

Sponsor Prayer Guide



Introduction

Intercessory prayer is powerful and is often our best tool in times of crisis. Today, your sponsored student and their family need your prayers more than ever, which is why we have created this guide for you. We hope it helps to focus your intention, heart, and prayers.

Scripture tells us to “love the Lord with all our **heart**, with all our **soul**, with all our **mind** and with all our **strength**” (Mark 12:30, NIV). We have organized the prayer guide into four sections with this verse in mind.

The guide begins with contextual information about Rwanda and the COVID-19 pandemic and concludes with specific ways you can pray for the work you support in Rwanda. In each section, you will find passages of Scripture, prayer prompts, and space to continue your own prayers. You can also use this guide to pray collectively with your family and your small group.

Please pray for your sponsored student by name, even if you don't know how to correctly pronounce it.

Rwanda Today

We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting communities globally, and the impact is even greater for those who are already vulnerable. While our individual circumstances are all different, we are also experiencing common challenges as we fight against the spread of COVID-19. For example, as a sponsor, you and your sponsored student and their family in Rwanda are doing some similar things:

- You are washing your hands more often to protect yourself.
- You are spending more time at home with your families to protect your neighbors.
- You are wearing face masks to protect essential workers.
- You are praying to God for comfort, peace, and protection for your loved ones.

As the Rwandan government wisely implements regulations to contain the spread of the virus, citizens are following mandated safety precautions and staying in their homes. There is soap and water outside homes and at markets for people to wash their hands before entering. Rwandans are caring for their neighbors by sharing food as they are able.

We can learn so much from Rwanda during this season. Our colleagues and program participants are putting their faith and trust in God to provide for them and to protect them. They are actively reaching out to care for their vulnerable neighbors. They are also praying for you as our partners!

Thank you for interceding to God on behalf of your sponsored student, their family, their community, and their country.

Soul

Scriptures: Isaiah 41:10; Romans 15:13; Isaiah 51:3; Psalm 23

Prayer Prompts:

- For God to strengthen hope and give endurance to persevere
- For peace that surpasses all understanding
- For comfort in Jesus as our Shepherd; He is present even here

Prayer Example:

Jesus, I specifically want to lift up my sponsored student and their family to you. Encourage them as they face these challenging times, for you are our ever-present source of hope. I ask you to pour your comfort and compassion into each of their souls. Let them know that you are always with them, and that they can lean on you for renewed strength. Grow their faith in you through these difficult times. Speak to their souls as to how they can find joy and gladness, even on the most challenging days. Jesus, may your hope, power, and peace overflow in their home, community, and nation.

Your Own Prayer:



Body

Scriptures: Luke 12:24; Matthew 7:11; Psalms 127:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Prayer Prompts:

- For food security while parents or guardians are unable to work
- For practicing proper hand washing and physical distancing
- For protection from COVID-19 and other illnesses
- For remaining safe, healthy, and nourished

Prayer Example:

Jehovah-Jireh, you know the exact needs of my sponsored student and their family. Remind each of them that they are created in your image, deeply valued by you, and intricately known by you. As you have promised in Scripture, we ask that you daily provide for them the food that they need. Please also provide the water and soap that they need to regularly wash their hands. Give them the understanding to stay near their homes and practice physical distancing at this time. Put a hedge of protection around their home and community and do not allow the coronavirus to enter.

Your Own Prayer:

Ministry

Scriptures: Colossians 1:9; Isaiah 58:10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Prayer Prompts:

- For wisdom and discernment as leadership in Rwanda innovates and responds to critical needs
- For continued collaboration among program participants, community leaders, local government, partners, and staff in Rwanda and the U.S.
- For God’s favor upon Rwanda and for Africa New Life to be the body of Christ

Prayer Example:

Holy God, I ask that you fill the leadership of Africa New Life with your wisdom and discernment. Guide them as they are called to come alongside the most vulnerable families during the COVID-19 crisis. Continue to bring together Rwandan community leaders, government officials, and Africa New Life leadership to effectively collaborate as they serve the most vulnerable within the country. Let your favor shine upon Africa New Life so that each of its members can be a light in these dark and challenging times. Allow this ministry to continue to act compassionately and spread the gospel. I ask that your Holy Spirit transform lives and communities in Rwanda and beyond.

Your Own Prayer:
