

# FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

*A Seven Day Prayer and Devotional Guide*



BUCKNER®

Hope shines here.®



## Hope **shines** here.®

The Christian Alliance for Orphans reports 153 children worldwide have had one or both of their parents die. Many of them struggle on a daily basis as they face pain, hopelessness and poverty.

Psalms 68:5-6 tells us God is with these children: "Father to the fatherless, defender of widows – this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families."

Hope begins with God and shines through his followers. In this seven-day prayer journey, you'll meet vulnerable children from around the world served by Buckner International through foster care, adoption, Buckner Family Hope Centers and Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls®. You'll learn their names and stories and be encouraged to lift them up to God in prayer.

It's our prayer that your petitions will be the first step in your journey of helping vulnerable children around the globe.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Reyes". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Albert Reyes  
President/CEO, Buckner International

# DAY 1



**J**oanna, 4, was adopted in Nairobi, Kenya, by Rita Macharia. When Joanna was a baby, she was abandoned near a local mall. She was wrapped in a plastic bag and was very sick after being left in the cold overnight. A passerby saw her in the morning and brought her to the police station. Now she is thriving in a forever family.



## DAY 1 PRAYER

**Today, pray vulnerable children feel God's love. Pray they feel God's compassionate arms wrapped around them. Ask for God to work in mighty ways so that children can grow strong like Joanna.**

## DAY 2



**S**iblings Lukas and Naomi were adopted on National Adoption Day 2015 by George and Agatha Wall, who grew their family through the Buckner foster-to-adopt program.



## DAY 2 PRAYER

**Today, please pray for the more than 400,000 children living in foster homes in the United States, many of whom have been abandoned or removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. It can be a confusing and difficult time for children. Pray God paves each step of their journey through the system. May they feel him guiding their steps.**

## DAY 3



**M**ateo was brought to the orphanage in Zacapa, Guatemala when he was 6 years old after suffering from abuse. He was hesitant with adults, especially men, often choosing solitude over companionship.

Since Irma Casasola DeGonzales and Winston Gonzales Rodas have become his foster parents, all that has changed. "He's a whole new person," said Mateo's Buckner caseworker.



## DAY 3 PRAYER

**Today, pray for healing. Vulnerable children are scarred through neglect and abuse. They are scarred again when they are removed from everything that is familiar and are forced to start over. Pray God helps children heal from their pain.**



## DAY 4



**R**iley and Sarah\* were removed from their home after being left alone for long periods of time. They were being cared for by their then 7-year-old sister, Anna. All three tested positive for methamphetamines.

Robin and Barry Wright stepped up to help, even building an addition to their home so the siblings could stay together. Keeping siblings together helps minimize the trauma children suffer when they are removed from their homes. When they stay together, brothers and sisters have each other to lean on during difficult transitions.



### DAY 4 PRAYER

**Today, please pray that God comforts children in need. May he keep siblings together, give them encouragement and allow them to be children in a safe environment.**

*\*Names changed to protect specific children.*

## DAY 5



**A**morosa lives in an orphanage in the Dominican Republic. She recently received a new pair of shoes donated through Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls. Upon getting them, she held them close as one of her few and treasured items that are hers and hers alone.



### DAY 5 PRAYER

**Please pray for children in orphanages around the globe. Because resources and people often are stretched thin, these children rarely receive the attention they crave and often share belongings with other children.**

**Pray for God to grant them hope. May they know that he has great plans in store for their lives and may it continue to encourage them in tough times.**

## DAY 6



**C**andy and Michael Palmer adopted Toby, Caylin, Codi and Shane through Buckner after the siblings spent seven years in foster care waiting for their forever family.



### DAY 6 PRAYER

**Today, please pray for forever families. Right now, God is working in the hearts of individuals, preparing them to minister to children through foster care and adoption. Pray people will respond to God's call to serve the vulnerable.**



## DAY 7



## DAY 7 PRAYER

**Today, we ask you to petition God for how you should respond individually to the needs of vulnerable children near you and young people around the globe. Will you open your home to a child? Will you go on a mission trip to serve children in need? Will you collect shoes through Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls?**

**How would God like to change a life through your own?**

**Buckner International** is a global, faith-based ministry dedicated to transforming the lives of orphans, vulnerable children, families and elders in the United States and around the world. Founded in 1879 in Dallas, Texas, today Buckner serves people through a variety of programs designed to protect children and build strong families. These programs include foster care and adoption, family transition programs, community-based family preservation programs and retirement services for the elderly. Buckner also provides humanitarian aid and crisis relief to poverty-stricken families in the United States and worldwide. **Learn more and get involved at [buckner.org](http://buckner.org).**



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