



Preparation Strategies for An Orphans and Vulnerable Children Ministry

1. Preparing Your Church for Ministry
 - A. Biblical example Mark 2:1-5.
 - Goals clarified.
 - Faithfulness of friends
 - The presence of Jesus was sought
 - There was a plan.
 - Tools/resources were available
 - Time and expense were involved
 - B. Faith-driven (“When Jesus saw their faith,” Mark 2:5)
2. Considerations Before Implementing Your Ministry Plans.
 - A. *Basics of Biblical Inclusion*
 - Everyone is unique with individual differences and needs.
 - Everyone is created in the image of God with an inherent dignity
 - Everyone is needed in the body of Christ for it to be whole
 - Everyone is valued for whose and who they are
 - B. *Personal Openness in Church Activities*
 - Programs and activities are warmly open to others.
 - Use of inclusive language
 - Friendship ties, associations, common interests exist for those who come to visit.
 - Leaders desire to accommodate special needs if necessary
 - What is the commitment of the church to reach these individuals?
 - Will those who come to visit leave feeling that they are welcomed because they are valued for who they are as individuals?
 - C. Training Needed
 - Collaborative Team – What training may be needed for a collaborative team approach to reach out to these children?
 - Encouragement – A mindset of understanding, support, and seeing possibilities in others.

“In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace—in “the beauty of the Lord our God.” Psalm 90:17. Looking upon them

with hope, He inspired hope. Meeting them with confidence, He inspired trust. Revealing in Himself man's true ideal, He awakened, for its attainment, both desire and faith. In His presence souls despised and fallen realized that they still were men, and they longed to prove themselves worthy of His regard. In many a heart that seemed dead to all things holy, were awakened new impulses. To many, a despairing one there opened the possibility of a new life.” Education, p.80

- Personal Accommodation – What can be done to provide for meaningful participation by all?
- Allocation of Resources – Has sufficient financial funding for this ministry been provided?
- Leadership – Model how to treat others respectfully, physically, emotionally, culturally, and socially?

D. Physical Readiness of Your Church Accessibility (See APM’s “Accessibility and Belonging Questionnaire”)

E. Review the following categories for accessibility:

- Physical structures,
- Entries to buildings
- Parking lot
- Lighting
- Audio
- Restrooms
- Seating/wheelchair spaces
- Ease of Participation
- Church hardware – doorknobs, switches
- Directional signs
- Platform accessible for participation by all

3. Steps for Beginning the Ministry

(Creating A Team)

- A. Get the support of the pastor and church board.
- B. Recruit a leader who can develop a team.
- C. Select the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Team
- D. Allocate a budget
- E. Communicate this new ministry to your church.
- F. Tell stories to inspire, educate, and motivate.
- G. Evaluate, improve, and celebrate

4. Organizational Structure

- A. Main Leader and/or Co-Leaders

- Responsible for calling members, setting an agenda, scheduling, and leading out in planning committee meetings
- Delegate responsibility for various projects
- Ensure that all jobs are delegated and implemented
- Member of the church board

B. OVC Team Positions

- Program/Event Leader
- Visitation Group Coordinator
- Mentor/Coach Coordinator
- Leader for Networking with Professional Organizations
- Membership/In-Church Ministry Leader
- Social Media Manager

C. Coordinating Ministries

- Prayer Ministry
- Youth & Young Adults
- Deacons, Deaconesses, & Greeters

(Helpful Resource: [Biblical Basis for Inclusion](#))