Ways Every Christian Can Care for the Orphan and Waiting Child

1. **PRAY** for them
   - Tape a waiting child’s picture to your dashboard and pray for the child every time you’re in your car. Visit AdoptUsKids.org or RainbowKids.com.
   - Organize an evening prayer vigil at your church and pray for children in foster care or in an orphanage overseas.

2. **SPEAK UP** for them
   - Carry a waiting child’s picture and show it to other believers. Ask if they, or someone they know, would give this child a home.
   - Become a court appointed special advocate for a child in foster care. Visit NationalCASA.org for details.

3. **PROVIDE** for their needs
   - Give sacrificially to a reputable orphanage. Financial gifts can be designated for specific items and aid needed by orphans. Visit HelpOrphans.org for more information.
   - Organize a drive in your church to collect school supplies for children in foster care or shoes for orphans overseas. Visit GainUSA.org or ShoesForOrphanSouls.org

4. **SUPPORT** those who support them
   - Mow, baby sit, or organize meals for a week for foster parents. Pray with them and tell them you appreciate what they do.
   - Encourage a family adopting an older child by hosting a shower for them.

5. **PROTECT** them from harm
   - Become a foster parent or emergency foster parent.
   - Raise money to build a children’s home to help remove children from the streets. Visit WorldOrphans.org for details.

6. **VISIT** them where they are
   - Go on a mission trip to an orphanage as an individual or family. Visit GainUSA.org or HelpOrphans.org for information.
   - Take dinner to a foster group-home on a regular basis.

7. **GIVE** sacrificially to them
   - Support reputable orphan care organizations on an ongoing basis.
   - Contribute generously to an adoptive family to help offset their costs. Visit ShaoshanHosHope.org or LifeSongForOrphans.org.

8. **ENCOURAGE** them to press on
   - Sponsor a child, support them financially, and encourage them through your letters. Visit VisionTrust.org to learn more.
   - Become a mentor or tutor to a teenager in a foster group-home.

9. **ADOPT** them into your family
   - Give a child a home through international, domestic, or foster care adoption.
   - Adopt a young adult who has aged out of the foster care system.

10. **MOBILIZE** your church for them
    - Be a catalyst in your church for starting a sustained orphans ministry. Visit HopeForOrphans.org for resources and to learn more about attending a Your Church and the Orphan Workshop.
Jesus calls us to do.

refine our hearts and to encourage us as our children have
time, encouraging him, and sometimes providing the tough
with him and invites him over on holidays. We talk once a
week, our family celebrates his birthdays
home, but he soon aged out of the system. Not wanting him
be without support, our family celebrates his birthdays
home right away. I forwarded it on to some good friends
weeks later, 4Kids of South Florida has grown into a ministry
persistence paid off when she reached the pastor of Calvary
God, but that night I was surrounded by people who have never been
involved in praying as a group. And what touched me was
the move of God upon this group as they wept and cried out for
the foster care children, workers, and others involved. Truly
humbling!

2. SPEAK UP for them
Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the
unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend
the rights of the afflicted and needy. —Proverbs 31:8-9

“I didn’t think a whole lot of it at the time. I received an email
about a teenage girl from Ethiopia who needed an adoptive
home right away. I forwarded it on to some good friends
who forwarded it one more time to some friends of theirs.
That’s all it took. That young woman now has a forever
family. Who would have thought speaking up for an orphan
could be as easy as hitting the forward button?”

3. PROVIDE for their needs
If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and
one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet
you don’t give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?
—James 2:15-16

“I looked up and there was the boy with a missing smile ... He
extended his hands to me, his burned brown hands. I took my
wipe and cleaned each of his precious palms ... The language
barrier crumbled as I was just a mom caring for a boy’s hands
the way they should be cared for. It wasn’t the shoes, or the
toy or candy ... it was a simple act of love, and the boy who lost
his smile, found it. He hugged me tight and called me Amiga ... friend.
The smile he gave me was more precious than any gift I
had offered him ... I had been transformed by an orphan; I was
conquered by a smile.”

5. PROTECT them from harm
The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless
and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked.
—Psalm 146:9

Sam and Janet have fostered many children over the last
decade. In one emergency placement, they agreed to take
in Duane, who’d been abused. One day, while playing,
Duane followed Janet into the laundry room. As she poured
the bleach into the machine, Duane ran away, screaming,
“Please don’t put bleach in my eyes. I haven’t been a bad
boy!” Janet wrapped Duane in her arms, assuring him he
was safe now.

6. VISIT them where they are
Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is
this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep
oneself unstained by the world.
—James 1:27

“As we turned to leave the orphanage, one of the boys had asked
to address our entire group. Smiling, 15-year-old Israel said,
“Thank you so much for bringing us the candy, the Bibles ... thank
you for playing games with us and telling us about Jesus.
Please don’t forget us. Please come back.” And then, after a
silence, with tears in his eyes, he spoke one more time. The
translator, through her own tears, told us Israel’s words, ‘Today
was the best day of my life.’”

7. GIVE sacrificially to them
Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, eat
grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful
giver.
—2 Corinthians 9:7

Eight-year-old Alex of Uganda lost his parents to AIDS at an
early age. Before long, God provided for him and more than
fifty of his brothers, sisters, and cousins, through a ministry
called Ugandan Lambs at Grace Brethren Church in Long Beach,
California. When a congenital heart defect was discovered, his
sponsor raised over $15,000 from the church and community,
more than double the amount needed to pay for the surgery that
has now saved his life. One young boy even gave money he had
held onto for over a year since his grandfather had given to him.

8. ENCOURAGE them to press on
We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage
those who have a spirit of wealth, help the weak, be patient with
everyone.
—1 Thessalonians 5:14

“We met Kent while working as house parents at a children’s
home, but he soon aged out of the system. Not wanting him
to be without support, our family celebrates his birthdays
with him and invites him over on holidays. We talk once a
week, encouraging him, and sometimes providing the tough
answers he needs. For four years now, God has used Kent to
refine our hearts and to encourage us as our children have
seen and learned how to reach out to and love others as
Jesus calls us to do.”

9. ADOPT them into your family
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy
dwelling. God sets the lonely in families ... —Psalm 68:5-6a NIV

“It was a typical evening dinner with my family. Kijaya, my two-
year-old son that we had recently adopted, sat across from me
in the chair he’d claimed for months since our return from China.
Tonight, though, he looked up at me with his huge grin and said,
“You’re my daddy.” Looking back through tear-filled eyes I could
only whisper, ‘Yes I am.’”

10. MOBILIZE your church for them
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching
them to observe all that I commanded you ... —Matthew 28:19-20

Irene grew tired of reading the stories of abuse and neglect
among the foster children of South Florida. She began
knocking on doors, trying to find anyone who would listen. Her
perseverance paid off when she reached the pastor of Calvary
Chapel, Fort Lauderdale, who took a huge leap of faith. Now, a
few years later, 4Kids of South Florida has grown into a ministry
that has blessed thousands of children through adoption, foster
care, mentoring, and more.