

Orphans, Adoption and Foster Care Open Conversation  
August 21, 2014 via Skype  
Present: Naomi Harless, John McCollum & Mike Jentes

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Opened with a time of introductions/auto-biographies

We received greetings from [Johnston Moore](#) who actual was on the return trip from speaking at the [National Foster Care Symposium](#) this week:

**Johnston Moore** is co-founder and Executive Director of Home Forever (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Home-Forever/328054877288093>), which advocates for permanency and justice for children. Johnston has appeared on such national TV programs as Dr. Phil, Raising Whitley, and A Home for the Holidays, is a regular speaker at Focus on the Family's Wait No More Conferences (among others), was one of the writers of the feature film "Camp", has appeared on numerous radio programs, and was formerly on staff with Hope for Orphans. Johnston, Terri (his wife of 26 years) and seven children (all adopted from Los Angeles County foster care) live in Long Beach, CA.

<http://www.christianalliancefororphans.org/nfcisymposium/speakers-panelists/>

Sharing Items (random thoughts, points, ideas):

A recent read by John McCollum: Orphanology by Tony Merida & Rick Morton <http://astore.amazon.com/encompassworldstore-20/detail/1596693029> Could be helpful for churches, individuals starting local ministries & support groups.

Vineyard Columbus has a ministry - MORE FOR ORPHANS which could be a great help for Grace Fellowship, and others <https://www.facebook.com/More4Orphans>

International adoption gets SO MUCH publicity, but we need to have a holistic, diverse voice/vision for the way to DO James 1:27

Helpful metaphor: if we envision a "circus tent" with lots of needs as "poles" around the outside (education, finances, stability, healthcare, etc.) The central pole for the whole circus tent is that they don't have a family! The biggest problem for an orphan is that they don't have a family. We must continue to see the centrality of the family as the need.

Idea: From the outset of our group to articulate the principles of unity over uniformity, championing practical ministry over specific models.

It is probably worth finding a regular time/day to meet monthly ... help the conversation be consistent. Skype is probably as good of a "meeting tool" as anything. 4pm Eastern time seems to work for most.

Continue to pray for Project Hope & Charity and the Hand in Hand schools in CAR.

Asia's Hope: 200 pastors from NE India in a network who are the frontline in caring for orphans. Gathering for a conference soon. Also looking to host a Fall 2015 International Conference on Residential Orphan Care

Need to connect to CPR-3 and see their interest in this group and sharing learning.

Another metaphor that might be helpful:

Upstream (Poverty mitigation) --

Orphan Care

--- Downstream (human trafficking) (McCollum will fill in details)

Spectrum of ways to help the global orphan issue, not a hierarchy

[Grace Fellowship has a growing ministry in human trafficking

A couple quotes from @John\_McCollum:

You can't talk about human trafficking WITHOUT talking about orphans

Orphan care is human trafficking prevention.