



# Hope Prayer Chain

**September 2011**

“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost you all you have, get understanding.”  
– Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

[www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

## Pray that children can go to school

This month, millions of American children will start school – one of the greatest privileges a child can enjoy. Getting an education helps build richer life experiences, better job prospects, and higher incomes. Countries with a more educated populace generally experience higher economic growth.

Today more children than ever are being educated. Primary education enrollment in developing regions has increased from 83 percent in 2000 to 89 percent in 2009. Moreover, girls are just as likely as boys to attend primary school. Meanwhile, the global adult literacy rate has increased from 76 to 83.6 percent over the last two decades. Nevertheless, there is still much to pray for.

### Snapshot on education

- 69 million school-age children around the world do not attend school.
- 32 million school-age children do not attend school in sub-Saharan Africa. The number of teachers would need to double to ensure all children could attend primary school.
- 13 percent of children enrolled in school in the developing world do not complete primary

education.

- 37 percent of refugee children have no access to schooling.

Source: [\*The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 and UNESCO\*](#).

Education is a key element of World Vision's ministry. Thanks to the generous support of child sponsors and other donors, World Vision demonstrates the love of Christ by building and equipping schools in impoverished communities, providing tuition and vocational training to orphans and vulnerable children, and providing school supplies to children and teachers attending schools in poor communities in the United States.

## Suggested prayer points

**Pray for girls.** Although almost as many girls are entering primary school as boys, they still face obstacles to higher education. In some cultures, girls are subject to female genital mutilation and forced early marriage. Girls who want to continue their education rather than be married off to much older men are often ostracized by their families. In Kenya, World Vision is currently building St Elizabeth Secondary School for girls in Marich Pass. The school will provide a refuge for girls to continue their studies and educate the community about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation.

*Dear Lord, it is heartbreaking to think of a family turning its back on a daughter. Give these families a better understanding of how to care for their girls. Please bless the work of St Elizabeth Secondary School. May many girls reach their full potential because of the education they receive there.*



**Pray for the students' safety on their way to school.** Many children in developing countries must walk for miles to attend school. These are times when they are vulnerable to accidents, harassment, and even violence and abduction. These long walks also drain children of their energy and leave them little time to eat, study, or do their chores. In Zambia, World Vision partners with World Bicycle Relief and the Zambian Ministry of Education to provide bicycles to thousands of children and teachers in rural areas, giving them a safer, easier way to get to and from school.

*Dear Lord, surround these children with angels of protection as they walk to and from school. Let them arrive at school each day safely, alert, happy, and ready to learn. Frustrate those who would harm them.*

**Pray for teachers.** Teachers everywhere are charged with an awesome responsibility. They can change a child's life forever. It's hard to teach, though, with extremely large classes. In many developing countries, teachers might have more than 70 children in a class. Moreover,

accommodation for teachers in rural areas is often substandard and pay is low – seriously harming morale. In many African countries, World Vision builds quality homes for teachers, sometimes equipping them with solar power if there is no other electricity supply. In addition to greater comfort, it means teachers can devote more time to prepare lessons in the evenings.

*Dear Lord, we thank You so much for teachers everywhere. We ask that You fill their hearts with a godly love for their students and an enthusiasm for the subjects they teach. Give them a supernatural measure of patience and fill their classrooms with peace and goodwill.*

**Pray for parents.** Every parent of a school-aged child could use a healthy dose of prayer support! Countless families cannot afford the cost of tuition, books, and uniforms that are required. Poverty may lead parents to keep their children out of school so they can work to help support the family. World Vision helps families secure higher incomes through small business loans. We also provide assistance in the care and management of livestock and the growing of crops. Meanwhile, World Vision child sponsors fund the provision of school uniforms and essential school supplies – a major encouragement for parents to send their children to school.

*Dear Lord, we ask You to touch parents in difficult financial circumstances, helping them to see the incredible difference an education can make in their children's lives.*

**Pray for fruitful partnerships.** As human beings, we're not created to live in isolation. As a ministry, we are most effective when we work in partnership with others. In Ethiopia, World Vision partnered with the local community and government to replace dilapidated, unsanitary school buildings in Doreba village with sturdy buildings, complete with desks, chairs, books, blackboards, and latrines. In the Philippines, World Vision partners with ChildFund International and Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc., to prevent child labor, and help children return to school. Meanwhile, World Vision partners with dozens of non-profit organizations and corporations in the United States to provide teachers in poor communities with classroom supplies.

*Dear Lord, we thank You so much for the desire You place in people's hearts to make a difference in the lives of children. Bless their efforts. Help them to work together effectively.*

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World Vision United States – Building a Better World for Children  
World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

In 2009, 89 percent of World Vision's total operating expenses were used for programs that benefit children, families, and communities in need.

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