kenya

"I feel very excited about my future and am so grateful to World Vision for all you have done for me. I would like to make a difference in my country and if I work hard and apply myself, I believe I can."

—Javkhan, Mongolia

"I thank World Vision for changing my life. Without assistance from World Vision and its staff, I would find it hard to live and be certain of my future."

—Sokhom, Vietnam

"I don't feel like going to the streets anymore. I don't even miss them because there I used to have nightmares, and today, I dream of becoming a teacher."

—Rodrigo, Brazil

"These things that World Vision is doing give me hope that, at last, our lives are going to change!"

—Mediatrice, Rwanda

During the last month, our church family has been coming together around our Love Loaves, helping children in need. As a result of our efforts, hungry children and families are receiving life-saving food and care. Continue to pray that their hearts, and many others, will come to know Jesus' love in a personal way.

Again, thanks for your participation, your dedication, and your example of what it means to love with the love of Jesus.

Visit www.worldvision.org for the latest information on the critical needs of orphans and vulnerable children—and how you can make a difference.

faith in **action**

Blessed is he who is kind to the needy. — Proverbs 14:21b

We are blessed!

Thank you for your participation in the Love Loaf campaign and for making a difference in the lives of children in desperate need. Please continue to pray for children who are growing up without their parents.

There's a special child waiting for you!

If you would like to offer life-changing care to a hurting child on an ongoing basis, we invite you to consider making a relationship with a child through World Vision's Child Sponsorship, a great way to help children in need. You'll provide things like improved nutrition, health care, educational opportunities, and the chance to experience the love of God. You will receive a picture and background information of the child you'll be helping. Visit www.worldvision.org, or call 1.877.4LOAVES (456.2837) today and change a child's life!