



Partnering With the Local Church



"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7

Beloved International

A Framework for Partnering
With Local Churches

Mission Statement

Beloved is dedicated to bringing orphans the hope of spiritual adoption into God's family through the gift of earthly adoption into a Christian home.

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of Beloved International's ministry and outlines how a local church might partner with Beloved to support the mission of overseas orphan care.

Beloved International is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) Christian ministry established in 2010 that seeks to place orphaned children into adoptive Christian families known as "family homes." We currently operate a family home in Kenya where orphaned children are adopted by a Christian couple. Unlike the institutional care model of orphan care, the family home model highlights the importance of children belonging to a family with a permanent father and mother. Rather than simply living in an orphanage while receiving care from staff members, Beloved's children are adopted into the family home of a married Christian couple committed to permanently caring for these children. In this way, we hope to most accurately display the doctrine of adoption whereby Christian believers who were once spiritual orphans have since been adopted into the family of God through salvation in Christ (Romans 8:14-15).

Three words describe our philosophy of ministry: *BELONG, BUILD, BELIEVE*. Our first step for orphaned children is that they belong to a secure Christian home where they have Christian parents to meet their material, relational, and spiritual needs. We then seek to build a self-sustainable home they can live in – a home that can eventually provide for itself through sustainability projects without excessive dependence on outside financial support. Beyond these objectives, our primary goal is to expose these children to the gospel so that they can believe in Jesus Christ to experience the gift of salvation. We believe having children belong to a family best accomplishes these goals.

Beloved's first family home is the Beloved Rehoboth Children's Home located in the Aberdare Mountain Range of Kenya. Most simply, Beloved Rehoboth is the home of Pastor Stephen Njoroge Mwaura and his wife Jane. Before Beloved was even established, Pastor Stephen had a vision of adopting orphans into his own family. With the support of Beloved and local church partners, Pastor Stephen and Jane now care for 19 children (four biological) and hope to adopt several more. Strategic capital investments in sustainability projects will help this family home venture towards self-sustainability.

In 2012, Beloved opened its second family home: Beloved Caring Hearts. This family takes care of five children, which includes their one biological daughter. We believe this home has the ability to take care of 10 children before reaching capacity. We continue to expand our ministry by placing orphaned children into the families of such Kenyan Christian families who have already exhibited a burden to care for orphans. We are also searching for more candidate families to establish future homes. It is our belief that children raised under their care of these families will receive a solid Christian upbringing.

Beloved seeks opportunities to partner with local churches to 1) support more family homes run by godly Christian parents and 2) build up the self-sustainability of our current home through sustainability projects. Partnership with Beloved can give local churches and church members the ability to participate in overseas orphan care ministry in a way that might not be possible through local church efforts alone.

Belong: A Secure Family

Beloved's ministry centers on the family home. Most simply, a family home is the home of Christian parents who have dedicated their lives to caring for adopted children. Beloved's first and only family home is the Beloved Rehoboth Children's Home in Kenya. Though the children have no biological parents, they are never called orphans. Orphans do not have a father or a mother, yet these children have Pastor Stephen Njoroge Mwaura as their father and his wife Jane as their mother. The children in the family home are each other's brothers and sisters. Most importantly, these children will grow up learning that God is their true Father and that they are precious in His sight.

Children who belong to a good family have support, stability, and security in a way that is not easily replicated in the institutional care model. Several of our children were once abused or neglected. Others had parents who died from AIDS. All of them came from poor families that struggled over questions of food, shelter, clothing, and health. By placing our children in a well-provisioned family home, our hope is to provide the proper environment for them to no longer worry about survival – a place where they can learn about the Father's love for us. Therefore, our first step is to bring the child into a family home, a place where they can belong.

The family home is a departure from traditional orphan care models that rely upon institutional care (what most people typically think of when they hear about an "orphanage"). Under the institutional care model, orphaned children are still orphans even though some might experience a relatively high standard of living. Though the best of orphanages can provide for all of a child's physical and educational needs, these children still do not have parents or a family. Instead, they are cared for by staff members – teachers, social workers, caretakers, etc. – and are emancipated once they come of age.

We believe that the traditional model of orphan care incompletely displays the doctrine of adoption whereby Christian believers who were once spiritual orphans have since been adopted into the family of God (Romans 8:14-15). Under the family home model, the children have their needs met under the guidance and cover of two godly Christian parents committed to raising these children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). As we pick future homes, we are looking for parents who hold firm to the gospel of Jesus Christ, have already demonstrated the desire to be the life-long caretaker of children, and have an established history with a local Kenyan church.

Build: A Sustainable Home

A healthy home is built on solid, biblical parenting. However, modern international orphan care has turned into an institutionalized system highly-dependent on foreign aid from Western countries. We believe that this system is not helpful in promoting the long-term health of our families. Moreover, institutionalized care does not depict a biblical family, in which the parents, and not international donors, provide for their children (1 Timothy 5:8, Luke 11:11-13, Proverbs 31:15). Capable families need to be equipped with tools, skills and abilities so that they may one day develop into self-sustaining homes.

We have two approaches to sustainability at Beloved. First, we channel a portion of our economic resources into economically viable projects that help reduce the regular costs of operating a home. This can include purchasing a milking cow, renting additional farmland, or acquiring a transportation truck. Other Kenyan orphanages in that area that have established a degree of self-sustainability have done so through agricultural sustainability projects – a model that we hope to replicate on a smaller scale in our family homes. We hope that these projects will additionally help the home by teaching these families the value of work and providing the children with a practical skillset.

Beloved Rehoboth Historical Costs

<i>Dormitory</i>	\$5,400
<i>Milking Cow</i>	\$1,485
<i>Cow Shed</i>	\$1,711
<i>Water Tank</i>	\$1,805
10,000L Water Tank	\$825
Water Pump	\$93
Concrete Foundation (includes labor)	\$887
<i>Washroom/Bathrooms</i>	\$6,547
Labor	\$1,446
Building Materials	\$5,101
<i>Storage Shed</i>	\$1,666
Labor	\$375
Building Materials	\$1,291

The information above represents some actual costs that Beloved International has incurred from operating the Beloved Rehoboth Children's Home during its initial two years. It is meant to provide a relative idea of what capital improvement projects might cost.

Beloved's second approach to sustainability is a long-term approach that centers on the quality education and training of our children. After finishing primary school, education is no longer free. The local public schools often have a student-to-teacher ratio of 80:1 and are not environments where children can be expected to succeed. For around \$30 a month, we can send a child to a local private school where their chances of getting educated significantly increase.

Believe: A Savior in Christ

Our greatest desire is that these children will one day believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Adoption is a wonderful picture of the gospel – the death of Jesus Christ gives sinners an opportunity to restore a relationship with God as his adopted children (Ephesians 2:8-10, John 6:47-51, John 14:1-4). We adopt orphans into Christian families so that their parents may love them with the love of God the Father and so that they may enjoy the fellowship of a local church. We want our children to develop a heart to spread the gospel and to make disciples in their communities just as we use these adoption stories as a means to spread the gospel and to make disciples in our communities (Matthew 28:13).

At Beloved, all of our children attend a local church on Sundays and receive mid-week biblical instruction from our parents. We believe that our children are in excellent spiritual hands. Having long been involved in orphan care

ministries, Pastor Stephen and Jane feel blessed to have a permanent ministry with the children they adopt. In previous ministries working at traditional orphanages, Pastor Stephen has helped rehabilitate children who were drug addicts, criminals, or victims of abuse. He says that as God has laid the burden to care for these children on his heart, he strives to not see these children as who they are now, but what they will become in the future. It is our heart at Beloved to come alongside parents such as Stephen and Jane to help nurture these children in the hope that they can come to saving belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Partner With Us

We want to partner with local churches to give them an outlet for serving in the work of overseas orphan care in ways that might not be otherwise possible. Most local churches do not have the capacity to establish orphanages or family homes by themselves. Our goal is to create a platform where a church can invest in this type of ministry according to its unique capacity and abilities. Many churches have members and families who have taken on roles as adoptive or foster parents. However, Beloved's platform allows entire churches to be engaged in the mission of overseas orphan care even if they themselves are not adoptive parents.

Ideally, we wish to discuss options with your church's leadership and membership to come up with ways that partnership is possible. The following menu of options lists out possible ideas for how a church might become involved. Opportunities include:

a) *Allow Us to Present to Your Congregation*

We would be interested in presenting our ministry to see if your members would be interested in contributing to Beloved's work.

b) *Help Bring in More Children*

The marginal cost of adding an additional child is \$50 per month. Such a monthly commitment from a church or a member can make a life-changing impact in the life of a child.

c) *Sponsor an Sustainability Project*

A milking cow that costs \$1500 can provide milk for our children and produce more to sell. A used pickup truck that costs \$10,000 can greatly reduce our transportation costs and allow the family to run a local business transporting crops and materials.

d) *Establish the Next Home*

A candidate family that already has several adopted children wants to be the next family home. We need a church or a network of churches to commit to "adopting" this family as they incur the burden of adopting more children into their home.

e) *Form an Orphan Care Prayer Group*

We have plenty of prayer needs and would welcome members of local churches praying for this ministry, the parents, the children, the projects, and other needs.

f) *Join Us During Our Next Trip to Kenya*

We take an annual trip to visit our home and would welcome members and leaders of local churches to come as "ambassadors" to learn about our ministry and report back what they see.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please keep our ministry in your prayers. We pray that you will join us in changing the lives of lost children around the world for His kingdom. Please visit our website at www.belovedinternational.org or contact us at info@belovedinternational.org.