

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark, curly hair, smiling warmly. The child is leaning against a vertical wooden post on the left side of the frame. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text 'stand' is overlaid in the top left corner in a white, lowercase serif font.

stand

WITH CHURCHES  
ACROSS AMERICA  
FOR KIDS IN  
FOSTER CARE.

stand  
sunday  
ONE DAY. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.

**STAND SUNDAY  
TOOLKIT**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019**



# NAVIGATING THE TOOLKIT

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Friends,

God loves to change the world with the most unexpected things. Unschooled fishermen, mustard seeds, and a baby in a manger. And ordinary people like you and me.

We see this in a special way on Stand Sunday. It's a day like any day. But it gives us a special chance to remind God's people of His great love for vulnerable children ... and how any of us - no matter how ordinary - can reflect that love in action.

Like much of God's best work, this vision began in an unremarkable place: a small church in a hard-pressed community, led by a humble pastor with an uncommon passion for children.

From that simple start, this year believers will join together in local expressions of Stand Sunday and Orphan Sunday all across the US and in 80+ nations.

Best of all, we get to be part of this too: everyday people, regular churches, and commonplace neighborhoods...but extraordinary fruit as we respond to our Father's heart together!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jedd Medefind".

*Christian Alliance for Orphans President*

JEDD MEDEFIND

# HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT

## A SAMPLE ROLLOUT PLAN

*Mark these dates on your calendar and use our 4 easy steps outlined in the toolkit to plan your observance!*



### SUMMER 2019

Become familiar with the many resources, sermons, prayer guides and other tools found within this toolkit that can be used to spark a culture of caring for the orphan and vulnerable child in your church. Start to plan what your Stand Sunday might look like.

### EARLY FALL 2019

Form a local leadership or planning team that meets regularly.

Adapt and use the bulletin inserts, posters and videos to promote your observance on November 10, 2019.

### SEPTEMBER 2019

Prepare for what might happen in the months following Stand Sunday.

Visit CAFO's National Foster Care Initiative at [cafo.org/nfci](http://cafo.org/nfci) for more information, resources and tools.

### OCTOBER 2019

Continue to promote your observance and encourage others to attend.

# WE'VE MADE IT EASY!

*Just follow these four steps!*

- 1 GET INSPIRED
- 2 CREATE A PLAN
- 3 PROMOTE YOUR OBSERVANCE
- 4 INSPIRE OTHERS

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## NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Today, churches around the world are gathering with shared vision, voice and purpose to stand for the children in foster care.

### IDEAS:



Hand out "Find Your Fit in Foster Care" bookmarks.

Use the "Farmer Herman Classroom Kit" in your Children's Ministry



## LATE 2019

Help interested parties to get involved by hosting an informational meeting.



Give the "Find Your Fit in Foster Care" Assessment to those interested.

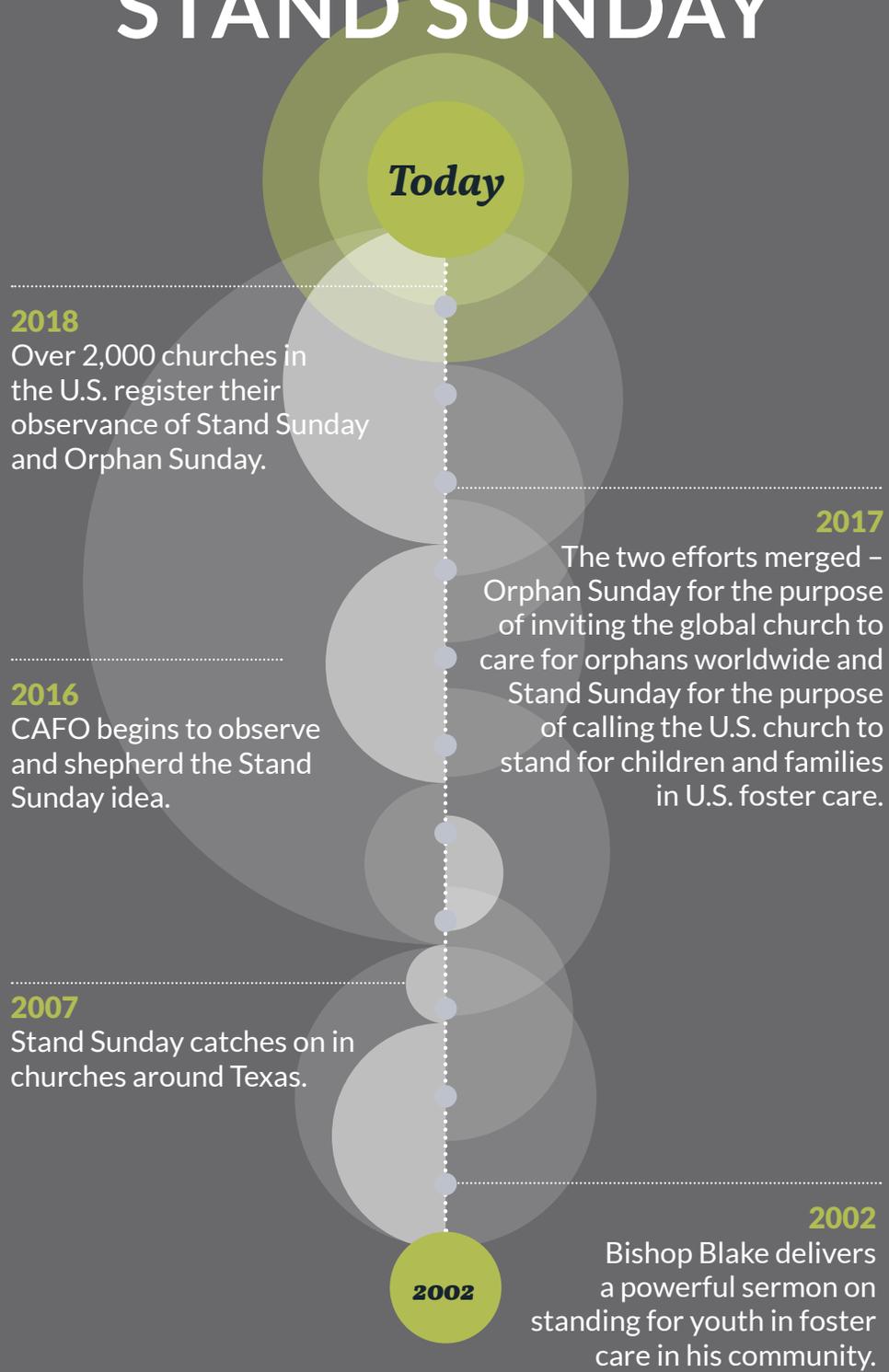
## THROUGHOUT 2020

Kick off the new year with strategic follow up from the informational meeting, potentially launching a class/group for those considering fostering/adopting, a support group for those who already are, specific next steps for those interested in getting involved in other ways.

**SAVE THE DATE -  
Stand Sunday is on  
November 8, 2020**

STEP  
**1**

# TIMELINE OF STAND SUNDAY



# A HISTORY OF STAND SUNDAY

## *On Stand Sunday, Christians stand for the children and families in foster care.*

When Bishop Aaron Blake, a pastor and foster/adoptive father, left his breakfast table for church on the second Sunday in November of 2004, he had a sermon prepared ... and it wasn't about foster care:

*"I had prepared a sermon to preach that morning that I had worked on all week. I stood up to bring the message when the breakfast table image of our boys came back to my mind. The faces of our sons seemed to multiply in my emotions as I recalled the image from the breakfast table earlier. I knew then that God was prompting our church to answer the call to care for children and broken families."*

Without explanation, Bishop Blake said to his congregation, "Brothers and sisters, there are about 30,000 children in the foster care system in Texas and nearly a half a million in the U. S."

He then asked this one simple question (and he wasn't expecting a verbal answer):

"Who will stand with me to defend, care, and support abused, abandon, and neglected children in our community?"

After a brief moment of silence, one lady in the back of the church stood up and simply replied,

*"Pastor ... I will."*

Like a tiny smoldering ember dropped in a pile of thirsty pine needles, her voice began to multiply. To his amazement, Bishop Blake watched as one family after another stood up and joined their voices to hers. As a result of that day, this church and the surrounding community has cared for and adopted hundreds of children in foster care over the last 12 years. In fact, their county actually has more than enough foster families to meet the need there.

Each year since 2004, the church has celebrated that second Sunday in November. This past year, these two efforts merged - Orphan Sunday for the purpose of inviting the church to care for orphans worldwide and Stand Sunday for the purpose of calling the church to stand for children and families in U.S. Foster Care.

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# SILENCE IS GOLDEN

All my life I have heard the phrase silence is golden. This is often used in circumstances where it is thought that saying nothing is preferable to speaking.

*Scripture says, “Learn to do what is right! Promote (stand up for) justice! Give the oppressed reason to celebrate! Take up (stand up for) the cause of the orphan! Defend the rights of the widow!” Isaiah 1:17*

If I could bend this saying just a little I would say if Silence is golden, then **“Standing is Platinum”**.

Stand Sunday in conjunction with Orphan Sunday is a time for the body of Christ to Stand up for children that have become the victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment resulting in them becoming orphaned or needing to be placed into the foster care. The prayer is that there will be more families waiting for children than children waiting for families.

One Day, One Voice, One Purpose, all standing for One Child. If silence is golden then **standing is platinum**.

Thank you for Standing!

BISHOP AARON BLAKE  
**Church Orphan Ambassador**  
**Stand Sunday Founder**

# WATCH TIM TEBOW STAND SUNDAY

*Hear what Tim Tebow has to say about taking a stand for vulnerable children on Stand Sunday.*

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[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Stand Sunday is led by a team of volunteers who give their time to spreading this message of hope for children in foster care to the local church.*

## WHEN IS STAND SUNDAY?

Stand Sunday is observed each year on the second Sunday in November. In 2019, Stand Sunday will be on Sunday, November 10.

## WHY STAND SUNDAY?

God is vested, deeply and personally, in the plight of children in foster care (i.e. Dt 10:18; Ps 68:5-6). He calls His people to share this passion and bring to each child the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed (Is 1:17; Jms 1:27; Mt. 25:40). On Stand Sunday, the Church is reminded of this truth and invited to act upon it.

## WHAT DOES A STAND SUNDAY EVENT OR ACTIVITY LOOK LIKE?

Each Stand Sunday is created by believers in the local church; so its expression varies as much as the people and churches involved. Your church can participate through sermons and Sunday school classes on God's heart for children in foster care, prayer gatherings, fasts and simple meals, student-led fundraisers, foster family recruiting and live concerts.

## WHAT RESOURCES CAN WE DRAW FROM?

[www.standsunday.org](http://www.standsunday.org) offers free resources and ideas, including posters and bulletin inserts to videos, study guides and sermon notes. You can also

stay connected by joining us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/christianalliancefororphans/](http://www.facebook.com/christianalliancefororphans/)) and Twitter (#standsunday).

## WHOM DOES STAND SUNDAY IMPACT?

As Christians respond to God's call to care for orphans, lives are transformed. Certainly, foster youth are changed forever. But it doesn't stop there. Individual Christians are drawn beyond a self-focused religion to a vibrant, sacrificial discipleship. Churches grow too, as the community sees God's heart and mirrors it. And, a watching world is changed as it sees the Gospel made visible in Christian adoption, foster care and global orphan care.

## WHO LEADS THE STAND SUNDAY CAMPAIGN?

The Stand Sunday campaign is led by the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO). CAFO unites 190+ respected organizations and more than 700 church members who labor together in shared initiatives that inspire and equip Christians for effective orphan care, family preservation, adoption and foster care.



STEP  
**2**

# WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN STAND SUNDAY

*A Stand Sunday observance can take on many expressions. We've put a few ideas together for churches, businesses, ministries and communities of all sizes. And these are just the beginning!*



*Plan a foster care related sermon*



*Provide a heart gallery for waiting children in your community*



*Pray for children and families in foster care*



*Collect donations to help families & children*

# Getting Started

## 25 IDEAS FOR STAND SUNDAY

1. Collection Drive for items needed for foster care, orphanages, local children's homes.
2. Create and/or distribute prayer cards for children awaiting adoptive families, needing sponsorships, needing hosting.
3. Set aside time for intercessory prayer for foster youth.
4. Fast as an individual or a group.
5. Write letters or cards of encouragement to foster children.
6. Gather together a small group and read a foster-care related book together and discuss.
7. Prepare/Present curriculum related to foster care to a small group or class, geared to adults, youth or children.
8. Plan a Foster Care related sermon on Stand Sunday.
9. Plan a set of worship songs that reflect God's heart for vulnerable children, include the church youth or children's choir.
10. Commission the families in your church or workplace who have decided to step into foster care in the next year.
11. Plan a baby or child dedication for the adoptive and foster children in your congregation.
12. Invite a former foster or orphaned youth to speak to your group.
13. Invite an adoptive, foster, host or respite family to speak to your group.
14. Invite a nonprofit organization working with vulnerable children to speak to your group.
15. Plan a fundraiser to benefit orphans and vulnerable children.
16. Take a love offering to benefit orphans and vulnerable children.
17. Gather together a small group and watch a foster care related movie together and discuss.
18. Plan a service project to benefit an adoptive or foster family, local children's home or crisis pregnancy center.
19. Host a breakfast or lunch for local CASA volunteers and/or DFCS workers.
20. Host a 'date night' for local adoptive, foster and host families.
21. Stage a visual representation of the 400+ thousand foster children, such as 400 pairs of shoes on the church stage.
22. Donate a portion of your business proceeds to raise awareness near the time of Stand Sunday.
23. Donate to make it possible for foster youth to attend Christian summer camp.
24. Kickoff or relaunch a foster care ministry in your church.
25. Start a college scholarship fund for aging out foster youth.

*Find many more at  
[standsunday.org](http://standsunday.org)*

# ONE CHILD CAMPAIGN

*One Child. That's all it takes.*

*You've seen a lot of big numbers about children in foster care and orphanages. While these numbers seem large, in fact, this is a very solvable problem.*

*There are 5X as many Christian churches in the world as waiting children! Our dream is simple.*

**Will your 1 CHURCH choose just ONE CHILD,  
and pray for that child until they are in a safe and  
permanent family?**

## SEARCH FOR A WAITING CHILD

If you are in the U.S., find a waiting child in your community by searching below. You can select your state at the bottom of the menu. Parents of the children listed have had their rights terminated and are waiting for a family to come forward to adopt them. Others can choose a child in their local village.

[SEARCH](#)

## CONTACT A COORDINATOR

If you would like help finding a child to pray for, contact your local Coordinator. There is a local coordinator who's happy to help!

[CONTACT](#)

## ORDER PRAYER BRACELETS

Order bracelets for your church and add your Prayer Child's name. The bracelet will include space for you to write the name and age.

[ORDER](#)

**ONE CHILD is waiting right now for your prayer and for a family.**

Thank you for bring the ONE for that child.

[SEARCH](#)



STEP  
**2**

# SHORT VIDEOS FOR SUNDAY SERVICE

*Below is a collection of short videos that can be shown in the weeks leading up to Stand Sunday, or as part of your Stand Sunday observance.*



WATCH THE STAND SUNDAY VIDEO

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



SHAWN WELCOME CLIP

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



ENGRAFTED: WHEN THE KIDS BURN DOWN THE HOUSE

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



FOSTER MOVEMENT PODCAST VIDEO CHANNEL

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

STEP 3

# SHARE YOUR OBSERVANCE OF STAND SUNDAY

Use the following resources to raise awareness and let people know your church is observing Stand Sunday.

## FREE PRINT RESOURCES



### POST CARDS & BULLETIN INSERTS

Use this postcard to handout in your community or at your church.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



### POSTERS

Use this poster to hang in your church or ministry/organization's offices.

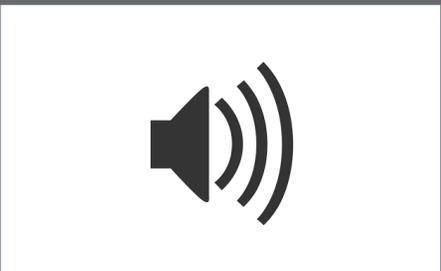
[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



### 6-FOOT BANNER

Use this file to order large format standing banners.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



### 60-SECOND RADIO PSA SPOT

Use this short radio spot to send to your local radio stations!

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



### PRESS RELEASE

Download the Stand Sunday Press release to share with your local news outlets.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



### INSPIRE OTHERS

STEP 4

### QUOTES & SCRIPTURE

We have memes with inspiring quotes and scripture.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



# LEARN MORE ABOUT FOSTER CARE

INVEST IN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



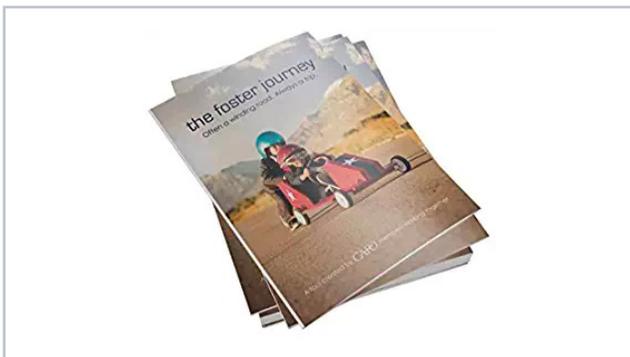
**FIND YOUR FIT IN FOSTER CARE MINISTRY PACK**

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



**HOW DO YOU FIT IN FOSTER CARE BOOKMARK MINISTRY PACKS**

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



**THE FOSTER JOURNEY MINISTRY PACKS**

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



**FARMER HERMAN AND THE FLOODING BARN CLASSROOM KIT**

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)





## GET IN TOUCH

*For more information, or to get connected to a  
Coordinator in your area:*

[CONTACT US](#)

*Have a specific question?*

[ASK A COACH](#)

*Follow us on Facebook:  
@ChristianAllianceforOrphans*

# stand sunday

ONE DAY. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.

*Stand Sunday is an initiative of the Members of the  
Christian Alliance for Orphans*

[standsunday.org](http://standsunday.org)



*CAFO unites 190+ respected organizations and over 700 church members. We labor together in shared initiatives that inspire and equip Christians for effective orphan care, family preservation, adoption and foster care. We work to see the local church in every nation known as the primary answer for the needs of vulnerable children in their midst.*

[cafo.org](http://cafo.org)