

Promotional script

Got five minutes to fill, a crowd of listening people and a worryingly blank head? Fear not: here's a little script you can use to help get people informed about the issue:

According to Creditaction.org.uk a quarter of all parents say they will have to work beyond 65 to pay for their childrens' university education. For many of us being a student would simply not be possible without the support of home. Whether it's an occasional meal or a massive cash bail out – having a family behind you makes a big difference at university.

So keep that in mind as I tell you about what family life is like for some of the 15 million children orphaned by AIDS around the world:

Left alone, with younger kids to look after, stigmatised by the cause of their parent's death, forced to live by their wits and struggle for their survival, many of these child-headed households are forced to abandon what little education they might have hoped to receive in favour of scraping together enough work to provide them with one meal a day.

As well as losing their parents, these children lose their childhoods and their future.

Take a look at the Bible and this all seems wrong. From the ancient Israelites to the crowds around Jesus, God appears to side with those whom society often seems to want to reject – like children affected by AIDS. In fact, some of Jesus' harshest words are reserved for those who cause children harm.

But while many fear that hope has gone for members of child-headed households, there are local churches and groups working hard to support these vulnerable children. Tearfund supports local churches and projects as they in turn provide food, clothing, shelter and protection to those left behind after AIDS has struck.

Through this network of local action we can make a significant difference directly to the lives of the children affected by AIDS. The figures are clear – just £15 is enough to pay for schooling, provide nutritious food and provide access to medical help for child-headed households. That's all: £15.

So we are going to be raising some money to help.

[Now here's your bit to tell people all about your specific fundraising plans. Make sure that you tell them what you want them to do – if you're putting on an event, make sure you've got some tickets to sell and invites to hand out.]

So please help us as we try and make a big difference to a small number of lives. If you would like to know more then please come and talk to me about it.

Thanks for listening.

