



**Describe your ministry philosophy on evangelism and discipleship of orphans:**

## **Membership Procedures**

1. Fill out application and send it to:  
VisionTrust International  
c/o Christian Alliance for Orphans  
3710 Sinton Rd., Suite 100  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
or email: CAFO@visiontrust.org
2. Read, sign and send the following forms:
  - Membership Criteria and Standards
  - Statement of Faith (Churches send Churches Statement of Faith)
  - Membership Agreement
  - Reference from Alliance, ECFA Member or Pastor
3. Applicant must send dues with application.
4. Upon receipt of the above mentioned items, applicants will be considered provisional members until officially approved by the membership committee.
5. Once approved by the membership committee applicant will be considered an approved full member of the Christian Alliance for Orphans. Applicants will receive notification of acceptance by email.

## **Membership Dues:**

<b>Churches</b>	Free (Subject to revision)
<b>Individuals</b>	\$150
<b>Organizations (&lt;\$5 million budget)</b>	\$500
<b>Organizations (&gt;\$5 million budget)</b>	\$1,000

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Vision, Mission, Objectives, and Methods*

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**Vision**

Every orphan experiencing God's unfailing love and knowing Jesus as Savior.

**Mission**

Motivate and unify the body of Christ to live out God's mandate to care for the orphan.

**Objectives**

- **Motivate** believers and the local church to care for the orphan.
- **Connect** believers with resources to provide care for orphans.
- **Encourage** orphan care providers and advocates toward unity, a biblical standard of integrity, accountability and transparency.
- **Proclaim** with one voice God's mandate to care for the orphan.

**Methods**

The media campaign and the Christian Alliance for Orphans will continue to **Motivate, Connect, Encourage, and Proclaim** in the following ways:

***Motivate***

- Newsletter.
- Partnerships with media, church associations, and denominations.

***Connect***

- Website that includes a search tool to help churches and individuals explore provider programs & opportunities. [www.christianalliancefororphans.org](http://www.christianalliancefororphans.org)
- Listing of member churches.
- Orphan Care & Adoption Forums.
- Email alerts for new information in the field.
- Annual Church Conference.

***Encourage***

- Member conferences, workshops, and Summit.
- Distinct Logo: Trusted Symbol for Churches & Individuals.
- Disclosure Tool including subjects such as policies, matters of conscience, and philosophy.

***Proclaim***

- Cry of the Orphan Campaign – [www.cryoftheorphan.org](http://www.cryoftheorphan.org).
- "Faces of the Forgotten" Google Earth Project
- Other awareness initiatives.

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Leadership*

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The Christian Alliance for Orphans is governed by a 10 member steering committee. The steering committee meets several times a year and collaboratively makes decisions affecting Alliance members.

**Steering Committee Members**

Bill Blacquiere	Bethany Christian Services
Mike Douris	Orphan Outreach
Scott Hasenbalg	Shaohannah's Hope
Kent Hatfield	Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY
Andy Lehman	Lifesong for Orphans
Brian Luwis	America World Adoption
Paul Pennington	FamilyLife's Hope for Orphans
Maridel Sandberg	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN
Matt Storer	VisionTrust International

Facilitated by:  
Ken Behr

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Membership Dues*

We appreciate your commitment to the Lord and to your ministry. Your participation as a member of Christian Alliance for Orphans allows us to come together with one voice to "speak for those who cannot speak for themselves."

Individual membership:	\$150
Adoption/Orphan Care ministry (<\$5million revenue):	\$500
Adoption/Orphan Care ministry (\$5million revenue or greater):	\$1,000
Church Ministries:	*Our goal is to equip the church to carry out orphan ministries. With this in mind, we have waived the church membership dues for the time being.

Please pay dues annually to: Christian Alliance for Orphans

Please send dues to:  
VisionTrust International  
c/o ALLIANCE; Casey Scheberl  
3710 Sinton Rd Suite 100  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

\*Please note members will not be posted on the ALLIANCE website or awareness initiatives including "Faces of the Forgotten" until dues are collected.

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Church Membership Criteria and Standards*

1. Affirm that your church's doctrinal statement, statement of faith or other similar document are consistent with the Alliance' Statement of Faith (please include this document with your membership application packet).
2. Agree that evangelism and discipleship is the ultimate desired goal of any orphan care program, outreach or resource, while recognizing that each program, outreach and resource will exhibit God's unfailing love by meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs in different ways.
3. Agree the orphan's best interest must be considered above that of the orphan care provider, adoption agency, advocacy group and/or adoptive family at all times.
4. Agree to esteem the Body of Christ manifested in local churches above your own personal, organizational or financial objectives regardless of a local church body's size, racial make-up, socio-economic status or perceived influence.

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Adoption and Child Placement Membership Criteria and Standards*

1. Signed Alliance Statement of Faith.
2. Agree that evangelism and discipleship is the ultimate desired goal of any orphan care program, outreach or resource, while recognizing that each program, outreach and resource will exhibit God's unfailing love by meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs in different ways.
3. Agree the orphan's best interest must be considered above that of the orphan care provider, adoption agency, advocacy group and/or adoptive family at all times.
4. Agree to esteem the Body of Christ manifested in local churches above your own personal, organizational or financial objectives regardless of a local church body's size, racial make-up, socio-economic status or perceived influence.
5. Be a current member of the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)*. Committed founding members not currently members of ECFA can request transition time to come under compliance of ECFA requirements.
6. Documented Service and Practice Standards that are in agreement with a biblical worldview.
7. **Disclosure Tool**- The Christian Alliance for Orphans will maintain information from members that answers basic questions of policy, philosophy, practice, refunding provisions and fee schedules as applicable. These questions will provide the opportunity to screen providers on matters of conscience. This web-based tool will aid churches and families in making informed decisions regarding service providers.
8. Must have Hague Accreditation (if applicable).
9. Provide service and support without discrimination to families who choose to employ a biblical approach to discipline and education when custody is finalized.
10. Place children only in Christian families based on a written statement of faith consistent with the Alliance' Statement of Faith (unless country/government restrictions do not allow for this distinction).  
*Example: US Foster Care where federal funds are included and state does not allow this requirement.*
11. Place children with only heterosexual married couples or singles. Agencies agree that they will not practice a "don't ask, don't tell" approach in determining the sexual orientation of the prospective adoption parent(s).
12. Have a documented privacy policy.
13. Have documented conflict resolution policy for use with client families.

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Orphan Care Ministries Membership Criteria and Standards*

1. Signed Alliance Statement of Faith.
2. Agree that evangelism and discipleship is the ultimate desired goal of any orphan care program, outreach or resource, while recognizing that each program, outreach and resource will exhibit God's unfailing love by meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs in different ways.
3. Agree the orphan's best interest must be considered above that of the orphan care provider, adoption agency, advocacy group and/or adoptive family at all times.
4. Agree to esteem the Body of Christ manifested in local churches above your own personal, organizational or financial objectives regardless of a local church body's size, racial make-up, socio-economic status or perceived influence.
5. Be a current member of the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)*. Committed founding members not currently members of ECFA can request transition time to come under compliance of ECFA requirements.
6. Documented Service and Practice Standards that are in agreement with a biblical worldview.
7. **Disclosure Tool** - The Alliance will maintain information from members that answers basic questions of policy, philosophy, practice, refunding provisions and fee schedules as applicable. These questions will provide the opportunity to screen providers on matters of conscience. This web-based tool will aid churches and families in making informed decisions regarding service providers.
8. Have a Code of Conduct for outreach leaders and participants consistent with the goal of modeling Christ-likeness on all outreaches, initiatives and mission trips throughout the world.

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Media and Advocacy Group Membership Criteria and Standards*

1. Signed Alliance Statement of Faith.
2. Agree that evangelism and discipleship is the ultimate desired goal of any orphan care program, outreach or resource, while recognizing that each program, outreach and resource will exhibit God's unfailing love by meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs in different ways.
3. Agree the orphan's best interest must be considered above that of the orphan care provider, adoption agency, advocacy group and/or adoptive family at all times.
4. Agree to esteem the Body of Christ manifested in local churches above your own personal, organizational or financial objectives regardless of a local church body's size, racial make-up, socio-economic status or perceived influence.
5. Be a current member of the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)*. Committed founding members not currently members of ECFA can request transition time to come under compliance of ECFA requirements.
6. Agree that all campaign messaging for the Alliance is approved by Alliance leadership or designated campaign leadership.

**Christian Alliance for Orphans**  
*Statement of Faith*

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1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity and humanity of 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, in His present rule as Head of the Church and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. 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.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, with equality across racial, gender, and class differences.

***\*For Member (an organization signor must have decision making authority for organization):***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print full name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position, if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church/Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
ALLIANCE Membership Category:  
(Individual, Church or Organization)

\*For Church Members ONLY: You do not need to sign this document, but please submit your church's doctrinal statement, statement of faith or other similar document that is consistent with the Christian Alliance for Orphans Statement of Faith.

# CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

1. The undersigned hereby understands and affirms the following:
  - A. Alliance Vision: Every orphan experiencing God’s unfailing love and knowing Jesus as Savior.
  - B. Alliance Mission: Motivate and unify the body of Christ to live out God’s mandate to care for the orphan.
  - C. Alliance Objectives:
    - Motivate believers and the local church to care for the orphan.
    - Connect believers with resources to provide care for orphans.
    - Encourage orphan care providers and advocates toward unity, a biblical standard of integrity, accountability and transparency.
    - Proclaim with one voice God’s mandate to care for the orphan.
  
2. Alliance Criteria and Standards: The undersigned affirms and agrees with all Christian Alliance for Orphans criteria and standards as it pertains to the applicable membership category. The undersigned further agrees that it will maintain compliance with all such Alliance criteria and standards as a condition for continued membership in the Alliance.
  
3. Commitment to Promoting Unity and Biblical Conflict Resolution: A core part of the Alliance’ mission is to encourage unity in the body of Christ as together we strive to see every orphan experiencing God’s unfailing love and knowing Jesus as Savior. The undersigned believes the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church in conformity with the Biblical injunctions of Matthew 5:22-24; Matthew 18:15-20; and 1 Corinthians 6:1-8. Therefore, the undersigned commits to consistently promote and practice biblical principles of communication and conflict resolution as it relates to its relationship with the Alliance and its relationships with and among other members (and their respective clients or constituencies). The undersigned covenants and agrees that it shall strive to resolve and settle any dispute, controversy or claim arising between the undersigned and the Alliance or involving other members (and their respective clients or constituencies) according to Biblical principles governing conflict resolution, which may include Biblically-based Christian conciliation involving mediation or other forms of dispute resolution.

**The signor of this membership agreement must have decision-making authority for the ministry or organization (except for individual members):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print full name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Organization, if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Position, if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Membership Category:  
Individual, Church or Organization)

# ECFA and Christian Alliance for Orphans

## **What is the relationship between Christian Alliance for Orphans and ECFA?**

The goal of the Christian Alliance for Orphans (Alliance) is to inform, educate and engage churches and individuals in orphan and adoption ministry. In addition, this alliance was formed to be able to "certify" members so that churches and individuals will have assurance that ministries meet specific doctrinal, financial and program standards. The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) maintains standards of financial accountability and integrity and will perform much of that certification.

## **Must all Alliance members also apply for membership with ECFA?**

ECFA will contact all new Christian Alliance for Orphans members shortly after they join the Alliance and will inform them of their responsibilities of maintaining integrity, financial accountability and ethical fundraising. In most cases, Alliance members will be required to become either an affiliate or accredited member of ECFA.

## **Do I have to be a member of ECFA before I can be listed on the Alliance website or attend the Summit conference?**

No, Alliance membership is governed solely by the Alliance and initiated by filling out the Alliance membership application and agreeing to the conditions of membership and submitting the Alliance Membership Form.

## **When would it be necessary to join ECFA?**

The leadership of the Christian Alliance for Orphans encourages that every organization to join ECFA however there are certain organizations that may not be able to qualify because of various reasons, primarily the organizational structure (i.e. family board structure or a church), because they may be too small or haven't been a 501(c)(3) for a sufficient amount of time.

## **Do churches join ECFA?**

Yes. The enhanced credibility that comes with ECFA membership can be very important to a church. Some of the largest evangelical churches in America are ECFA members. Churches are not required to join ECFA but the Alliance encourages it as well.

## **If I do join ECFA, how long does the application process typically take?**

Every application is thoroughly reviewed before it is presented to the ECFA Board of Directors for a vote. If an application is complete and compliance with ECFA's Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship is demonstrated, the review process will take approximately six weeks to six months.

## **What types of ECFA membership are available?**

ECFA maintains two categories of membership; members in both categories meet all of the ECFA Standards of Accountability. The *Affiliate membership* is available for those ministries that have less than \$1.5 million in revenue. These ministries must obtain annual financial statements that are **compiled** or **reviewed** by an independent CPA. ECFA will provide these ministries with the specific requirements that are to be given to their CPA. Ministries that have obtained an **audit** by an independent CPA in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards [GAAS] with its financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles [GAAP] may become an Accredited Member of ECFA

## **Does ECFA require an on-site visit prior to being approved into membership?**

ECFA does not require an on-site visit in order to approve an application for membership. However, an on-site visit prior to admission to membership may be performed at ECFA's discretion.

## **If I don't become a member of ECFA am I still subject to ECFA integrity and accountability standards?**

Good question. All Alliance members are subject to general integrity and accountability standards generally defined by ECFA. In addition, the Alliance has identified specific criteria for membership including criteria for churches, adoption and placement agencies and orphan care. ECFA may be involved in periodic reviews including onsite visits for all Alliance members.

## **Can my Alliance membership be terminated because of any of these issues?**

The Alliance membership is subject to all of the requirements of membership as determined by the Alliance board of directors. Specific areas of concern that are identified will be addressed in a Biblical manner but may ultimately sever membership in the alliance.



# Faces of the Forgotten

The Orphan Crisis - Google Earth

**L**oving Shepherd Ministries along with the Christian Alliance for Orphans is launching an orphan awareness program called Faces of the Forgotten. Highlighting the orphan crisis around the world, the program is designed to empower the Christian faith community to action. *The program exclusively highlights Alliance members* and provides statistics, videos, and many other resources to individuals who want to get involved in helping the 143,000,000 orphans of the world.

We hope that together, as Christian Alliance for Orphans members, we can create a tidal wave of support among Christian churches, aimed at lifting up the world's hurting children. By filling out this form, you as an Alliance member will ensure that your ministry is at the crest of this surge, visible for many churches and individuals to see and support. Each Alliance member will be given the opportunity to participate in Faces of the Forgotten.

**1. How would you like your organization's name to be presented within Google Earth?**

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**2. What is the address of the home page for your organization's Web site? Please note that you will be responsible for notifying Loving Shepherd if this link ever changes or if you wish to designate another page to be linked to. Loving Shepherd is not responsible for any broken links.**

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**3. Does your organization have a Web site for donations? If so, would you like Loving Shepherd to consider displaying that link when providing viewers information on how to contribute to your organization?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

**4. If yes, please provide the specific link below. Please note that you will be responsible for notifying Loving Shepherd if this link ever changes or if you wish to designate another page to be linked to. Loving Shepherd is not responsible for any broken links.**

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5. Loving Shepherd would like to periodically contact you to learn of any new endeavors, successes or prayer requests your organization might have. We would then pass on those stories and requests to Google Earth viewers through our orphan's e-updates. If you want us to occasionally contact you for information about your organization, please list a contact person below.

Contact's \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Please list all the countries in which your organization works. This includes countries in which your organization itself works or in which it has direct oversight and responsibility for partner organizations or ministries. This would not include countries in which your organization sends money or other resources to organizations but maintains no oversight in the operations of that organization or ministry.

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7. If you are legally licensed to do adoptions, please list those countries from which you place children.

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8. Please list any links you have to multimedia content (i.e. videos) focusing on countries in which you work. For Loving Shepherd to use the multimedia, it must be available through a Web site that allows you to embed videos, such as Youtube, Godtube or Google Video. Please contact Loving Shepherd for a list of requirements on what may qualify for highlighting on Faces of the Forgotten.

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We appreciate the information and trust you are giving us by filling out this form. If at anytime you want to change the information about your organization found in Google Earth, please contact Loving Shepherd at 260-824-9000 or e-mail Loving Shepherd at [faces@loving-shepherd.org](mailto:faces@loving-shepherd.org).

To participate in Faces of the Forgotten, it is required that you are a member in good standing with the Christian Alliance for Orphans.

Loving Shepherd Ministries - P.O. Box 375 - Bluffton, IN 46714  
260-824-9000 - [www.loving-shepherd.org](http://www.loving-shepherd.org)