



COVENANT AGREEMENT

Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world. -James 1:27

All children are loved by God. Throughout Scripture, we see God's heart for the fatherless and James 1:27 makes very clear the mandate to care for orphaned children to His glory.

SOW cares for orphaned children by empowering their caregivers to do their best work, with:

COMPASSION | GRACE | INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE

In accordance with these values, we commit to:

- Pray for the children, their caregivers and SOW supporters on a regular basis
- Strive to increase global awareness of the plight of orphaned children around the world
- Visit and assess Covenant Homes annually
- Encourage Covenant Homes to achieve the best care possible
- Prioritize family as God's created method of care
- Help Covenant Homes explore innovative ways to become self-sustainable
- Foster God-honoring relationships between Covenant Homes and the SOW Family of Supporters
- Give 100% of all donations designated for orphan care to Covenant Homes, covering all administrative cost incurred by separate funding from our Board of Directors and affiliates
- Provide resources from the SOW Family of Supporters and partner organizations to ensure that the physical, spiritual, emotional, and educational needs of each child served are met

In turn, our Covenant Homes commit to:

- Utilize 100% of SOW funding for the cost of caring for orphaned children
- Embrace visits by SOW Representatives, announced and unannounced
- Protect the rights of the child and look to his or her best interest when making care decisions
- Maintain a bank account in the organization's name approved by the organization's governing body

- Provide Monthly and Annual Reports in a timely fashion and comply to a policy of full transparency, allowing SOW access to any and all information asked of the Home
- Affirm acceptance of the Covenant hereby stated, by signing below

Orphanage Name	Location (City & Country)
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Orphanage Authorized Signature	Date
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SOW Authorized Signature	Date
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Agreement to Serving Orphans Worldwide

Statement of Faith and Core Values

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Serving Orphans Worldwide (SOW) shares a statement of faith commonly accepted by Christians, as follows:

We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative word of God.

We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

In addition to our Christian faith, the following Core Values guide the ministry Serving Orphans Worldwide:

COMPASSION. We believe that one of the responsibilities of God's people is to care for widows, orphans, and those who have been marginalized by the economic and social systems of the world. It is to that end that we come alongside the body of Christ to support orphanages

and children's homes. James 1:27 makes very clear the mandate to care for orphaned children to His glory.

GRACE. God's radical grace to us in the forgiveness of sins calls us to deal with our brothers and sisters with the same forgiving and gracious spirit. Our goal is not to work with perfect people. It is to meet partners where they are, accept the reality of their circumstances, and give generously to better the care of children everywhere.

INTEGRITY. As an organization, we highly value transparency and openness. We hope to create systems that steward God's gifts well. We stand by our promises. We keep our word. And, we hold our Covenant Partners accountable in doing the same.

EXCELLENCE. When it comes to children, "good enough" is not the goal. While we recognize that flawed people and flawed systems may keep us from perfect solutions, we commit to strive for excellence in our work as an organization. While we may make mistakes, as all people do, we promise to always have the best interest of the children in mind.

FAMILY. Our end goal is not to see every orphaned child cared for in an orphanage setting. While we serve this purpose for a time, our vision is to see every child in a loving family. God designed the family and therefore it is the best solution to the global orphan crisis. Our goal is to meet children where they are, in hopes of eventually helping them to become part of a loving family.

By signing below you affirm your understanding and agreement to the Statement of Faith and Core Values stated above.

Orphanage Name	Location (City & Country)
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Orphanage Authorized Signature	Date
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Agreement to Terms Related to Orphan Status

While SOW does deeply care for children in all circumstances, we are committed to stewarding our resources to care for orphaned and vulnerable children, specifically targeting those in residential care.

SOW uses the following terms when referencing an orphaned child's situation:

Double orphan. Child whose parents are both deceased

Single orphan. Child whose mother or father is deceased and the surviving parent is either unable or unwilling to provide care for the child

Social orphan. Child whose parents are living but fulfill no parental duties. For example, a child who has been removed by authorities from parental custody due to severe abuse and/or gross neglect; a child who has been legally abandoned by his/her parents and has no supporting family unit.

SOW uses the following terms when evaluating a child's residential status at the home:

Full-time resident. Child who lives at the home year-round (24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year)

Part-time resident. Child who lives at the home a portion of year (i.e. when school is in session) and returns to their family home for the remainder of the year.

Non-resident. Child who comes to the home during the day to attend school, participate in a feeding program, or receive other assistance and returns to their family home at night.

By signing below you affirm your understanding and agreement to the definitions stated above.

Orphanage Name

Location (City & Country)

Orphanage Authorized Signature

Date

Agreement to Quality Care Policy

Serving Orphans Worldwide defines quality care in the terms listed below:

1. **SAFETY.** Safety is prioritized. Children are protected from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
2. **SHELTER.** Children living in the home are afforded safe and clean housing arrangements, including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Adequate bedding for each child
 - b. Adequate blankets for each child
 - c. At least one mosquito net per two children (where applicable)
 - d. Adequate toilet facilities
 - e. Gender-sensitive and age-appropriate sleeping arrangements
3. **WATER.** Children and caretakers have access to safe, clean drinking water.
4. **NUTRITION.** Children are served a minimum of 2 nutritious meals per day, keeping in step with cultural habits of the surrounding community :
 - a. Protein is provided on a daily basis. When possible, meat should be provided at least twice a week.
 - b. Nutritional supplementation is provided, including but not limited to: vitamins and iron supplements where necessary.
5. **HYGIENE.** Children are taught hygiene and given access to products that promote health and hygiene. These products most often will be at minimum the following :
 - a. Soap and/or shampoo
 - b. Toothbrush
 - c. Toothpaste
 - d. Skincare (lotions, oil, etc.)
6. **CLOTHES.** Children are provided weather-appropriate clothing and shoes regularly. Clothing is regularly laundered and properly cared for.
7. **EDUCATION.** Each child receives quality education.
 - a. School supplies and school uniforms (where applicable) are provided for each child.
 - b. The child's education promotes his or her culture.
 - c. The child's education prepares him or her for citizenship and vocation.
 - d. Children are taught life skills that will enable them to participate in community, family, and church life upon reaching adulthood.

8. **EMOTIONAL CARE.** An appropriate child to staff ratio is in place and children are offered psychological counsel when necessary.
9. **SPIRITUAL CARE.** Children are encouraged to attend church, taught Biblical principles, and encouraged to have a personal relationship with God through prayer and study of Scripture.
10. **MEDICAL CARE.** Quality medical care is provided. A thorough check-up is administered once a year at minimum, including (but not limited to) :
 - a. Hemoglobin (Hb) tests
 - b. Parasitological tests
 - c. HIV testing
 - d. Vaccinations
 - e. Eye care
 - f. Dental care

By signing below you affirm your understanding and agreement to the Quality Care Policy as stated above. While we recognize not every orphanage will meet these guidelines upon entering into Covenant with Serving Orphans Worldwide, we do expect that funds will be used to meet these standards before allocation to other projects and expenses. Your signature below indicates your commitment to allocate funds in a manner consistent with this policy and Serving Orphans Worldwide's standards.

Orphanage Name

Location (City & Country)

Orphanage Authorized Signature

Date