

ORPHAN *Field Guide* SUNDAY



orphan
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ARE YOU READY?

Are you Ready?

It's coming! Orphan Sunday is just around the corner, and we're thrilled about this new season and all it has to offer. In particular, we are very excited about how Orphan Sunday has officially aligned with the Global Network initiative at CAFO - a movement to ensure all nations, utilizing the power of healthy networks, will see every child in a loving family, embraced within a collaborative community! Together, we will all work to grow the catalytic power of Orphan Sunday around the world. This work will not only leverage the power of Orphan Sunday but will integrate fully with year-round church-led community action so that everyone will be given the opportunity to be **Better Together** for vulnerable children and families.

Orphan Sunday has been a powerful tool to invite churches to join the movement, and is used by many to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable children and families in their communities. As

we launch the 2022 Orphan Sunday campaign, we encourage churches to use this opportunity to catalyze Christians towards ongoing care and collaboration. As each of you are inviting churches to participate, let's consider how each church may equip and empower local Christians to serve long after Orphan Sunday is over. To put it simply - we're not merely interested in churches participating in Orphan Sunday; we are primarily interested in churches utilizing Orphan Sunday as a launch pad for further, ongoing, long-term engagement in the lives of vulnerable children and families. This may include strengthening existing ministries to children and families - or may involve connecting them with other ministries in their area to offer opportunities to serve. You have a great opportunity to help churches go beyond a one-day event/service to inspiring and supporting them in active service throughout the year!

orphan sunday

11.13.22
November 13, 2022

We are so grateful to partner alongside you as you work to convene, connect, and mobilize churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals in your community. This brief Orphan Sunday field guide is filled with resources, ideas, and tools that are uniquely designed to support you as you engage churches and convene local partners in your community.

We know every community is unique, and there's no one resource or tool that can solve every problem or answer every question as it relates to supporting the complex and nuanced needs of vulnerable children and families. So, consider this field guide to be a starting point for you as you explore your own unique and creative ways to leverage the power of Orphan Sunday in your community and form collaborative partnerships that will continue to stand together for the sake of vulnerable children and families long after Orphan Sunday is over!

Please reach out if there's any way we can specifically serve you during this season. Our prayer is that everyone is given an opportunity to be *Better Together* for vulnerable children and families. We're here, standing with you. It's our joy to do so.

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HOW TO

About this Guide

We've compiled resources for steps towards becoming *Better Together* for *vulnerable children and families* where you live, inspiration for year-round collaboration, ideas, and a sample rollout plan to help equip you for the year ahead (and beyond!). Use any of the ideas throughout this field guide or come up with your own.

We are here to help you as you plan. Please reach out to your regional coordinator for assistance at any step of the way.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

HISTORY

Orphan Sunday

orphan —sunday

On Orphan Sunday, Christians stand for vulnerable children and families in their communities and around the world. We are a people called to defend the fatherless, seek justice, and show mercy and compassion. We do this not out of a sense of duty or guilt, but simply because He first loved us.

The seeds of Orphan Sunday come as a gift from the church in Africa, through a Zambian pastor's passionate call to care for orphans in a community that had been ravaged by AIDS and poverty. Members of the church faced deep needs themselves. But as the service ended, one after another stepped forward with money, food, and other goods - some even taking off their own shoes and placing them in the offering for orphans.

2009

In 2009, the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) began providing united leadership to make Orphan Sunday a catalyst for awareness and year-round action

worldwide. Today, churches and organizations around the world observe Orphan Sunday annually.

2012

In 2012, CAFO launched the Global Movements Initiative to catalyze, equip, and connect locally-led networks of churches, NGOs, and agencies as they sought to care for vulnerable children and families in their communities. The following year, the first Collaborate forum was held alongside Summit, gathering leaders from around the world to grow spiritually and professionally by learning and discussing good practices and leadership.

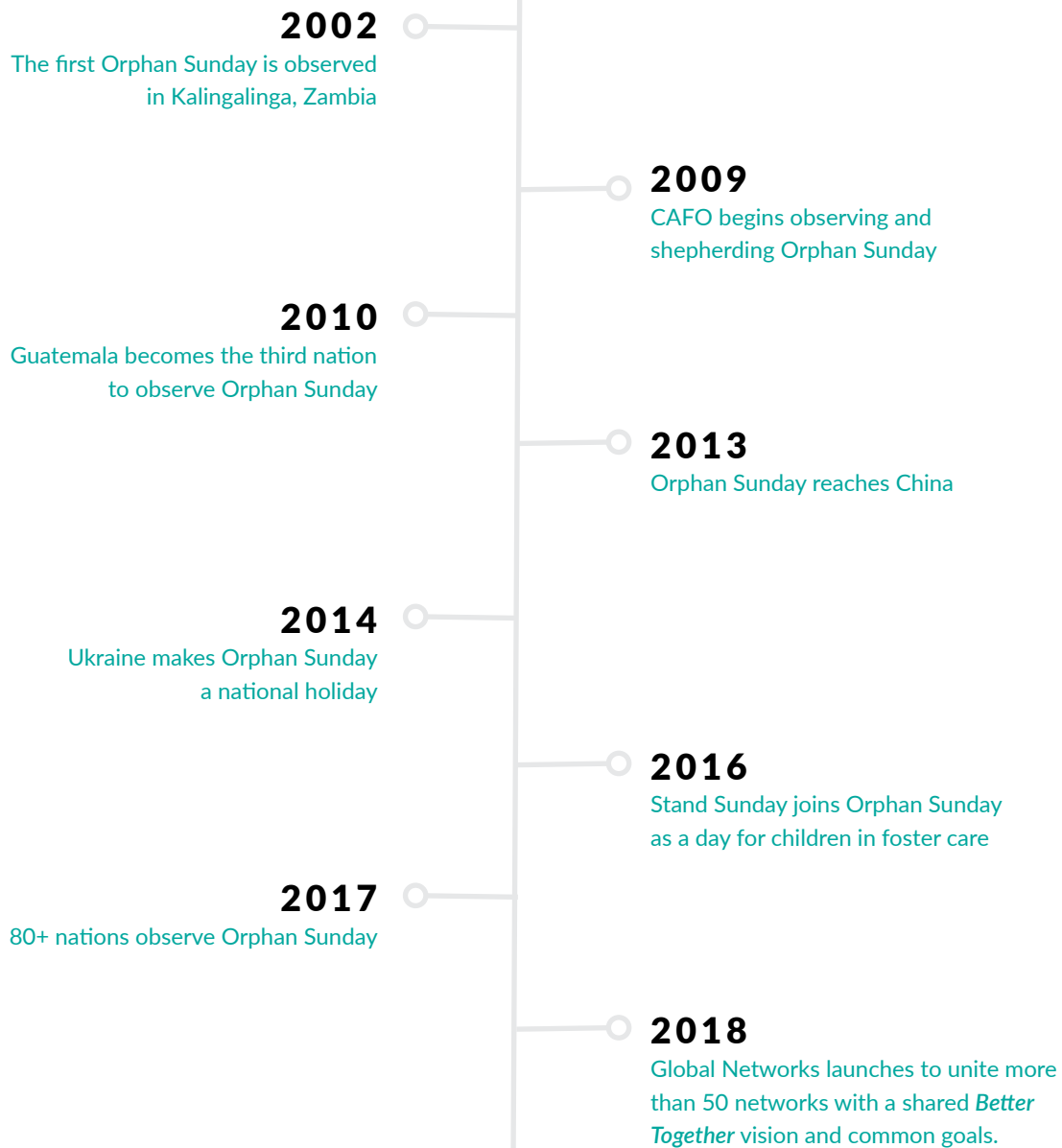
2018

CAFO | GLOBAL network

Growth in the movement led to launching the CAFO Global Network in 2018, which today unites over 50 networks with a shared *Better Together* vision and common goals. Serving as a global hub for these member networks, the CAFO Global Network strives to develop thriving leaders, promote excellence in practice, and create collaborative communities throughout the world.

Timeline

2002



2022

BETTER *Vision* TOGETHER

Throughout this Orphan Sunday season, you will notice a continued emphasis on leveraging the power of Orphan Sunday for building local collaborative networks. We know that's a mouthful! Simply put, here's what that means: We believe in the power of collaboration to effect change in our communities, and we believe Orphan Sunday has the ability to bring churches, organizations, and community partners together in unique and powerful ways. We want everyone to have the opportunity to be *Better Together* for vulnerable children and families.

We have all heard the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." From Paul's passage on the "Body of Christ," to Nehemiah's rebuilding a united community in Jerusalem, to Moses appointing 70 elders to "...bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it alone," God's Word exemplifies repeatedly that the "true religion" of James 1:27 is best fulfilled in community. We are truly *Better Together*.

This year, we invite you to leverage the power of Orphan Sunday to catalyze communities of Christians toward ongoing care for vulnerable children and families. Your mobilization of churches, organizations, and advocates in your community will accomplish far more for children and families than any could alone.

We also invite you to affirm the *Better Together* Vision of CAFO's Global Network.

better together

Every child in a loving family, embraced within a collaborative community



This will be accomplished through these shared goals:

1. Collaborating to enable family and community-based care
2. Partnering with churches to inspire and support Christians in action
3. Cultivating competency with evidence-based approaches and best practices

Orphan Sunday can be a powerful tool that catalyzes movement towards these shared goals - for every child and family to have more than enough support and to ensure that everyone is **Better Together**.

The role you play is crucial. You're a "convener" - someone that helps "set the table" and invites key

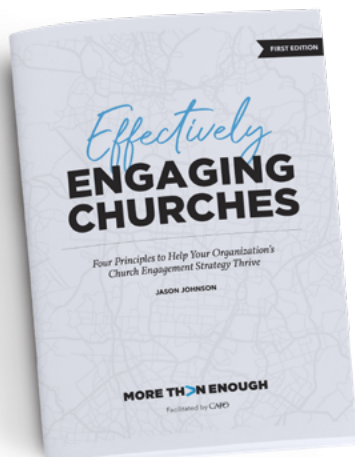
stakeholders to have a seat, including churches, organizations, child welfare professionals, businesses, individuals, and other community partners. Each stakeholder brings unique resources and opportunities to the table - a table they likely otherwise would not have had the opportunity to sit at had you not created the space. It's around this table that relationships form, trust is built, and collaboration begins to take root. This is the long term vision for how Orphan Sunday can be utilized as a tool for collaboration - not just for the execution of Orphan Sunday (especially as a one-day event) within individual churches and organizations, but for long-term collaborative partnerships in your community.

EFFECTIVELY ENGAGING *Your Community*

Your role as an Orphan Sunday Coordinator is largely dependent upon your capacity to form relationships with churches. You believe the Church is crucial in caring for vulnerable children and families in your community, but you're struggling to get the ear of a busy pastor, navigate through the complicated structures of various church ministry departments, or are just having a hard time helping churches see how

they can truly make an impact when the problem seems so overwhelming. We get it.

Of course there's more than four ways to approach churches and certainly more than four principles to consider; but based on our work with organizations and advocates all around the world, we believe if you at least start with these four you'll see a shift – doors will open, conversations will happen, partnerships will form, and impact will be multiplied over time. So let's start with these four...



To explore these concepts more fully, check out the short booklet, "Effectively Engaging Churches" [HERE!](#)



BE A GOOD GUIDE

A good guide helps the main character solve a problem. They position themselves primarily as the giver of help, not the recipient of it. When it comes to your organization's church engagement strategy, it's important to assume the role of "guide" for the church – helping them to learn, grow, and take their next best steps forward. In other words, make it clear – this is more about them as a church than it is about you as an organization.



SHRINK YOUR PROBLEM

Sometimes the problem we're trying to solve feels really big, and as a result the churches we're trying to motivate to solve those problems feel very overwhelmed, and small. Part of effectively engaging churches includes making the big problem feel small for them – in such a way that they can see it, understand it, grasp on to it, and engage it more effectively.



INCREASE CLARITY

It's been said that sometimes what feels like resistance is often just a lack of clarity. Likely, your church partners sometimes need clarity more than they need convincing. As their guide, you should provide direction and very practical next steps in such a way that they know where they're going with you, why they're going there with you, and how you're going to get there together.



TIER YOUR ONRAMPS

Some churches will need to learn to walk before they can run; others are already sprinting. Your engagement strategy should provide a variety of "on-ramps" for churches to engage, from simple low-hanging-fruit opportunities, to more time intensive levels of commitment. These on-ramps are ultimately less about strategy and more about stewardship – being a good guide for your churches by meeting them where they are and helping them take their next steps forward.

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ORPHAN SUNDAY RESOURCES

Professionally designed resources available to help you promote Orphan Sunday events in your communities.

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES](#)

GLOBAL NETWORK RESOURCES

Resources to guide your network in good practices, network development and leadership development.

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES](#)

CHILD PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

As you consider photos to use in your promotional materials: Photography should always love children and families well by reflecting their inherent dignity and pointing to the beauty of hope and redemption. Photos shouldn't be emotionally manipulative or reduce children and families to the hard things they have experienced. Please be sure you have consent and legal rights to use the images you select - and always credit photographers appropriately.

[HERE is a Virtual Collaborate session](#) to learn how to share your message and stories using technology and media while also honoring and protecting children and families.

In many cultures, identifying a child as an "orphan" may stigmatize that child within their community and their own self-image, potentially affecting opportunities immediately and into their future. Please be considerate of every child as you plan events, to honor and protect each one as a child of God. Their stories, circumstances and identifying information (name, face, location) should remain private and not shared publicly.

SAMPLE ROLLOUT PLAN

August

Put “feelers” out to see if there is a [local network](#). If there is, initiate a relationship (if you don’t have one already). Start imagining what year-round collaboration could look like. Become familiar with resources available from [Orphan Sunday](#), the [CAFO Global Network](#), and your local network, and support local churches as they plan their observance, follow-up, etc.

October

Continue to promote and spread the word about your/their observance within the community.

December

Host an informational meeting, or make appropriate connections, for those who want to get involved and learn more!

September

Form a team that meets regularly and adapt resources to promote your/their observance and execute follow up.

Prepare a plan for what will happen in the months following your/their observance.

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November 13th

Today, churches and individuals worldwide are sharing about God’s heart for the vulnerable.

January

Kick off the new year with strategic follow up and collaboration for the next year.

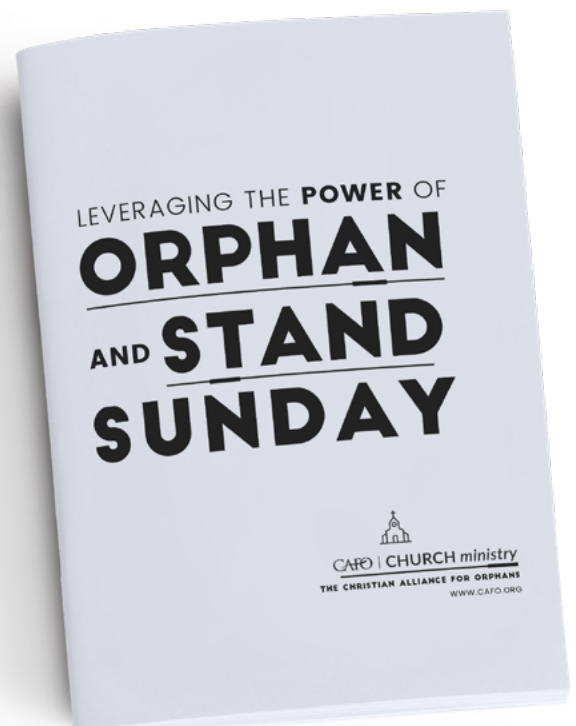
PLANNING TO ENGAGE

Post Orphan Sunday

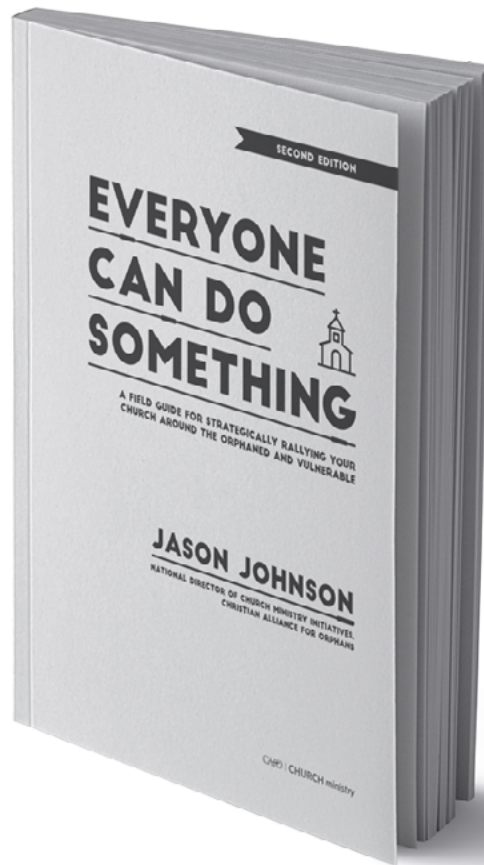
Remember, we're not merely interested in churches participating in Orphan Sunday; we are primarily interested in churches utilizing Orphan Sunday as a launch pad for further, on-going, long-term engagement in the lives of vulnerable children and families. You have a great opportunity to help churches go beyond a one-day event/service to inspiring and supporting them in active service throughout the year! These resources are designed to help you do just that.

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF ORPHAN & STAND SUNDAY

This simple guide is designed to help you help churches take their next steps after Orphan Sunday. You'll discover principles and best practices for how to help churches plan effective follow-up events designed to connect and encourage people as they take their next steps forward. This is also a great tool to process through with a church leader. Simply walk them through the content and help them build a customized follow-up event for their people.



[ACCESS THE GUIDE](#)



EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING

This book is designed to rally churches around the care of the vulnerable in strategic, effective, and sustainable ways. You'll discover the principles you need to help churches take their next best steps in areas like clarifying their message, making the problem relatable, connecting people into a community of support, developing a strategic plan, planning and promoting events, and more! This is also a great gift to a pastor or church leader - one you can have them look through to get ideas and perspectives for follow-up conversations and meetings.

[LEARN MORE](#)

PLANNING TO ENGAGE

Post Orphan Sunday

Please reach out to your [regional coordinator](#) for assistance at any step of the way.

We are incredibly excited about expanding the richness of Orphan Sunday training and diving deeper with more of an "interactive" feel. These gatherings will allow us, and more importantly those in the same region as you, to walk more closely together (and learn/share with one another)!

We'll engage in fantastic conversations around Orphan Sunday, year-round collaboration, our evolving roles in this new season (and how we do them), and more. The goal is for you to experience that beautiful intersection between great content and encouraging community!

AUGUST 5th

9:00 AM EDT

SEPTEMBER 16th

9:00 AM EDT

OCTOBER 28th

9:00 AM EDT

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS TRAININGS](#)



FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Please reach out to your regional coordinator for assistance at any step of the way.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS



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