

## **Rothbury Community Church**

Orphan Care Ministry

Philosophy of Ministry

### **The Purpose**

The purpose of the Orphan Care Ministry of Rothbury Community Church is to bring glory to God by mirroring his heart for orphaned children by encouraging, equipping, and financially supporting the membership of RCC for orphan care.

As those who have been adopted into the family of God (Ephesians 1:5) we are to be like our God in caring for the orphaned (cf. Psalm 82:3; Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27). There are more than 147 Million Orphans in the world. Other sources show this number as being much higher (up to 210 million). God has a special place in his heart for orphans, as illustrated above.

Though this ministry is not limited to this, we believe that adoption is both the greatest way to care for orphans and one of the greatest displays of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To bring a vulnerable child into your family, making them a son or daughter, is perhaps the greatest picture of God's heart that Christians can exhibit.

### **The Program**

We seek to fulfill our purpose through the following means:

1. Encouraging the membership of RCC on the importance of orphan care, including fostering and adoption, and coming alongside those in the process of fostering and/or adoption and those who have already adopted.
2. Offer financial support to families that are in the process of adoption.
3. Recognizing and promoting the annual Orphan Care Sunday.

### **The Policies**

Orphan Care Committee

1. The Orphan Care Committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 members of Rothbury Community Church. At least one of those of the members must be a Deacon currently serving on the Board of Deacons.
2. The Board of Elders shall approve all appointments to the Orphan Care Committee.
3. The Board of Elders shall affirm a chairperson chosen by the Orphan Care Committee, who shall oversee the organization and operations of the committee.
4. The Orphan Care Committee is charged with the oversight of the Orphan Care Ministry. Responsibilities include:
  - a. Faithfully praying for the Orphan Care Ministry and families at RCC that are involved in orphan care.
  - b. Promoting prayer among the membership on behalf of orphans and those involved in orphan care.

- c. Overseeing the Orphan Care Ministry budget in a responsible manner.
  - d. Encouraging the membership to be actively involved in orphan care.
  - e. Processing applications of families seeking financial support.
  - f. Organizing a recognition of orphan care on a determined Sunday annually.
  - g. Communicating with the Board of Elders and/or the Board of Deacons as needed.
5. The Orphan Care Committee will be accountable to the Board of Elders. One of the elders will be appointed to have regular communication with the Orphan Care Committee and be available to the committee for input or other needs.

### Financial Support

1. The Orphan Care Committee shall publicize and make available the application for financial assistance (see below) to any family seeking to adopt.
2. The Orphan Care Committee shall process applications of families that are in the process of adoption as stated in the application in a timely manner.
  - a. The committee shall submit any applications to the ministry Life Song for Orphans for analysis and recommendations.
3. The Orphan Care Committee shall approve or disapprove applications by consensus.
  - a. If they are unable to come to an agreement as a committee they are encouraged to contact the Board of Elders for counsel.
4. Upon the approval of a family's application for financial assistance the Orphan Care Committee shall present a formal proposal to the Board of Elders for approval. Upon the Board of Elder's approval the proposal will be given to the Board of Deacons who will then take appropriate action that include but are not limited to:
  - a. Offering a counter-proposal to the Orphan Care Committee.
  - b. Opening a special fund for contributions to be made to a specific family.
  - c. Distributing the determined financial assistance from the Orphan Care Committee budget category or fund in a timely manner.