

# ARISE

STAND UP FOR  
THE POOR AND  
THE DESTITUTE



www.handsatwork.org

Welcome to the Hands family! We are a diverse family from all walks of life... a young, fast-growing family but already bearing a rich history. That history is marked by a deep love for the most vulnerable and a determination to leave our fingerprints upon many lives.

Many have heard the story and caught the vision. Some have come and served with their time and skills, others desire to do something right where they are. The Arise + Build Campaign is a way for them to do just that. This Campaign plays a crucial role in enabling Hands at Work to mobilize communities across sub-Saharan Africa to care for 100,000 orphaned and vulnerable children by the end of 2010, of which 20,000 will be from South Africa.

Just as in the times of Nehemiah, we face many challenges and trust that many will respond by also rising up to build their section of the wall. As each one plays a part we trust that He will prosper and complete this massive challenge in record time. On behalf of each vulnerable child, we encourage you to boldly and unashamedly be a voice wherever you have influence.

Rich blessings,

George Snyman

Founder of Hands at Work in Africa and fellow advocate



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### Dig In.

Find out what the Bible has to say about your response to the pandemic in Africa.

#### Why should I care about orphans and widows?

*It is the heart of the Father.*

“A Father to the fatherless, a Defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling” (Psalm 68:5).

“I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy” (Psalm 140:12).

#### This is how He describes Himself, does it describe us?

“He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).

#### How does He do this?

*Through us, His people, who live out His heart.*

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him how does the love of God abide in him? My children let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:16-18).

“Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of His throne” (Psalm 97:2).

#### What does His righteousness and justice look like?

*Job was known as a righteous man.*

“I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. The blessing of the perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know” (Job 29:12-16).

“The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge” (Proverbs 29:7).

*He promises His blessings on us when we bless those whom He loves!*

“Is not this the kind of fast that I have chosen: To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

THEN your light will break forth like the dawn, And your healing will quickly appear;

Then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard...And IF you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, And your night will become like the noonday” (Isaiah 58:6-10).

#### Is this not a key for our revival and blessing? Should we be claiming His blessing, health and protection on us if we do not bless, care for and protect those whom He cares so deeply about?

*He says that if we shut our ears to the cry of the poor, that He will also not answer us, when we cry out to Him (Proverbs 21:13).*

*He even offers us a way to lend to Him, the creator of the universe, where He is indebted to us...*

#### How can this be?

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, And He will reward him for what he has done” (Proverbs 19:17).



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### What is His expectation of us?

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27).

### What does it mean when we say we know Him?

“He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 22:16).

*To know Him and be known by Him is all about knowing His heart, hearing His voice and living out His calling for us, which is spelt out in over 1000 scriptures...this is the fruit of loving God!*

*We know Him by His actions and He says that He will know us by ours!*

### How can I respond?

“Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

### Will we allow His compassion to move us into action?

*Today there are more than 18 million orphaned and vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa alone, waiting for a response from us. More than 5000 children lose their parents everyday...*

*The invitation and opportunity to engage in caring for the least of these and live out His love and compassion is NOW.*

### Take Action!

- + Study His Word to discover His heart and character.
- + Pray for the vulnerable that you know.
- + Pray for those that have given their lives to serve the most vulnerable.
- + Speak out on their behalf: "Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the the widow" (Isaiah 1:17).
- + Stir up one another to do good works: "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:18).
- + Support practically: volunteer to serve the poorest of the poor with your skills and time
- + Support financially: "But the righteous gives and does not spare" (Proverbs 21:26).

### What will He find us doing when He returns?

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## The Story of Nehemiah

### A challenge to arise and build

We encourage you to prayerfully read the story of Nehemiah found in the Bible (Nehemiah chapters 1-6) and discover its not-so-hidden truths for yourself.

Nehemiah was living a comfortable life in the king's courts in Babylon. His life was good and he could not have asked for a more senior position.

But his heart was not there. Hearing about the distress and defenselessness of his people who were living in Jerusalem, Nehemiah was overcome with grief. Their vulnerability was mainly due to the state of the wall around Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by fire and was in ruins (Nehemiah 1:3-4). The wall was supposed to be their defense, a protection against their enemies and those that would hurt and oppress them.

Now parallel this story to that of the thousands of vulnerable children newly orphaned in Africa each day due to the AIDS epidemic. They are God's children yet they are defenseless and exposed to many dangers due to the state they find themselves in.

Nehemiah left the comfort of the king's courts to go and inspect the wall, as many have also done by visiting the most vulnerable in Africa. Nehemiah went, he saw the true state of things and his heart was broken!

He purposed to do something about it. He challenged the people about the state of the wall and that they should rebuild it. They responded by saying, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to do this good work (Neh. 2: 18).

Nehemiah answered those that criticized and mocked their cause, proclaiming, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us, therefore we His servants will arise and build."

It was an enormous task to build the wall, which was 1.5 miles long and 8 feet thick!

Some people moved to work on certain sections of the wall, but many built right in front of their houses where they lived (Nehemiah 3). There were goldsmiths, perfumers, priests and many other people not accustomed to building, but with the heart and vision for a completed wall to protect their vulnerable people, they all purposed to do their part.

The response of the people to work together in unity, each one doing his part with single-minded devotion and purpose, was the positioning for the miracle, which transpired when the wall was completed in only 52 days!

Their enemies were very afraid and dismayed because they realized that God had miraculously done the work and was with them.

In the devastating and overwhelming situation of AIDS and poverty in Africa, each one, wherever he lives, can play a part to help build the wall of protection around these vulnerable children. Each

brick built in the wall is a child cared for through local community volunteers who advocate on behalf of the children and provide access to food security, basic healthcare and education. This is the foundation for the wellbeing of the children, so that they are protected from those that would abuse and take advantage of them due to their vulnerability.

It is behind this wall of protection that these children are free to grow in peace and security into the people that our Father has destined them to become!

Can we, together, trust God to prosper this work and multiply it far beyond our abilities?

Will you also respond with, "Yes, we will arise and build"?

**Join us as we trust God to miraculously complete the work of caring for 100,000 of Africa's most vulnerable children that would not have been cared for had we not gone there.**

**How big a section of the wall will you take responsibility to help build?**

**Will you also be a "Nehemiah" where you are and stand up to challenge others to do their part in this awesome work? So that many will see this good work and glorify our Father in heaven!**



Hands at Work  
AFRICA

# BUILD SPEAK UP FOR THOSE THAT HAVE NO VOICE



## You can play a part in building the wall.

### Where to start?

There are many ways you can advocate for the people of Africa in your own community. We encourage you to be creative and use the resources available to you. Here are some examples and a testimony of how easy making an impact can be.

**Host an event.** Everyone likes a good movie and popcorn night! Invite your friends over for a movie with a purpose. Play the Arise and Build DVD outlining the epidemic in Africa and how one by one we can contribute to the cause. Add an African theme—play traditional music and cook cultural cuisine.

“On an evening in April, a group of 14 friends gathered for our regular monthly dinner, this time in Pinelands, Cape Town. After the usual social conversations and tasting of butternut soup, we opened up discussion around the activities of Hands at Work. In previous months we had spoken about the need to be more involved in the issues of social action but weren't exactly sure how to go about it. Following the discussion, we showed the Arise and Build DVD. The mood changed dramatically as the reality of the orphan generation reverberated around the room through founder George Snyman's words and the images of the young children. There was an awkward silence as the clip ended and no one quite knew how to verbalise the challenge they had just been given. Suddenly the silence was filled with energetic suggestions – the light had been turned on – an opening had been given for real involvement and engagement with addressing the orphan challenge. We left with the firm commitment to sponsor, as a group, 20 children – 3 times more than that for which we had been hoping.”

**Engage your church.** A body of individuals with hearts to serve and ample resources exists within any church. Raise awareness by posting on your church bulletin, website and newsletter. Start up a prayer group and Bible study to explore God's heart for the poor and stand in the gap for the vulnerable, creating more advocates to arise and build.

“Wanting to learn more about the social issues around us, our Bible Study group invited someone from Hands at Work to come and share with us. We watched a DVD that told the stories of a few orphaned children and we heard about God's heart for the vulnerable. We felt challenged to respond in some way and are excited to be able to participate in the work of Hands at Work through sponsoring the care of 10 children.

But this is not all, many of the members of our group, so challenged by the situation, are also speaking to others, encouraging them to take the opportunity to care for orphaned children.

Some of us are also planning to take our families on a trip to Mpumalanga, SA, where Hands is supporting various communities that are very vulnerable.

We know that we need to do something more and are excited that we now have the opportunity to engage through Hands at Work!”

**Live advocacy.** Where does daily life take you? Who do you interact with most? In every facet of life, in every encounter, we can speak on behalf of those that can't speak for themselves and stand up for the poor and destitute. Share the cause at lunch with co-workers. Speak to your child's school about how the children can arise and build to make an impact. Encourage your friends to play a part.

Thank you for partnering with Hands at Work in Africa to serve the orphaned and vulnerable. Simply by giving people the opportunity to become builders of the wall, you have made an impact.

# Give to a Vulnerable Child

# ARISE

Stand up for the poor and the destitute.



# BUILD

Speak up for those that have no voice.

The heart of Hands at Work is to reach 100,000 of Africa's most vulnerable children by the end of 2010. Just R150 per month enables the church in Africa to provide one of these children with access to basic health, education and food security. Commit now to support this cause with a monthly contribution or one time donation.

You can make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child in South Africa.

**R150/month**  
to support one child with love and care from the arms of the local church



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Fill in this form for us to process or make a deposit to: **Hands at Work: Arise + Build** Standard Bank White River 030379563 05-30-52 Swift Code: SBZAJJ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Giving** to Hands at Work in Africa

Calculate your monthly contribution:

▶ Number of children you'd like to support  x R150 = R \_\_\_\_\_  
(your total monthly contribution)

Give a one time contribution R \_\_\_\_\_

CASH  CHEQUE (make cheques payable to *Hands at Work: Arise + Build*)

DIRECT DEBIT I/We request that the monies due in terms of the arrangements covered by this document, be drawn under the direct debits system from my/our account conducted with:

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please sign here \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Code \_\_\_\_\_ Joint account holder signatory (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date    -    -

**Fax your completed forms to: Hands at Work in Africa 086 632 3413**