Scriptures, Quotes, Proverbs & Some Extra Stats

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow...Deuteronomy 10:18

...For in you [God] the fatherless find compassion. Hosea 14:3

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

God sets the lonely in families...Psalms 68:5-6

 In the very place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” there

they will be called ‘children of the living God. Romans 9:26

The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him

we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are

God’s children. Romans 8:15-16

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the

Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”...and since you are his child, God has made

you also an heir. Galatians 4:6-7

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Psalm 82:3

* Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, fatherless or widow Deut 27:19
* God is the helper of the fatherless. Psalm 10:14
* God defends the cause of the fatherless. Psalm 10:18
* God is a father to the fatherless. Psalm 68:5
* God puts the lonely into families - Psalm 68:6
* God sustains the fatherless. Psalm 146:7-9

Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. Isaiah 1:17

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress. James 1:27

Quotes

(Since I wasn’t supposed to use the ones I acquired living here due to IRB concerns, most here are from Kilbourn’s book)

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*“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”-Frederick Douglass*

*“It’s the children the world almost breaks who grow up to save it.”– Frank Warren*

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http://www.urbanleaders.org/weburbpoor/10Advocacy(CA)/HIV%20&%20AIDS(CG406)/hivorphans.htm

*We spoke to groups of orphaned children about their experiences. Here are some of their comments:*

"When father was alive, we used to go to school without any problem of school fees; my uncle helped with school fees and now my brother helps." (Girl, 13)

"My father used to buy school uniforms; nowadays it is difficult." (Boy, 13)

"Now that I stay with grandparents, I no longer have new clothes." (Boy, 9)

"We are segregated because we don't have shoes." (Girl, 12)

PARENTING

Orphaned children face many problems because their parents have died. Some children spoke about difficulties they had experienced:

"We moved from our original home and built on another spot after my aunts and grandmother refused to take care of us." (Brother-caregiver)

"My uncle used to come when he wanted mother to be his wife but when mother refused, he stopped coming." (Girl, 15)

"Auntie only came when she wanted to take the property." (Girl, 14)

"Mother is in a sewing cooperative so I am left at home looking after the young children." (Girl, 14)

"We steal and sell to earn a living, which is different from them [non-orphans]." (Girl, 15)

"We want to go to school but I must help uncle in the fields. He said, 'You are not my child so I cannot send you to school.'" (Girl, 16)

"When my ballpoint finishes, I sometimes absent myself from school and sell manure to get money to buy a pen. I am not pleased being absent from school." (Boy, 13)

**"Father remarried another woman who mistreats me." (Boy, 11)**

"A certain girl assaulted me, saying she did not want to play with those who don't have fathers." (Girl, 13, who then started crying)

**"My friends changed after the death of my mother." (Two 10-year-old boys)**

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**Proverbs**

*"A luta continua*" is a popular saying in Portuguese that means "*the struggle continues."*

 Ethiopian proverb: *“When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.*

[*"An empty stomach can make a person lose his or her cattle; that is, when the stomach is empty the legs become weak and you can't run after your animals.* (English)" Toposa (Sudan) Proverb](http://afriprov.org/african-proverbs-calendar/58-2014-calendar/671-april-2014-qan-empty-stomach-can-make-a-person-lose-his-or-her-cattle-that-is-when-the-stomach-is-empty-the-legs-become-weak-and-you-cant-run-after-your-animals-englishq-toposa-sudan-proverb-.html)

“*A child on his or her mother’s back (or hands) does not worry about the journey”*so says an African proverb.  (Sumate response and surprise

Universal proverb popular in Africa: “*Every journey starts with a simple step."*

*"It takes a whole village to raise a child."  Igbo and Yoruba (Nigeria) Proverb*

The literary translation of this Igbo Proverb is: *"The child is not just owned by the parents."* An example of the "Contemporary Use' of this proverb, especially in Nigerian cities, is that if a person becomes famous everyone wants to take ownership of/advantage of him or her.

The Yakoma of the Central African Republic say, *Kota keke non ti ne ya*, meaning, *“Even tall trees can fall in a strong wind.”* Tall trees often symbolize stability. They protect people from intense heat. When we face real danger, only God can provide a secure shelter and protection. He is like a tall tree, but one that can never be shaken or uprooted.

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If you follow the path of the elephant through the tall grass, you do not get soaked with dew. Ghana

Traditionally, this meant that youth should follow the path of the elders. Now Christ is our “elder” or “elephant.”

Extra Stats (From reference entry: A Sense of Home)

**There are 400,000 youth in foster care in the U.S. today.** At age 18 or 21, state and federal support abruptly ends for foster youth: Each year, 35,000 – 40,000 are ejected from the system.

These young people — who’ve experienced on average ***seven relocations***during their time in foster care — are left to fend for themselves without permanent connections to, or support from, a stable family; often without typical self-sufficiency skills; and with no community networks to help them successfully transition to adulthood.

Most foster youth exit the system with grim statistics predicting they’ll be among the least likely to succeed in society:

* More than 1 in 5 will become homeless after age 18, and 50% of foster youth who “age out” experience periods of homelessness
* 58% will graduate high school by 19 (compared to 87% of all 19 year olds)
* At the age of 24, only half are employed
* Fewer than 3% will earn a college degree by age 25 (compared to 28% of all)
* 1 in 4 will be in the justice system within 2 years of leaving foster care
* 70% of all California State Prison inmates spent time in foster care
* 77% of girls sold into sex trafficking in LA spent time in foster care
* 71% of young women are pregnant by 21, facing higher rates of unemployment, criminal conviction, and public assistance
* 21% of foster care alumni suffer from PTSD, a staggering rate that is higher than that of U.S. war veterans.The cost to society is $8 billion

 *Following Statistics collected by*[*United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)*](http://www.unicef.org/)*and the*[*Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)*](http://www.unaids.org/)*.*

[*http://alarm-inc.org/what\_we\_do/orphan\_care*](http://alarm-inc.org/what_we_do/orphan_care)

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of orphans in Africa rose from 30.9 million to 41.5 million, and those orphaned by AIDS increased from 330,000 to seven million.