The Orphan Crisis

- There are 143,000,000 orphans in the world
- There are an additional 20,000,000 “displaced children” in the world
- The combined count of these categories makes the orphan population the 7th largest nation on the planet – slightly larger than the population of Russia
- In Eastern Europe, less than 50% of the orphan population will live to see their 20th birthdays
- In Eastern Europe, of the orphans that survive their 20th birthdays, 50% will end up in organized crime, drugs, or prostitution
- In Africa, homeless children are armed and used for war
- In Africa, there is a concerted effort to extend children’s lives beyond 5 years of age
- In the US, 25,000 children will leave the foster care system without families
  - 25% of these foster children become homeless,
  - 56% of these emancipated foster care children enter the unemployment ranks
  - 27% of the emancipated male children in foster care end up in jail
  - 30% of the emancipated females in foster care experience early parenthood
  - 30,000 children in foster care are simply dropped from state care because they have run away
- In the US, most young adults ages 18 – 24 still live at home with their parents, while approximately 25,000 children are annually released at age 18 from the foster care system without families to support them.”