



30 DAYS *of* PRAYER FOR HOPE

a devotional guide

HOPE
Unlimited
for children



THERE ARE 153 MILLION ORPHANS IN THE WORLD TODAY,

and many more children are abused, abandoned, and exploited on metropolitan streets or inside their homes. With so great a need, sometimes it's easy to wonder: Where is God?

He is right in the middle of their pain—loving more deeply than humanly possible. The Bible tells us He dearly loves and has a plan for each suffering child. In Him we have a certain hope. He hears the cry of the orphan and will, in time, bring deliverance.

Thank you for participating in 30 Days of Prayer for Hope and faithfully praying for these children. Together, we will raise our voices on their behalf and speak in one voice for one purpose—to love the orphan.

As you work your way through this devotional guide, remember God loves orphans more deeply than we ever will. Let us allow His love to echo in our lives as we pray for the world's orphans and consider how else we might help them.

David Z. Nowell, President
Hope Unlimited for Children

For more information, visit [HopeUnlimited.org/PrayForHope](https://www.HopeUnlimited.org/PrayForHope).

DAY 1 HOPE FOR THE CITY PSALMS 68:5-6

Campinas, Brazil is a city of great wealth and extreme poverty. It is a world leader in private helicopters and personal armored cars per capita. Yet, nearly 40% of its three million inhabitants live in squalid slums (called *favelas*). Children living in these desperate conditions are abandoned, abused, and exploited as their parents struggle to survive. Families live in cycles of poverty and hopelessness.

For over 20 years, Hope Unlimited has served some of the most desperate children in Campinas,

but our two programs (the City of Youth and the Nave Mae Preschool) only touch a portion of the need. Pray for transformation in the city—for economic progress, strong communities, and the Gospel to heal lives.

Just and loving Father, bless the children of the favelas and help them to know your love. Give Hope Unlimited wisdom to positively affect a culture for You so cycles of poverty and loss will be broken.

DAY 2 DARKNESS SHOWING THROUGH PSALMS 121:1-3

The city of Vitória, and its surrounding communities, is one of the most beautiful areas in Brazil. But soon the darker side of Vitória becomes apparent: signs in hotels along the beachfront warn that soliciting minors for sex is illegal; the children's prison at Cariacica looms forebodingly; and *favelas* with subhuman living conditions are everywhere in this city that 1.6 million people call home.

Vitória is also home to Hope Unlimited's Hope Mountain and Mountain Academy. These two

programs, serving street children and children incarcerated in the state prison system, bring hope to kids for whom tomorrow has always been a threat rather than a promise.

God of the City, we pray for the outpouring of your Spirit on the brokenness in Vitória. Give your enlightenment to officials and business owners who hold the power to change the lives of those in desperate need. We pray You will make Hope Unlimited an instrument of your grace.

DAY 3 NOTICING THE NEED MATTHEW 25:31-46

No one really knows how many children are exploited every day in the Brazilian sex trade. There are certainly at least 250,000, and some estimates run as high as 2,000,000. Hunger, drug addiction, and poverty drive these children to prostitution. Every one of them is as precious to our Lord as a child in your own home. The pain and abandonment they feel is not lessened by their anonymity. They are still children, and we are called to love them. Hope Unlimited takes a

special interest in these children and cares for them as our own.

Lord, just as You did not look past us in our brokenness and need, do not let us look past these children. Help us to see children caught in prostitution and sex trafficking as precious ones whom You love. Show us how to love them as You do.

DAY 4 ALONE PSALMS 139:8-18

In dark alleys, backs of long-haul trucks, and crude slum shacks, trafficked and exploited children feel abandoned and hopeless. Without intervention, many will never know how precious they are to God and to us. Pray that God will comfort these children in their desperation and provide rescuers to bring them out of darkness.

Father, for the hopeless child—for the child hurting in her very soul because of the pain others inflict on her body—we ask your deliverance. Raise up those who will care for these children, who will rescue them from their desperation, and who will provide for them.



DAY 5 THE STAIN OF SLAVERY PSALMS 10:17-18

During the 400 years of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, 40% of slaves taken from Africa came to Brazil, making it a trading hub. Brazil was the last country in the Western Hemisphere to abolish the despicable practice, and its culture is still affected today. Brazil remains a country strongly divided by classes, where whole groups of people are viewed as sub-human or simply objectified. Even though the legal slave trade no longer exists, large swaths of the population are still enslaved

by discriminatory attitudes, little access to education, and poverty.

Lord, heal class discrimination and objectification of others in Brazil. We pray for every child trapped in poverty, for every little girl valued only as a sex object, and for every little boy made to feel worthless because of his skin color. Give each of them the promise of life beyond what they have known, the assurance of your presence, and the hope of eternity.

DAY 6 A DARK SECRET PSALMS 10:14-15

When we walked into their shack, the 13-year-old quickly stepped behind her mother, physically separating us. “She is afraid of men,” said the mother. “Her stepfather abuses her.” Answering the question in our eyes, she continued, “I am afraid to report him, because he will kill me if I do.”

Incest.

It is a really ugly word and an uglier reality. Incest is a hidden epidemic in Brazil. Broken families combined with a culture that places little stigma on sexual exploitation allow it to persist.

Hope Unlimited works hard to stop this abuse and affect cultural change to protect children. We work with parents to establish healthy homes, teach children in our care about right relationships, and point everyone toward the perfect Father’s love.

Father, we pray for precious children abused in their own homes. Heal those rescued to Hope Unlimited as only You can. Make your love a reality to them. Restore their innocence and trust.

DAY 7 OPPORTUNITY PROVERBS 22:6

Walking in a *favela*, I asked a little boy and girl, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Without hesitation, the boy said, “*Advogado* (lawyer).” More shyly, the girl said, “*Professora* (teacher).” I asked, “Do you do well in school?” The little girl turned away and the boy shook his head. “I have never been, but Mom says maybe I can go next year,” he said.

The public elementary school was nearby, but the children’s mother did not send them. Intergenerational lack of understanding—or caring—

about education keeps many children from opportunities to improve their lives.

This is why the work of Hope Unlimited’s Nave Mae preschool is so important. While giving children a head-start in school, we also work to change these types of attitudes among parents.

Father, thank you for the Nave Mae preschool, for the children there, and for the changes Hope Unlimited brings about in their lives. Bless them, their parents, and the teachers who daily share the love of Christ with them.

DAY 8 CARING ABOUT CONSENT DEUTERONOMY 10:12-18

In Brazil, the age of consent is 14. Authorities usually consider sexual relations involving a child of 14 or older to be consensual, even when that child is an unwilling partner. With such a low age of consent, there is very little protection for children, and exploitation is rampant. Young girls come to Hope Unlimited from the streets and slums, where most are consistently abused and sexually exploited. While the safe haven Hope Unlimited provides is so important

to these girls, we also need a transformation of national attitudes about child sexuality to protect our children.

Father, call the nation of Brazil to repentance. Help those who formulate the laws to understand that childhood should be a time of protection, and move them to protect the rights of young girls and boys to have a chance to be children.

DAY 9 HOMECOMING

MATTHEW 18:5

Children often arrive at Hope Unlimited in the back of a police squad car. They have been taken from their homes or the street by armed police with no idea why—and no idea where they are going. To help them make the transition to their

new home at Hope Unlimited, new residents are met by a welcoming committee of their peers, instead of adult staff members. A small group of kids, once anxious and afraid themselves, provide a campus tour, introductions to the Hope Unlimited family, and a sense of security in a very scary world.

Father, we know being taken from a home, even a very abusive one, or being removed from the streets, when that is the only home they have known, is frightening. Please help them see their move to Hope Unlimited as a new beginning. May their futures be bright with promise.



DAY 10 A CULTURAL CURRENT

JEREMIAH 29:11

Before coming to Hope Unlimited, the children we serve are often swept into destructive lifestyles by a cultural current pulling them towards drugs, crime, sexual exploitation, and poverty. A central part of our philosophy is maintaining a campus culture that, instead, directs the children in a positive trajectory. We count on older children, whose lives have already been transformed at Hope Unlimited, to help us establish a positive, productive campus culture that encourages children to thrive. These living, breathing,

positive examples really make an impact on our kids. We want each of our campuses to always be a place where children can see the promise of their futures.

Lord, thank you for places where the lives of children are molded and shaped into godly vessels. Bless the student leaders at Hope Unlimited as they change the lives of their brothers, sisters, and friends by example.

DAY 11 A FATHER'S LOVE

JOHN 10:27-30

Is “father” really a dangerous word? Unfortunately, for many of the children who come to Hope Unlimited, especially our girls, danger is exactly what the word connotes. Their fathers (or often stepfathers) are the ones who beat, sexually abused, or abandoned someone he should have been protecting. Only when they encounter the Father of Love do these children experience true healing. They begin to understand

they do have a Father who loves them, who wants their very best, and who has a wonderful future planned for them.

We pray today for those who do not yet know what it means to experience a father's love. Let these precious children experience your warm embrace.

DAY 12 HOPE BEYOND THE STREETS

JEREMIAH 29:12-13

Sex trafficking brings images of young girls kidnapped, transported, and forced to sell their bodies. But reality is much more complex. According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, trafficking occurs any time “a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.” Basically speaking, any time someone is under 18 and performs any commercial sex act, it is legally human trafficking.

This act should protect girls like Lucia, an 11-year-old prostitute. Lucia lived in a desperately poor *favela* with her younger siblings and a

mother who couldn't provide for them. Like any other little girl, Lucia wanted nice clothes, adequate food, and to hear she was special. Since Lucia's culture places no stigma on prostitution, she chose to trade the only thing she had to offer in exchange for these things: herself.

Lucia's story is too common among trafficked children, and we must do something to save her and the millions like her.

Father, we ask your protection over Lucia and those like her. Show them a new way. Give them hope beyond the streets. Call your people to intervene in their lives; may we be listening.

DAY 13 ESCALATION PSALMS 22:3-11

“Uncle Philip, I love it here,” she said. “But I will do anything to get drugs.” 14-year-old Adrianna had been living at Hope Unlimited for two weeks, but her eyes were still dull from years of crack abuse. She continued to feel the grip of drugs. As a 10-year-old, she was introduced to the easily-accessible drugs in the slum where she lived; by age 12, she sold her body to fund her growing habit. Soon, she was locked into an escalating spiral.

After months of counseling, support, and constant

reminders of her self-worth, though, Adrianna changed. We saw a young girl delivered to Christ and completely transformed.

Lord, thank you for Adrianna's transformation, but our hearts break for the millions of street children who look to drugs for comfort. We know You love them and have already paid the price for their redemption, but they do not know their true worth as your sons and daughters. We pray your transforming love will be revealed to them.

DAY 14 EARNING THEIR TRUST HEBREWS 12:7-13

Hope Unlimited staff face the daily challenge of earning the trust of hurting children. Try to imagine the reality of the children we serve. Every adult you have encountered in your life



has abandoned, exploited, or abused you. Trusting *any* adult is extremely difficult. In order for our kids to allow themselves to heal in our care, to make good choices based on our instruction, and to thrive, they must trust the adults at Hope Unlimited to have their best interests at heart.

Lord, even as we trust You and the path You place before us, please help these children to trust the ones helping them chart the paths of their lives. Give the staff at Hope Unlimited discernment, wisdom, and perseverance to nurture your children.

DAY 15 PURITY RECOVERED PSALMS 10:11-18

How do you help a girl forced to sell her body see herself as pure? The Hope Unlimited team faces this challenge every day. Each year, on the Brazilian “Day of Lovers,” (their version of Valentine’s Day) we have a unique opportunity to redeem the secular holiday and teach our girls an unforgettable lesson.

Months before, as hundreds of friends of Hope Unlimited prepare Valentine cards for their own friends and family, they make extras for the girls at the City of Youth. Some are simple, store-bought cards, occasionally including a Portuguese phrase or two; others are elaborate, handmade cards of exceptional beauty.

They arrive in our office by the thousands and then are taken to Brazil where the secular holiday becomes a vehicle for transformation. Our staff makes sure every girl gets a lapful of cards. Then they talk to the girls about the meaning of love, of purity, and the plans God has for them. The impact is extraordinary. As one 13-year-old prayed, “Father, thank you for making me pure again.”

Father, thank you for the young women at Hope Unlimited. Help them see themselves as You see them: worthy of love, of infinite value, and precious to You. Work in their lives to bring them closer to You, so that they may show your love to others.

DAY 16 A HEART'S CONFIRMATION PSALMS 118:26

“Pastor! Pastor!” Young voices ring out as he walks across campus. One child shows him a high academic mark. A teenage boy hurdles a fence and claims a handshake. A younger girl reaches for an affirming hug.

Over a decade ago, Derli Barbosa became Senior Pastor to the children at Hope Unlimited. “God confirmed in my heart I should be here,” says Pastor Derli. “I have a calling from God. Seeing transformation in their lives and watching them

serve God motivates me. Some graduates lead worship at church; others serve as houseparents; and many minister to their families—the very families that abused or exploited them. That is why I get up in the morning.”

Father, for the gift of Derli and his wife Denise, we give thanks. Bless them as they become your hands to these children who need to know the love of your touch.

DAY 17 TRANSFORMATION FROM THE INSIDE OUT

ROMANS 12:2

When children come to Hope Unlimited, they bring short lifetimes of destructive behaviors with them. Sexual promiscuity, drug abuse, violent acting-out, theft, and dishonesty are all part of a street kid's life. Hope Unlimited's staff and, importantly, children whose lives have already been transformed, work diligently to help newcomers put harmful life choices behind them. Fortunately, through God's power, we know new kids can make it. As one child said, "When I first arrived, it was not easy.

The staff nurtured me and taught me about God's love, though. Over my first few months at Hope Unlimited, I felt valued. My behavior changed, as I eventually understood the power of God's love for me."

Lord, You know life changes are hard, but You are our Deliverer. We know your provision can change lives, even those who have only known the sin of the streets. We ask You to transform the lives of every child in our care.

DAY 18 WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES

1 THESSALONIANS 1:3

When we speak of the Hope Unlimited staff, our thoughts usually go to those on the front lines with the kids or the visible spokesmen for the program. But there are a lot of behind-the-scenes folks who make a difference in the lives of our children: accounting staff, the ladies who wash the kids' clothes, the thrift store team, and the maintenance crew. While they do not have day-to-day responsibilities for the children, their impact on their lives is vital as the kids

see their faithful service and receive the blessings of their work. Prayerfully keep the entire team in mind today.

We give thanks for those who do the work that is not always seen—for their faithfulness, and their labor. We ask You, Lord, to bless them, strengthen them, and make their work productive for your kingdom.

DAY 19 PROVIDING WHAT REALLY MATTERS

PSALMS 119:9-11

Food, clothing, and a safe place to sleep are not enough. If that is all we can offer, children will leave our care and eventually return to old destructive patterns. Even more troublesome, generational cycles of poverty and despair will not be broken, and the same situations that trap our kids will someday affect their own children. That is why discipleship plays such a critical role at Hope Unlimited. We want the children God has given us to become true

followers of Christ, to have their lives transformed, to be serious students of Scripture, and to seek God in each step they take. Everything we do encourages lasting transformation for our kids and their future generations.

Father, we ask your blessings on every child at Hope Unlimited. We ask You to make them faithful stewards of your Word, so your Truth will be inscribed on their hearts forever.

DAY 20 FAMILY FOR LIFE

PSALMS 68:5-6

Hours after the children who call Hope Unlimited home scuttle off to bed, the houseparents gather for a late night cookout. Soon, conversation turns from local politics and soccer to the real passion of every person there: the hearts of the children in their care. As dinner winds down, the randomly-placed folding chairs are pushed to one side, the houseparents form a circle, and, holding hands, they intercede before God for each child.

Houseparents sign ten-year contracts so their

Hope Unlimited children, who have been abandoned so many times in their lives, will never feel they have been left again. These parents bring stability, discipline, life lessons, and, most of all, love to kids who have never known the meaning of family.

Father, we pray for head houseparents Sidney and Eli and all the houseparents they lead. Give them grace, patience, and a constant awareness of your presence today.

DAY 21 RESPONDING IN LOVE LUKE 6:32-36

Sometimes the few words of a child can cut right to the heart of the matter. Read this letter from Helen, one of our children, written to her father on her eleventh birthday:

Caro Carlos Roberto, espero que você ...

Dear Carlos Roberto,

I hope you are doing well. I love you very much and I will never forget you. I hope that nothing bad ever happens to you, and that you can get out of drugs. I love you! Guess what? Today is my birthday.

Love, Helen

There are no words of retribution. She shows no anger towards a father who first abused and

then abandoned her, and who certainly did not remember her birthday. Instead, she shares with him the transforming love she has experienced.

Father, let us learn from a child. For your glory, help us to return good for evil and love those who have hurt us.



DAY 22 TRAINING WHEELS 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10

One of the key components to the success of our graduates is that we do not drop them when they complete their years on campus. After graduation, each young adult lives in a transition home where he or she learns important life skills and manages growing independence. This is one of the most critical stages in the lives of our kids because it's when they are most vulnerable to returning to old patterns. It is also a challenging time, as

relationships and responsibilities change while children learn to thrive on their own.

For children in the graduate homes, we pray for patience, maturity, and hearts willing to continue being shaped. Father, give each of them your wisdom as they start their own lives and become your agents of transformation in their communities.

DAY 23 BUILDING A FUTURE ISAIAH 28:16

Two years ago, Estephania stood in the doorway of her new apartment with tears streaming down her face. What should have been tears of joy were tears of fear. She completed her year in our girls' graduate transition home and was moving out on her own—for the first time in over a decade. For many Hope Unlimited kids, being launched into freedom can be terrifying, because the only period of real independence they've ever known were the years spent abandoned to the street by parents. This new

beginning is a big—and sometimes very scary—step. We work to assure them that, even though they have their own apartments, we are still their family—supporting, loving, and praying.

We pray for the young Hope Unlimited graduates who often feel as if they are facing the world alone. Comfort them and help them as they build brighter futures for themselves and their future generations.

DAY 24 RIPPLES JOHN 17:15-18

It is Saturday night at the Net Fellowship, a church comprised of young Hope Unlimited graduates and their families. A mother and father listen intently; a 4-year-old balanced on her lap and an open Bible on his. A few minutes later, three younger graduates lead worship. Then the pastor introduces a former drug addict who was led by a few of the church members to receive Christ. He is welcomed with loud applause and “Hallelujahs.”

These now grown children were street kids,

abused by their families and exploited in horrific ways. Transformed, they have broken cycles of poverty and hopelessness for themselves and their future generations. They are agents of God's love in the world.

Father, for these young people who have experienced your grace through the ministry of Hope Unlimited, we give thanks today. We pray for the lives they will touch, and that their church will continue to make a difference in their community.

DAY 25 THE SMITH FAMILY PSALMS 121:1-6

Caring for God's children begins at home. Philip Smith, co-founder and CEO of Hope Unlimited for Children, and his wife, Corenne, sometimes have their hands full on that account. Marc, their son, is one of the most engaging, passionate, and compassionate kids you could ever meet, but sometimes the structure of classroom learning is a challenge for him. Isabella, his ever-present younger sister, has battled lung problems since her arrival as a premature baby. But God

has been faithful to this family, and they have been faithful to care for all the children—both in their home and at Hope Unlimited—that God has entrusted to them.

Father today we pray for Philip, his wife Corenne, and their children. As they faithfully serve the least of these, we ask your blessing on their family.

DAY 26 HELP WANTED PROVERBS 12:14

When young people graduate from Hope Unlimited, they have received some of the best vocational training available, served an internship, and are well-prepared to start a career. Hope Unlimited graduates are guaranteed job placement in their fields, thanks to our long-standing connections

in the community. Finding jobs for every student means developing good relationships with local businesses and, most important, providing them an employee worthy of hire. With God's help, Hope Unlimited is successfully equipping children so they can change their lives, and those of their future generations, for the better.

Father, we pray for the young graduates as they step into the workforce. Please guide their director, Dayane, as she works to place each young graduate where he or she can succeed. Give them confidence, strength, and peace that only your Spirit can provide as they enter this new season of their lives.



DAY 27 TRANSFORMING FUTURE GENERATIONS

JOSHUA 24:15

Our mission: Transforming the lives of children at mortal risk, providing them *and their future generations* a productive future and eternal hope.

It's thrilling to sit in our graduate church and look around the room at our Hope Unlimited "grandchildren"—the children whose parents are a part of the Hope family. The greatest thrill is knowing how different the lives of these children will be because their parents

embraced the chance to transform that was offered to them. That's where the "and their future generations" part of our mission comes to fruition.

Father, we ask your blessings on the families of Hope Unlimited. Bless the parents committed to breaking cycles of poverty, despair, and hopelessness. Bless their children growing up in homes committed to your way.

DAY 28 ANOTHER CHANCE PSALMS 142:5-7

As Hope Unlimited begins work to develop new juvenile justice programs in Brazil, read Board member Dr. Burt McDowell's account of his visit to the prison at Cariacica.

I tried to prepare myself for the sights, smells, and sounds of the place, but I was still shocked. The physical and spiritual darkness was oppressive. A barren, crumbling cement building housed the children in windowless cells with no running water, bathing facilities, heat, or fresh air. Toilets were holes in the cement floor.

It was hard to believe the dark forms that approached the steel bars were human. Yet as we talked and prayed with the kids, most seemed desperate to be given another chance. I did not sleep well that night; I was haunted by the images of caged children.

In our sin, Lord, You came to us, not judging, but forgiving and restoring. Help Hope Unlimited to be an instrument of your grace to children in prison. Show me how to give hope to the hopeless as you have done for me.

DAY 29 ETERNAL INVESTMENTS DEUTERONOMY 15:10-11

“When I realized how bad the problem is, God would not let me sit on the sidelines,” said one Hope Unlimited supporter. Friends of Hope Unlimited come from all walks of life and from all over the world. They all have one thing in common: they take God seriously as He has called us to care for his children. And we know someday He will also say to them, “You have done it unto me.” With the help of our volunteers and donors, Hope Unlimited for

Children has changed the lives of thousands of children—forever. Praise God!

Father, thank you for those who bless your children even as they are blessed by You. Warm their hearts with the knowledge that they are instruments of your grace and love. Raise up more funding and volunteers for Hope Unlimited to make an eternal impact for your kingdom.

DAY 30 WHERE NEXT, LORD? ACTS 1:8

Every day, young lives are transformed in Brazil, but we know children are suffering in many other ways and locations around the world. In Mozambique, 1.6 million children were orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. In Thailand, hundreds of thousands of children are enslaved in the sex trade. In Moldova, thousands upon thousands of orphans live in subhuman conditions enslaved by poverty. Every one of these children cries out for hope.

Join Hope Unlimited for Children in actively asking God where to go next. To what country,

to what children, and to what need? Hope Unlimited leadership continues to examine where our resources and over 20 years of experience helping children at risk will do the most good for the glory of God.

Lord, grant wisdom to the leadership of Hope Unlimited. As they prepare to follow You beyond the borders of Brazil, please give Philip Smith, David Nowell, Derli Barbosa, and Hope's Board of Directors clarity of vision and conviction of purpose.

HOPE UNLIMITED FOR CHILDREN BELIEVES IN THE POWER OF PRAYER.

Throughout our 22-year history, we have raised united voices in prayer on behalf of the orphaned child. In response, God has brought hope and healing to thousands of children. Thank you for joining us in 30 Days of Prayer for Hope.

Your continued support will impact the lives of children who have suffered abuse, exploitation and abandonment.

Find out more at [HopeUnlimited.org](https://www.HopeUnlimited.org).



888.444.1344

www.HopeUnlimited.org

PO Box 100, Jefferson City, TN 37760